

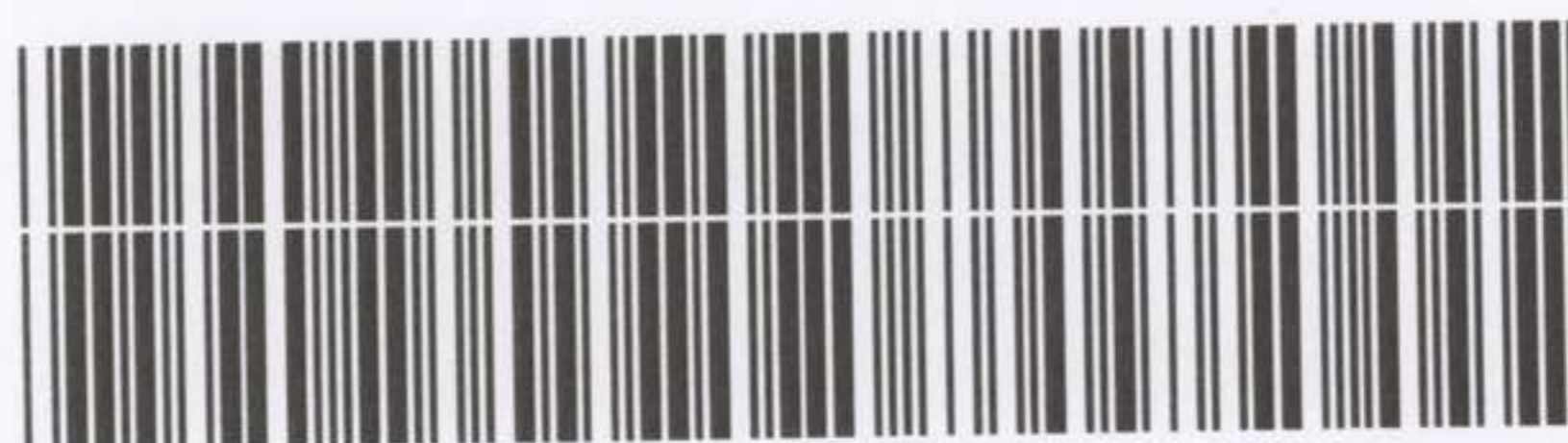
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/2/32

Title: 2nd Infantry Brigade

December 1917



AWM4-23/2/32

WAR DIARY

December 1917

Page 37
Army Form C. 2118

~~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
	<u>Decr. 1917.</u>			
DESVRES.	1st.		Divisional Commander inspected the Brigade in training	CALAIS - HAZEBROUCK 1:100,000
	2nd.		Brigade Church Parade.	
	3rd.		G.O.C and Staff Captain return from English leave.	
	4th.		5th Battalion carried out tactical Advanced Guard Scheme.	
	5th.		6th Battalion. do do do	
	6th.		7th Battalion do do do	
	7th.		Divisional Commander visited G.O.C.	
	8th.		Ballotting for Referendum reference Conscription commenced.	
	9th.		Colonel BLAMEY, G.S.O.1., Division, held a class on tactical schemes.	
	10th.		8th Battalion did Advanced Guard Scheme. Divisional Commander was present with Brigadier	
	11th.		Brigade drill competition judged by Lieut-Colonel Milligan, GSO.2. Division. Won by 6th Battalion	
THIEMBRONNE Area.	12th.		Brigade Sports held.	App.
			Colonel BLAMEY G.S.O.1. conducted staff ride and criticised the different solutions of tactical problems presented to 12 senior officers of the Brigade.	
			Final of Brigade Football contest. Won by 8th Battalion.	
KEMMEL. OOSTTAVERNE SECTOR.	13th.		Brigade Church parade cancelled owing to rain.	App. CxLi App. CxLi App. CxLi App. CxLi Reference WYTSCHAETE 28.S.W.2. 1:10,000
	14th.		Intelligence Officers proceeded to forward area by lorry.	
			Instructions for move to forward area received.	
			Training continued and preparation for move to forward area made.	
			2nd Echelon Brigade Transport moved by march route to ELNES vide B.O.O.68.	App. CxLi
			Brigade group less 2nd Echelon Transport moved by march route to THIEMBRONNE 'A' & 'B' Areas. vide B.O.O. 68.	App. CxLi
			2nd Echelon Transport moved by march route to RENESCURE via ARQUES. B.O.O.68.	App. CxLi
			Brigade group less 2nd Echelon Echelon Transport moved by march route to THIEMBRONNE 'C' AREA - B.O.O.68.	App. CxLi
			2nd Echelon Transport moved by march route to STRAZELLE via WALLON CAPPEL.	App. CxLi
			Brigade Group less 2nd Echelon Transport moved via WIZERNES by train to KEMMEL Area.	App. CxLi
			Brigade took over OOSTTAVERNE SECTOR of front from 15th Aust. Infantry Brigade vide B.O.O.69	Reference WYTSCHAETE 28.S.W.2. 1:10,000
			Relief was completed by 9 p.m. when G.O.C., 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade took over command.	
			Battalions were then disposed as follows :- 7th Bn., left Battalion; 8th Bn., left centre Battalion; 6th Bn., right center Battalion; and 5th Battalion, right Battalion. - the four	
			XXXXXXXXXX	

H. H. Watson Capt
Bde Troop 2nd Aus Cav Reg Bde
App. CxLii

Confidential

2nd Aust Bde HQ

WAR DIARY

for Dec. 1917

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

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POSTTAVERNE SECTOR.	Decr. 1917. 14th.		<p>Battalions being in the line, and each Battalion fixing its own supports. 1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion was under orders of G.O.C. for tactical purposes Map showing dispositions and boundaries, etc., attached. The Defence Scheme illustrates the method of defence in depth very clearly, the front line being held as a Picquet Line, with Outposts in front. Between Behind Picquet Line are strong posts well sited and echeloned in depth, forming main lines of support and reserve. On taking over command G.O.C. was confronted with following problems of defence of the sector :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Forward posts in many cases were badly sited and were generally too far away from picquet line. (2) Supporting companies were accommodated too far in rear of line of resistance. (3) Accommodation for men and material in line of resistance incomplete. (4) Defensive wiring of all lines insufficient. (5) Owing to the frost, valleys of ROOZEBEEK, WAMBEEK and BLAUWERTPOORTBEEK would become passable. <p>Accordingly throughout tour of duty in the line, the efforts of the Brigade were devoted to -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Defensive wiring. (2) Resisting of forward posts and portions of picquet line. (3) Wiring of valleys of the BEEKS on flanks and centre of Brigade front. (4) Increasing accommodation in Support line. (5) Completing Strong Points in Line of Resistance <p>15th. Very quiet day. Brigade Class of Instruction moved to CAESTRE (HAZEBROUCK 1:100,000)</p> <p>16th. Quiet.</p> <p>17th. 7a.m. (approx.) One of the posts of left centre Battalion at O.17.b.O.3. was raided by an enemy party of 14 and the garrison of the post, 5 in number, captured. While attempting to retire to its own lines, the party came under fire of our left Battalion, which sent out a strong patrol, and succeeded in surrounding the raiders, capturing 2 Officers (one of whom has since died of wounds) and 4 Other Ranks. Four of the enemy are known to have been killed. Of the garrison of the captured post, three were rescued, whilst remaining two are missing.</p> <p>Remainder of day quiet.</p> <p>18th. Divisional Commander and Brigadier visited Headquarters of Battalions during morning.</p> <p>19th. Brigadier visited outposts of left centre Battalion at 5 p.m. Whilst Brigadier was at Post 12a. enemy attempted to raid this post, but was repulsed, the garrison of the post suffering no loss.</p> <p>20th. 1230 A party of about 10 of the enemy succeeded under cover of the fog, in rushing the right forward post of our right centre Battalion at O.23.c.4.2., capturing the garrison of 1 N.C.O. and</p>	<p>App. CXL ^{iv}</p> <p><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p>

Confidential

2nd Aust Bde HQ

WAR DIARY

for Dec 1917

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Oostaverne sector</i>			AND 6 men. Patrols from the right and right centre Battalions engaged the enemy, and it is believed inflicted casualties, but the enemy succeeded in returning to his line.	
	21st		Enemy artillery fire increasing. Otherwise quiet.	
	22nd to 25th		Quiet period. Enemy artillery activity noticeably increase. Our patrols regain control of NO MANS LAND, bombing enemy posts and engaging enemy patrols with success.	
	25th		Xmas day. Extra comforts etc. sent to the men. Snow fell during day.	
	26th		All companies accommodated in reserve and support lines, forward of Headquarters of Battalions. 4th Battalion came under orders of G.O.C. for working and tactical purposes. New Defence Scheme issued, showing new boundaries etc. (App. CXLIV)	<i>app CXLIV</i>
	27th		Quiet	
	28th		Quiet	
	29th		Owing to information received from enemy prisoner, precautions were taken to receive a strong enemy raiding party.	
	30th	<i>7pm</i>	5th and 8th Battalions and 2 sections each of 2nd M.G. Coy. and 2A L.T.M. Bty. relieved by 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade vide B.O. No 70. (App. CXLV) 5th Battalion remain under orders of G.O.C. 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. and 8th Battalion moving to LINDENHOEK Camp.	<i>app CXLV</i>
	31st	<i>7pm</i>	6th and 7th Battalions and remaining 2 sections each of 2nd M.G. Coy. and 2A L.T.M. Bty. relieved by 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. 6th Battalion moving to RAMILLES Camp and 7th Bn. to ROSSIGNOL Camp. G.O.C. 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. took over command of OOSTAVERNE from G.O.C. 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.	<i>H. H. Lath... and... CL</i>
			<i>9p</i> INTELLIGENCE REPORTS (app CXLVI) CASUALTIES FOR MONTH (app CXLVII) REINFORCEMENTS (app CXLVIII)	SCHOOLS (app CXLIX) STRENGTH RETURNS (app CL) REPORTS on RAIDS on 6 th 18 th Bn. Post (app CLI)

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Appendix No ~~100~~ 1510


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Appendix CXL

2ND AUST. INF. BRIGADE



Sports Meeting.



7-12-17

DESVRES

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COMMITTEE



President:

Capt. T. K. MALIBY 5th Bn.

Hon. Treasurer:

Lieut. R. W. MACLACHLAN 6th Bn.

Members:

Lieut.	H. J. WRIGHT	7th Bn.
"	T. ANDERSON	8th Bn.
"	J. HORAN	2nd M.G. Coy.
"	J. W. DARLING	2nd A.L.T.M. Bly.
"	R. V. ANDREWARTHA	2nd A.I. Bde
Sgt.	BINGHAM	5th Bn.
"	BARREB	6th Bn.
"	ROBINSON	7th Bn.
"	ECCLES	8th Bn.

Hon. Sec.

Lieut. A. C. RIGG 5th Bn.



PROGRAMME

OF

ATHLETIC EVENTS

(For Cup presented by Brigade Headquarters)



- 09.00 100 yds Championship
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
- 09.05 2nd heat 100 yds.
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
- 09.10 3rd heat 100 yds.
(1st and 2nd to start in final).
- 09.15 Band Race.
- 09.20 Sack Race.
- 09.30 Relay Race.

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7. 09.35 1st heat 220 yds Championship
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
8. 09.40 2nd heat 220 yds Championship
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
9. 09.45 3rd heat 220 yds. Championship
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
10. 09.50 Three-legged race.
11. 10.00 Mule Race.
12. 10.10 1st heat Tug of War.
13. 10.20 2nd heat Tug of War.
14. 10.30 Alarm and Rush
15. 10.35 Final — 100 yds.
16. 10.40 Obstacle Race.
17. 10.55 440 yds. Championship.
18. 11.10 3rd heat Tug of War.

19. 11.20 Long Jump.
20. 11.50 120 yds. Officers' Race.
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
21. 11.55 2nd heat 120 yds Officers' Race
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
22. 12.00 3rd heat 120 yds Officers' Race
(1st and 2nd to start in final)
23. 12.00 - 13.30 **LUNCHEON.**
24. 13.35 Final 220 yds.
25. 19.40 1 Mile Championship.
26. 13.55 High Jump.
27. 14.20 120 yds. Hurdle.
28. 14.35 Boat Race.
29. 14.40 880 yds. Championship.
30. 14.50 Tilting at Bucket.

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31. 13.03 Final 120 yds. Officers' Race
32. 13.15 Final Tug of War.
33. 13.25 Tent Pegging.



Recreational Training Events

*for Cup presented by Brig.
General J. HEANE, C.M.G., D.S.O.*

1. COMPANY ROAD RACE.
2. BAYONET FIGHTING.
3. INDIVIDUAL BAYONET FIGHTING.
4. COLLECTIVE MUSKETRY.
5. LEWIS GUN.
6. TRANSPORT.
7. HAND GRENADE SECTIONS.
8. RIFLE GRENADE SECTIONS.
9. COMPANY DRILL.
10. SIGNALLERS' COMPETITION.



BRIGADE ORDER NO 55

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HEADQUARTERS

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde

10th December 1917

Reference Map. CALAIS & HAZEBROUCK
1:100,000

1. The Brigade Group will move to the forward area in accordance with the attached table.
2. For the purpose of the move, the Brigade Group will be composed as under :-
 - 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade
 - 2nd Field Coy. Engineers
 - 2nd Field Ambulance
 - No 3 Coy. A.A.S.O.
3. Personnel and 1st Echelon transport will proceed by March route to WIZERNES, thence by rail to DEKENNEBAK and BAILLEUL WEST respectively, thence by march route to KEMMEL.
4. 1st Echelon transport will consist of -
 - Each Battalion, 4 cookers, 1 water cart, 2 A.S.O. Supply Wagons
 - 2nd M.G. Coy. 1 Water cart, 1 A.S.O. Supply Wagon
 - Bde. Hqrs. 1 Maltese Cart, 1 Baggage Wagon, 1 Supply Wagon.
 - 2nd Field Coy. 1 Water cart, 1 Supply Wagon.
 - 2nd Field Ambulance, 1 Water cart, 1 Supply Wagon.
5. The remainder of the transport will be brigaded and form a 2nd Echelon moving under the orders of the Brigade Transport Officer (Lieut. T.G. PAUL 6th Bn) by march route as shown in the attached table.
- 6(a) Order of march for Brigade Group (less 2nd Echelon transport) on 11th inst -
 - 6th Battalion, 2nd M.G. Coy., 7th Battalion, Brigade Headquarters, 8th Battalion, 2A L.T.M. Bty., 5th Battalion, 2nd Field Ambulance, 2nd Field Coy. Engrs.
 - (b) Head of Column will pass starting point at 0830.
 - (c) Starting point - Railway crossing 800 yards S. of D. in DESVRES.
 - (d) Route - DESVRES - LE COURTEAU - SENLEOQUES, thence to respective areas.
 - (e) There will be halts of 10 minutes at 10 minutes to each clock hour and of one hour at 1130.
 - (f) Units will be billeted on night 11th/12th Dec as under -

B.H.Q.	CAMPAGNE
5th Battalion	LEDINGHEM
6th Battalion	WISNES, also part of VAUDRINGHEM
7th Battalion	CAMPAGNE
8th Battalion	VAUDRINGHEM
2nd M.G. Coy.	Le BOURQUET and Le FAY
2A L.T.M. Bty.	part of VAUDRINGHEM & LEDINGHAM
2nd Field Amb. Co.	ECUIRE
2nd Field Coy. A.E.	HAPPE.
 - (g) Orders for the moves on the 12th and 13th inst. will be issued later.
7. (a) Order of march for 2nd Echelon Transport on 11th inst. -
 - 6th Bn., 5th Bn., 7th Bn., 8th Bn., 2nd M.G. Coy., Bde. Hqrs., 2nd Field Amb., 2nd Field Coy. A.E.
 - (b) Head of Column will pass starting point at 0830.
 - (c) Starting Point - Railway Crossing 400 yards S. of the second R in LES PIERRETTES.

- 2nd Echelon
8. Transport will be clear of billets daily by 1000 except where stated in the remarks Column of the attached table.
 9. The following distances will be maintained between units on the march.

Companies	100 yards
Unit & Transport	100 "
Battalions	500 "
Transport of units when brigaded	100 "
 10. Transport moving by train will detrain at BAILLEUL WEST and personnel at DE KENNEBAK
 11. The Brigade Class of Instruction will be attached to the 7th Battalion for the move and will march under the orders of the O.C. that unit.
 12. The 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left of the Divisional sector on the night of the 14th/15th December. On relief similar dispositions to those of the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be maintained. Detailed orders will be issued later.
 13. Brigade Headquarters will close at DESVRES at 0900 on 11th inst. and open at CAMPAGNE at the same hour.
 14. A C K N O W L E D G E.

H. F. Watson

CAPTAIN
Brigade Major
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copy No	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	2100	
2/4	War Diary	"	
5	1st Aust. Division	"	D.R.
6	5th Battalion	"	"
7	6th Battalion	"	"
8	7th Battalion	"	"
9	8th Battalion	"	"
10	2nd M.G. Coy.	"	"
11	2nd L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
12	2nd Field Ambulance	"	"
13	2nd Field Coy. A.E.	"	"
14	3rd Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
15	Bde. Class of Instruction	"	"
16	Area Commandant DESVRES	"	"
17	G.O.C.	"	"
18	Brigade Major	"	"
19	Staff Captain	"	"
20	Bde. Int. Officer	"	"
21	No 4 Signal Section	"	"
22-25	Spares.		

MOVE TABLE to accompany Bde. Order No 68.

Date	Unit or Formation	From	To	Remarks.
11th Decr.	2nd Echelon Transport	DESVRES	ELNES	
12th	do	ELNES	RENESECURE	Via ARQUES before 1300 ARQUES not to reach
13th	do	RENESECURE	STRAZELLE	Via WALLON GAPPEL
14th	do	STRAZELLE	KEMMEL	
11th	Bde. Group (less 2nd Echelon Trans't.)	DESVRES	THIEMBRONNE 'A' & 'B' Areas	By march route
12th	do	THIEMBRONNE 'A' & 'B' Areas	THIEMBRONNE 'C' Area	do
13th	do	THIEMBRONNE 'C' Area	KEMMEL	By train. Entrain TIZERNE Dotrain Personnel DE KENNEBAK Transport BAILLEUL WEST

Appendix N 146
1414

INSTRUCTIONS NO 1

Issued under Brigade Order No 68.

HEADQUARTERS

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

11th December 1917

Reference Maps, CALAIS & HAZEBROUCK
1:100,000

1. The move of the Brigade Group to the forward area will be continued on the 12th and 13th December in accordance with the attached table.

2. On the morning of the 13th December the Brigade Group (less 2nd Echelon transport) will entrain at "IZERNES, personnel detraining at DE KENNEDAK and 1st Echelon Transport at BAILLEUL WEST.

3. Trains will be composed as under:-

Train 'A'	}	Sde. Hqrs.
O.C. Train		5th Battalion
Lt-Col. B. A.		8th Battalion
LUXTON D.S.O.		2A L.T.M. Bty. 2nd Field Ambulance
Train 'B'	}	6th Battalion
O.C. Train		7th Battalion
Lt-Col. C. W.		2nd M.G. Coy.
DALY D.S.O.		2nd Field Coy. A.F. Sde. Class of Instruction
Train 'C'	}	2nd Echelon Transport
O.C. Train		
Capt. E. G. PERMEZEL (5th En)		

4. Orders for march and entraining on 13th December will be issued later.

Probable times of departures of trains from "IZERNES,

Train 'A'	0700	arrives DE KENNEDAK	1000
Train 'B'	0800	"	1100
Train 'C'	1100	"	BAILLEUL WEST 1300,

5. All saddle horses now with the Brigade Group will be sent to Church at "AVRANS at 1200 to-morrow 12th Decr. and will proceed thence to join 2nd Echelon transport in Renescore Area that afternoon.

O.C. 2nd M.G. Coy. will detail an Officer to take charge of these horses. He will report for instructions to Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters "AVRANS at 1130.

6. O.C. 7th Battalion will detail two Officers as Detraining Officers at DE KENNEDAK and "EST BAILLEUL respectively for 13th., 15th and 17th, inst. Names of Officers selected will be sent to Brigade Headquarters. Instructions will be issued to them later.

7. Move of 2nd Echelon Transport from STRAZELLE to KENNEDAK will be completed by 1300 on 14th inst.

8. An Ambulance car will call at each Battalion Headquarters tomorrow 12th inst. at 0800 for the evacuation of sick.

9. Rations and mail will be drawn at Church "AVRANS at 1330 tomorrow 12th inst.

10. Frost Coqs will be attached to shoes before march commences tomorrow.

11. A C K N O " L F D G E.

H. F. Leaton

CAPTAIN.

Brigade Major

2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copy No	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	1900	
2/4	War Diary	"	
5	1st Aust. Division	"	D.R.
6	5th Battalion	"	"
7	6th Battalion	"	"
8	7th Battalion	"	"
9	8th Battalion	"	"
10	2nd M.G. Coy.	"	"
11	2A L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
12	2nd Field Ambulance	"	"
13	2nd Field Coy. A.E.	"	"
14	No 3 Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
15	Ide. Class of Instruction	"	"
16	Ede. Transport officer (per officer detailed in para 5)	"	"
17	G.O.C.	"	"
18	Brigade Major	"	"
19	Staff Captain	"	"
20	No 4 Sig. Section	"	"
21	Ide. Int. Officer	"	"
22	Camp Commandant	"	"
23-25	Spares	"	"

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MOVE TABLE to Accompany Instructions No 1
Issued under Ede. Order No 68.

Date	Unit or Formation	From	To	Remarks.
12th Dec.	Ldc. Headquarters	CAMPAGNE-LEZ -BOULONNAIS	WAVRANS	Via HAPPE-WISMES-ELNES. To start at 0900
do	5th Battalion	LEDINGHEM	ELNES	Via VAUDRINGHEM. To start at 0830.
do	6th Battalion	WISMES	ASSINGHEM	Via SALVECQUE-ELNES-WAVRANS. To start at 0830
do	7th Battalion	CAMPAGNE-LEZ -BOULONNAIS	REHILLY-WIRQUIN	Via HAPPE-DRIONVILLE-OUVE WIRQUIN. To start at 0830.
do	8th Battalion	VAUDRINGHEM	WAVRANS	Via ELNES. To start at 0830
do	2nd M.G. Coy.	LE FAY AND LE BOURGUET	CAMPAGNETTE PLOUY	Via THIEMBRONNE. To be clear of that town by 0900 Via DRIONVILLE. To start at 0830.
do	2A L.T.M. Dty.	LE MESNIL	AVROULT	Via THIEMBRONNE. To be clear of HAPPE by 0845
do	2nd Fld. Coy. A.E.	HAPPE	OUVE-WIRQUIN	Via DRIONVILLE. To start at 0830.
do	2nd Field Ambce.	ECUIRE		
do	Ldc. Class of Inst.	CAMPAGNE-LEZ -BOULONNAIS	ASSINGHEM	To follow 7th Battalion
13th Dec.	Ldc. Group (less 2nd Echelon Transport)	THIEMBRONNE 'C' Area	WIZERNES	By march route, entraining at WIZERNES.
do	Ldc. Group (less Transport)	WIZERNES	DE KENNEBAK	By Trains 'A' and 'F'.
do	do	DE KENNEBAK	KEMMEL	By march route
do	2nd Echelon Transport	WIZERNES	DAILLEUL WEST	By train 'C'
do	do	DAILLEUL WEST	KEMMEL	By march route.

Appendix No 11

INSTRUCTIONS NO 2

Issued under Brigade Order No 68.

- Headquarters
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.
12th December 1917

1. The Brigade Group (less 2nd Echelon Transport) will entrain at WIZBENS on 13th December.
2. Trains will be composed as in para 3 of Instructions No 1.
3. Times of departures of trains from WIZBENS and of arrivals at destination will be as under :-

Train 'A'	leaves	WIZBENS	0700	arrives	DE KENNEDY	1000
" 'B'	"	"	0800	"	"	1100
" 'C'	"	"	1100	"	RAILWAY WEST	1300.
4. Trains 'A' and 'B' will provide a total accommodation for 4,400 all ranks and will include in addition two baggage vans. Train 'C' will comprise 17 flat trucks for wagons and limbers and 30 covered vans for personnel and horses.
5. Personnel travelling by Trains 'A' and 'B' will arrive at the entraining station 45 minutes prior to the hour at which the train by which they are to travel, is timed to leave. 1st Echelon Transport travelling by Train 'C' will arrive at the entraining station two hours before the time set down for the departure of that train.
6. Separate Entraining States for personnel and Transport, will be prepared in duplicate, one copy will be handed to the entraining Officer immediately on arrival at the Station, and the other copy to the O.C. Train.
7. O.C. 5th Battalion will detail a loading party of 30 men under an Officer to report to the Entraining Officer at the Station of departure at 0600. This party will travel by Train 'C' and will act as unloading party for that train at RAILWAY WEST, when they will rejoin their unit.
8. O's.C. Trains will take necessary steps to ensure that no men leave the trains without permission, or travel on the footboards or other dangerous positions.
9. On arrival at the detraining stations, personnel and 1st Echelon Transport will proceed by march route to KEMEL Area.
10. Motor lorries will meet trains on arrival at DE KENNEDY Station for conveyance of blankets and surplus stores to KEMEL AREA. O's.C. Units will arrange for necessary parties to load their respective stores on to these lorries.
11. Area Stores in the forward area will be taken over from units of the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade under instructions to be issued by that Brigade and receipts given for same. Two copies of these receipts will be forwarded to Ide. Hqs. by 1900 on 16th Inst.

- 2 -

12. The 1st Aust. Division Reinforcement Depot will close at SAMER on the 14th inst. and will re-open at CAESTRE on the same day. From the 14th Decmber, the Reinforcement Railhead will be CAESTRE.

13. On and from the 14th inst. Railhead will be at EPULOZE.

14. ~~Brigade Headquarters will close at ELNES at 0700 and re-open at KEMMEL on arrival there.~~

15. ~~A O K N O W L E D G E.~~

H. F. Watson

CAPTAIN.
Brigade Major
2nd. Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Distribution.

To all recipients of Edc. Order No 68.
15th Aust. Inf. Brigade
R.T.O. WIZERNES.



SECRET.

COPY NO. 1111

BRIGADE ORDER NO 69

HEADQUARTERS

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

12th December 1917

Reference Maps. SHEET 28
1:40,000

1. The 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. during the 14th and night 14/15th Decr. in the Left Sector of the front as present held by the 5th Aust. Division.
2. C.O.'s will arrange to get into touch as soon as possible after arrival in the KEMMEL Area with the C.O.'s of the Units which they are to relieve and will send parties of Officers and N.C.O.'s to reconnoitre the forward area.
3. Reliefs will take place in accordance with the attached table.
4. On relief similar dispositions to those of the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade will be maintained.
5. Units will take over from the outgoing units of the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. all duties and working parties now being found by the latter units. A list of these duties and parties will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 1200 on 16th inst.
6. All maps, trench stores, aeroplane photographs, Defence Schemes etc. will be taken over on relief and receipts given for same. Two copies of these receipts will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters by 1200 on 16th inst.
7. Details of relief not herein provided for will be arranged between C.O.'s concerned.
8. Completion of reliefs will be reported at once in Code to Bde. Hqrs.
9. The Command of the Sector will pass to the G.O.C. 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. on the completion of the relief.
10. Brigade Headquarters will be established at REGENT DUGOUTS.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

*H. F. Corbett*CAPTAIN,
Brigade Major
2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

(over)

- 2 - ON 1916

Distribution.

Copy No	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	1700	
2/4	War Diary	"	
5	1st Aust. Division	"	"
6	5th Battalion	"	"
7	6th Battalion	"	"
8	7th Battalion	"	"
9	8th Battalion	"	"
10	2nd N.G. Coy.	"	"
11	SA L. T. Bty.	"	"
12	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
13	3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
14	8th Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
15	15th Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
16	112th Inf. Brigade	"	"
17	G.O.C.		
18	Brigade Major		
19	Staff Captain		
20	Bde. Int. Offr.		
21	No. 4 Signal Section		
22	Camp Commandant		
23-25	Spares		

(over)

Appendix No

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RELIEF TABLE to accompany Bde. Order No 69.

Date.	Unit.	From	To	To relieve	Remarks
14th & night	5th Battn.	KEMMEL Area	LINE Right	59th Battn.	(a) No movement of troops East of the WESSINES - WYTSCHAPPE Ridge before 1600
14/15th Decr.	6th Battn.	do	Line right centre	60th Battn.	
do	8th Battn.	do	Line Left Centre	58th Battn.	(b) No unnecessary movement will take place in areas under observation by the enemy.
do	7th Battn.	do	Line left	57th Battn.	(c) As much of the relief as possible will be completed during daylight.
do	2nd M.G. Coy.	do	Line	15th M.G. Coy.	
do	2A L.T.M. Bty.	do	Line	15A L.T.M. Bty.	

Appendix No 152

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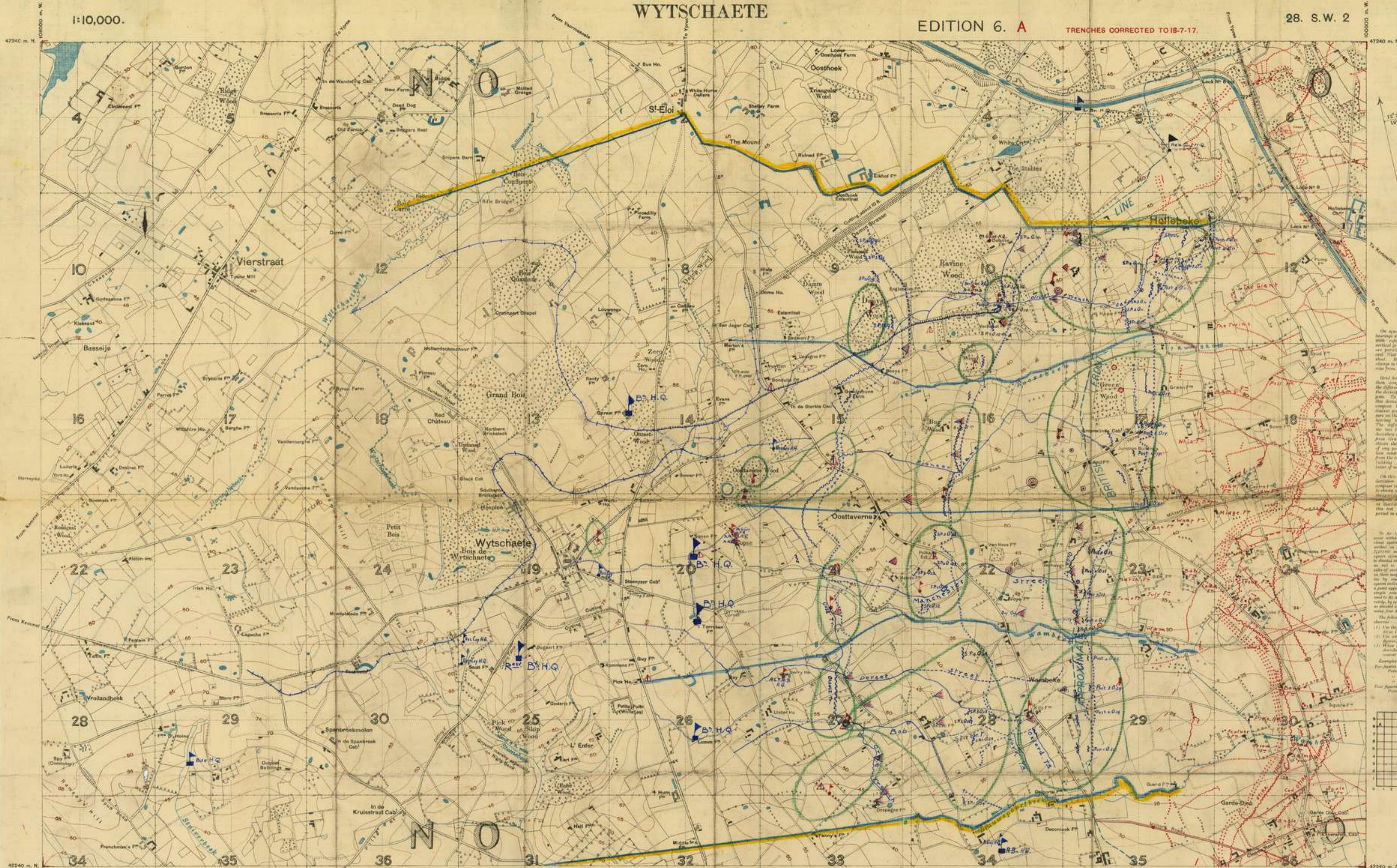
WYTSCHAETE

EDITION 6. A

TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 18-7-17.

28. S.W. 2

1:10,000.



The spaced orange circles show the position of the original survey points. The red lines show the position of the original survey lines. The blue lines show the position of the original survey lines. The green lines show the position of the original survey lines. The yellow lines show the position of the original survey lines.

On this sheet the main contour lines are shown at 100 feet intervals. The contour lines are shown at 100 feet intervals. The contour lines are shown at 100 feet intervals. The contour lines are shown at 100 feet intervals.



G.S., G.S. 5062

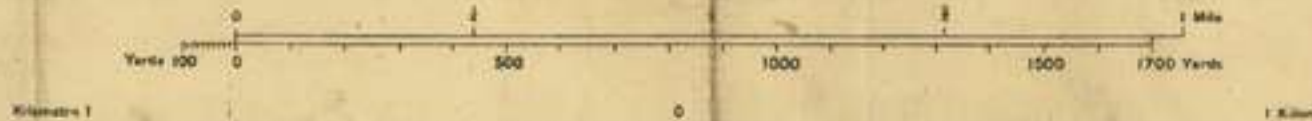
REFERENCE

- Any trench apparently unoccupied for fire
- Other Trenches
- Enemy's Tracks
- Barbed Wire
- Supply Dumps
- Artillery
- Earthworks
- Dug-outs
- Any trench apparently unoccupied for fire
- Other Trenches
- Enemy's Tracks
- Barbed Wire
- Supply Dumps
- Artillery
- Earthworks
- Dug-outs

LEGEND

- Battalion H.Q.
- Company H.Q.
- Machine Guns
- Light T.M.s
- Medium T.M.s
- Heavy T.M.s
- Dumps
- Light Tramways
- Duckwalks

Scale 1:10,000



SHEET 28



Ordnance Survey, July 1917

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S E C R E T.

C O P Y N O 2

2nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

D E F E N C E S C H E M E.
(P r o v i s i o n a l)

LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR - 1st AUST. DIVISIONAL FRONT

26th December 1917.

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C O N T E N T S.

SEC. I DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIGADE AREA

- (i) Frontage
- (ii) Boundaries
- (iii) Topography

SEC. II DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCE.

- (i) Front Zone
- (ii) Second Zone

SEC. III PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE.

SEC. IV METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

- (i) Troops available for defence
- (ii) Infantry
- (iii) Machine Guns
- (iv) Trench Mortars
- (v) Artillery
- (vi) Anti-aircraft Defence

SEC. V ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

APPENDICES.

- 'A' LOCATIONS OF HEADQUARTERS
- 'B' ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
- 'C' MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS
- 'D' WORKS
- 'E' INTELLIGENCE
- 'F' COMMUNICATIONS

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 D E F E N C E S C H E M E

LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR * 1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION FRONT

Reference Map, WITSCHAEDE
 1:10,000

SECTION 1

'DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIGADE AREA'

(i) Frontage.

The frontage held by the Brigade extends from O.29.C.5.9. to O.12.A.0.6., a distance of approximately 4,000 yards.

(ii) Boundaries.

(a) Brigade.

The Southern boundary runs from O.29.D.6.15 along the FLAUPPOORTBEEK to O.33.B.45.55. to O.31.Central.

The Northern boundary runs from Lock No 5 O.12.A.0.6. along the HOLLEBEKE - ST ELOI Road exclusive to ST ELOI thence to O.1.Central, thence to VIERSTRAAT.

(b) Inter-Battalion.

(i) The WAMBEEK - O.21.D.9.4. along the road to GUN FARM (inclusive to Right sub-sector) - PICK HOUSE,

(ii) O.23.B.2.8. - OOSTAVERNE - O.20.B.5.9.

(iii) The ROOZEBEEK - O.16.A.1.4. - O.15.B.7.5. - O.9.D.O.O. - MARTEN'S FARM.

(iii) Topography.

The main topographical feature is the WITSCHAEDE - MESSINES Ridge running from N.W. to S.E. and commanding the whole of the Brigade Area. From this ridge, three spurs, known respectively as the WAMBEEK, ROOZEBEEK and HOLLEBEKE Spurs project Eastwards, divided by the valleys of the WAMBEEK and ROOZEBEEK, whilst on the Southern boundary of the Brigade is the valley of the FLAUPPOORTBEEK.

All these valleys are very marshy and after rain, impassable to troops, but at the present time owing to heavy frosts, require careful watching.

In the left Battalion's sector is an important tactical feature, known as the RAVINE, a deep cutting with the ground rising steeply on either side, forming a strong defensive position.

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SECTION 11

'DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCES'(i) Front Zone.

- (a) The Outpost System consists of a line of detached posts and the Picquet line 50 to 100 yards in rear of the posts. These posts are improved shell holes and short lengths of trench. They are all duckboarded and in some cases revetted and provided with sleeping accommodation. All posts are wired in front. The work of wiring is being continued and all posts will be wired in front and rear and a continuous line run along the whole Brigade Front.

The Picquet Line consists of a series of lengths of trench on the general line O.29.C.3.0. - OLDHAM Trench - OLGA Trench - O.23.A.3.5. - OGLE Trench - GREEN WOOD - O.11.C.9.2. - HOLLEBEKE Road at O.11.B.8.6.

On the Right and Right Centre Battalions front, the trench line is continuous and on the Left Battalion's front nearly so, but on the Left Centre Battalion's sub-sector the lengths of trench are not connected.

All trenches are duckboarded and partially revetted and have shelter accommodation for the garrisons.

Work on this System is being continued, several new posts, both in the Outpost and Picquet Lines are in course of construction and Old posts are being resited.

- (b) The Support System consists of a series of Strong Posts on the General line O.28.C.8.1. - O.22.C.5.6. - BUG FARM - THE RAVINE - DELBSKE FARM, with posts in front of this general line sited so as to take advantage of some natural features. This system is at present only partially completed, but work in the nature of wiring, accommodation for garrisons, and strengthening of posts is being pushed on rapidly. There is practically a continuous belt of wire in front of the whole of this general line, except across the valleys where wire is now being erected.

- (c) The Reserve System consists of a line of trenches on the general line O.27.D.3.0. - O.21.C.8.0. - O.21.C.8.8. - O.21.A.4.7. - DENNIS WOOD - PHEASANT WOOD. This system is still in course of construction. In the Right, Right Centre and Left Centre Battalions sub-sectors, the line with the exception of one isolated post (No 1027) on the extreme right, is practically continuous and in a good state of repair, duckboarded and revetted, but in the Left Battalion sub-sector there is still a considerable amount of work to be done.

The living accommodation in this System is good and more than ample for a garrison of one Company in each sub-sector. The wire in front is practically continuous along the whole system, but requires strengthening and in places is too far distant from the trenches it protects.

(d) Communication Trenches.

- (1) Right Sub-sector:- BOB Street and DORSET Street leading to the Front line are in good condition as far forward as ANZAC FARM and O.27.B.9.6. respectively. From the former point, work is being continued on the first named trench, and from the latter, a duckboard track has been laid as far as KILO FARM. It is not safe to use these Communication Trenches in daylight beyond the points named.

Communication Trenches (Continued)

- (2) Right Centre Sub-sector:- MANCHESTER STREET to the Front Line is in good condition and can be used by small parties in daylight.
- (3) Left Centre Sub-sector:- PIONEER LANE is in fair condition to O.16.C.9.6. From there forward it is somewhat shallow and runs out at about O.16.B.7.1.
- (4) Left Sub-sector:- OLIVE TRENCH leading to the Front Line is in good condition as far forward as O.11.C.0.6., from there onwards it is somewhat shallow. It is not advisable to use this trench in daylight beyond the RAVINE.

These Communication Trenches have fire steps erected in places and could be used for Defence purposes if necessary.

(ii) - Second Zone.

This System lying in rear of the Front Zone is under Divisional control.

It has a continuous belt of wire, fairly strong, in the two Right and the Left Centre Sub-sectors, running along its whole front. The construction of trenches is being proceeded with.

SECTION 111

"PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE"

The Area is held as thinly as is consistent with security, the principle of distribution in depth being adhered to. With a Disposition such as this to guard against surprise, it is essential that close and constant observation of the enemy territory be maintained, and that at night time and when visibility is bad, NO MANS LAND be constantly patrolled and a complete mastery of that ground be obtained.

All posts and Machine Guns are so sited as to give mutual protection and cross fire and the valleys covered from the flanks.

In the event of the enemy ~~breaking through at any~~ point, ~~troops must not fall back from one line to the next line,~~ but all ground must be defended as long as possible, whether the flanks are turned or not. By this means, the break through will be localized and it will be an easy matter to dislodge the enemy by counter attack. Counter attacks must be immediate, their success largely depending on the rapidity with which they are delivered. Consequently ~~Commanding~~ Officers must prepare their plans beforehand and communicate them to their ~~Subordinates~~, so as to be ready to meet eventualities.

~~Constant touch must be maintained between~~ Battalions and ~~with the Brigades on either flank and mutual protection~~ and Support given.

SECTION IV

'METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE'(i) Troops available for Defence.

The troops available for the Defence of the Brigade Sector are :-

- 1 Infantry Brigade
- 1 Divisional Machine Gun Coy.
- 2 Field Artillery Brigades.

with a Battalion of the Reserve Brigade at present employed on work on the Reserve System as a Brigade Reserve in the event of a hostile attack.

(ii) Infantry.

The Brigade Sector is divided into four Sub-sectors, each held by one Battalion echeloned in depth.

The Outpost System is held by one Company in each Sub-sector. The outposts are manned by garrisons varying from six to twelve men, with an N.C.O. in charge of each post, the remainder of the Company being in the Picquet Line. A proportion of these outposts are withdrawn in the daytime, except when the visibility is bad, when night Dispositions are maintained.

This Company also finds the protective patrols.

The Support System, when completed, will be garrisoned by one Company in each Sub-sector.

At present owing to lack of accommodation, certain of the posts are not fully manned and a portion of their garrisons are quartered in the Reserve System, ready to move forward instantly in the event of a hostile attack.

The Reserve System in each Sub-sector is held by one Company. The fourth Company of each Battalion is quartered in or behind the Reserve System and in the event of a hostile attack, would be used to hold that line until the Reserve Brigade had moved up.

(For dispositions of all Battalions see APPENDIX '1A')

(iii) Machine Guns.

The Machine Guns allotted for the Defence of the Sector are disposed in depth, a few in the Front System and the large majority about the Support and Reserve Systems.

These latter guns are arranged to cover with direct fire all the country in rear of our front system, especially the three valleys, so that even if the enemy succeeded in occupying the Outpost System, it would be difficult for him to advance further.

These Machine Guns are arranged in two groups. The Right Group covering the Right and Right Centre Sub-sectors, consisting of 14 guns with 2 in Reserve, but mounted for anti-aircraft defence, the Left Group covering the Left and Left Centre Sub-sectors of 8 guns with 3 in Reserve, one of which is mounted for anti-aircraft defence.

Twenty of these guns are laid on S.C.S. lines.

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Machine Guns are emplaced as under :-

RIGHT GROUP.

Q. 33. E. 5. 8.	Q. 27. E. 1. 6.	
Q. 27. D. 3. 0.	Q. 21. D. 0. 3.	
Q. 27. D. 4. 4.	Q. 21. E. 7. 0.	
Q. 27. E. 6. 1.	Q. 23. D. 5. 4.	} (Day)
Q. 28. A. 4. 0.	Q. 23. C. 2. 3.	
Q. 28. A. 3. 3.	Q. 23. C. 1. 9.	
Q. 28. E. 5. 0.	Q. 21. E. 9. 8.	
	Q. 23. A. 2. 6.	

LEFT GROUP.

Q. 16. C. 50. 50.	Q. 11. A. 50. 10.
Q. 16. C. 60. 90.	Q. 11. A. 05. 35
Q. 16. D. 90. 60.	Q. 10. E. 35. 35.
Q. 11. D. 00. 00	Q. 15. E. 90. 90.
Q. 11. D. 20. 30.	Q. 11. A. 05. 45. (Anti-aircraft)

(iv) Trench Mortars.

There are 8 Stokes Mortars in the Brigade Sector. Of these, 5 are emplaced in the Front System and are used for harrassing fire and silencing hostile Machine Guns, the remaining three cover the lowlying ground in the valleys and would be used in the event of a break through.

Locations are as under :-

Offensive Positions

Q. 29. E. 05. 40.
Q. 23. C. 30. 45.
Q. 23. C. 30. 85.
Q. 17. C. 30. 05.
Q. 11. C. 95. 70.

Defensive Positions.

Q. 34. A. 55. 95
Q. 17. C. 15. 60.
Q. 10. D. 30. 50.

In addition there is one 9.45" mortar emplaced at Q. 16. D. 3. 3. and two 6" Newton's in the Brigade Sector.

(v) Artillery.

The Brigade sector is covered by two Brigades of Field Artillery with Headquarters at N. 29. C. 7. 8. and N. 17. D. 30. 25.

These Brigades are known as the OOSTVAERTRE and HOLLEBEEK Groups respectively.

The dividing line between these groups is from Q. 23. A. 80. 95 due West to Cross Roads at OOSTVAERTRE Q. 21. E. 65. 75. thence a direct line to the Cross Roads at Q. 20. A. 3. 8. - N. 23. Central - N. 22. Central - Cross Roads N. 21. D. 3. 3. - N. 20. D. 5. 0.

Each Group consists of -

3 6 gun 18 pounder batteries
1 6 gun 4.5" Hoitzer Battery

Each battery of a group is responsible for an allotted portion of the sector and unless the battery is engaged in an operation, all guns are laid and loaded on their S.O.S. lines ready to open fire on receipt of the S.O.S. Signal.

The S.O.S. signal will only be used in the case of an actual attack. If the enemy is seen to be massing, it will not be used, but warning will be sent by telephone to the Artillery who will take necessary action.

In each sub-sector, a chain of S.O.S. repeating stations has been established for use in foggy weather.

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Artillery (continued)

Liaison Barrages with the artillery on the Right and Left of the Brigade Sector have been arranged, whereby batteries covering the flanking Brigades if not required for the Defence of their own sectors would assist in repelling an attack on this Brigade Sector.

The 1st ANZAC Corps Heavy Artillery is available for Counter battery work or the destruction of enemy positions. Requests for fire from this Artillery are made through the Field Artillery Group Commander.

The C.O. COSTAVENE Group performs the duties of Liaison with Brigade Headquarters, the C.O. HOLL-EMKE Group being in direct communication with him. An Artillery Liaison Officer remains with each Battalion Headquarters during the hours of darkness.

(vi) Anti-Aircraft Defence.

Vickers Machine Guns for use against hostile aircraft are mounted at :-

O.30.B.65.50. (2 guns)
O.11.A.05.15.

In addition, Lewis Guns are mounted as under :-

Right Sub-sector	O.28.D.15.75.	
	O.27.D.30.95.	(2 guns)
	O.26.A.90.60	(3 guns)
	O.25.C.90.90.	(2 guns)

Right Centre Sub-sector - O.21.C.90.40.

Left Centre Sub-sector - O.30.A.70.70.
O.11.D.80.10.

Left Sub-sector - O.10.D.90.70. (2 guns)
O.9.D.80.40.

A Light Trench Mortar is mounted at O.11.D.05.75.

SECTION V
*****'ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK'

In the event of a hostile attack, all positions will be defended to the utmost and will not be given up, whether the flanks are turned or not.

Immediately a hostile attack is launched, the Support Company in each Sub-sector, if not already in the Support System, will move up with all speed and garrison the posts in that System, the No 1 and No 2 Reserve Companies similarly manning the Reserve System.

Should the enemy succeed in penetrating the Outpost System, the C.O. the Support Company in the Sub-sector penetrated will immediately launch a counter attack, the No 1 Reserve Company moving up to hold the Support System thus vacated. The No 2 Reserve Company will then be responsible for holding the Reserve System and will not be moved ^{forward} from that position except on receipt of orders from the G.O.C. the Brigade.

The Battalion of the Reserve Brigade employed on work on the Reserve System will be the Brigade Reserve and will be ready at all times to move at 20 minutes notice. On receipt of word that a hostile attack has been launched, the C.O. will warn all Companies to 'Stand to Arms' and will await orders. After the warning to Stand to Arms has been given, the Battalion will stand ready to move immediately on receipt of orders.

Should any parties from this Battalion be engaged in work on the Reserve System at the time the attack takes place, they will concentrate, as far as possible by Companies, in positions in that System to be previously selected by the Commanding Officer.

All working parties in the Brigade Area at the time an attack takes place, will form up in the nearest cover and report their position to the nearest Platoon, Company, Battalion or Brigade Headquarters who will then inform Brigade Headquarters.

Immediately the S.O.S. Signal is sent up, indicating a hostile attack, an 18 pounder shrapnel barrage will be placed on the following line :-

HOLLERSBEKE GROUP • O.12.A.85.55 - O.11.D.80.26. - O.12.C.O.O. -
O.18.A.O.3. - O.17.D.70.80. - O.23.E.65.95.

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 OOSTTAVERNE GROUP = 0.23.E.35.95. to RIFLE FIRM (0.23.D.15.95) =
 0.23.D.10.62. = 0.23.D.05.20. = 0.29.E.10.07
 = 0.29.E.15.31. = 0.29.D.08.76. = 0.35.E.30.96.

Field Howitzers will bombard specially selected points as laid down for the S.O.S. Lines.

Rates of fire will be as follows :-

3	rounds	per	gun	per	minute	for	5	minutes
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	"
1	"	"	"	"	"	"	5	"

and then cease.

If the S.O.S. Signal or message is repeated after the opening of fire, the initial rate of fire will be reverted to at once and the whole procedure carried out as above.

In the event of a break through, artillery fire will not be opened on the captured locality without the sanction of the G.O.C. the Brigade.

Immediately the S.O.S. Signal is fired, all Machine guns which cannot bring direct fire to bear on the attacking enemy will open on their S.O.S. barrage lines.

ACTION IN CASE OF GAS ATTACK.

The Standing Orders for Defence against Gas (S.S.193) will obtain.

In the event of a Hostile gas cloud attack on the Brigade Sector, the message to be sent will be 'GAS' followed by the locality either OOSTTAVERNE or HOLLEWICK, when a light barrage of Field guns will be put down in front of our posts to prevent hostile patrols from following up the gas. No intense barrage will be put down unless the S.O.S. signal is sent up, signifying that the gas cloud has been accompanied or followed by an Infantry attack.

In the event of a hostile gas shell bombardment as distinct from a gas cloud attack, gas rattles only will be used as a warning.

H. F. Watson

CAPTAIN,
 Brigade Major
 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade.

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LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

Brigade Headquarters	REGENT DUGOUTS	N. 29. C. 5. 5.
Right Battn. Hqrs.	LUM FARM	O. 26. D. 15. 75.
Front Coy. Hqrs.	KILO FARM	O. 28. E. 5. 1.
Support Coy. Hqrs.	HOT FARM	O. 27. D. 15. 95.
No 1 Reserve Coy. Hqrs.	CABIN HILL	O. 27. A. 90. 05.
No 2 " " "		O. 26. A. 85. 65.
Right Centre Battn. Hqrs.	TORREKEN FARM	O. 30. D. 1. 2.
Front Coy. Hqrs.		O. 23. C. 2. 6.
Support Coy. Hqrs.		O. 21. D. 90. 85.
No 1 Reserve Coy. Hqrs.	L. LANCASHIRE HO.	O. 19. D. 85. 90.
No 2 " " "	THE CATACOMBS	O. 19. B. 8. 3.
Left Centre Battn. Hqrs.		O. 30. D. 15. 15.
Front Coy. Hqrs.		
Support Coy. Hqrs.		O. 22. A. 15. 90.
No 1 Reserve Coy. Hqrs.	OOSTTAVERNE WOOD	O. 14. D. 85. 10.
No 2 " " "		O. 30. A. 15. 50.
Left Battn. Hqrs.	ONRAET FARM	O. 11. A. 2. 1.
" " " (advanced)		O. 10. D. 15. 50.
Front Coy. Hqrs.		O. 10. D. 9. 8.
" " " (advanced)	FORRENT FARM	O. 11. E. 2. 1.
Support Coy. Hqrs.		O. 10. D. 1. 6.
No 1 Reserve Coy. Hqrs.	ROSE WOOD	O. 16. A. 8. 7.
No 2 " " "	DENYS WOOD	O. 9. D. 50. 45.
Reserve Battn. Hqrs.		O. 25. A. 2. 8.
3 Companies		O. 25. A. 2. 8.
1 Company		O. 19. D. 8. 9.
1 Company		O. 14. D. 9. 4.
Right H.G. Coy. Hqrs.	LEG COPSE	O. 30. E. 3. 5.
Left H.G. Coy. Hqrs.	DELESKE FARM	O. 10. E. 1. 3.
L.T.M. Ety's Headqrs.	DERRY HOUSE	O. 27. A. 35. 55
OOSTTAVERNE Group Arty. Hqrs.	REGENT ST DUGOUTS	N. 29. C. 5. 5.
HOLLEBERKE " " "	IRISH HOUSE	N. 23. C. 8. 7.
Right Field Coy. Hqrs.	SPY FARM	N. 28. C. 7. 5.
Left " " "		N. 28. A. 8. 2.
Reserve Brigade Hqrs.	KEMMEL CHATEAU	N. 21. D. 2. 6.
Brigade on Right Hqrs.	MIDLAND Fm.	T. 6. C. 0. 6.
Bn. on Right Hqrs.		O. 34. E. 1. 2.
Brigade on Left Hqrs.		I. 32. A. 8. 5.
Bn. on Left Hqrs.		I. 31. E. 2. 3.

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ADMINISTRATIVE1. AMMUNITION.Dumps

Divisional = N. 21. D. 7. 3.

Brigade = PICK HOUSE O. 26. A. 6. 5. for Right Battns.
 VERNE DUMP O. 21. Central do
 IN DE STERKTE CABT. (or CLARKE) DUMP
 O. 15. A. 4. 3. for Left Battns.

Battalion = Right Bn. O. 27. C. 8. 1. and HO" FARM
 Right Centre Bn. O. 22. A. 3. 2.
 Left " " O. 20. B. 2. 1. & O. 17. B. 5. 3.
 Left En. O. 16. A. 8. 6.

Brigade Dumps are maintained through Brigade Headquarters from Divisional Dump by the 1st Line Transport of Battns. An N.C.O. is placed in charge of each dump issuing to Battalions as required. Battalions supplying their own carrying parties for the purpose.

All additional ammunition supplies required or Special indents are obtained through the Brigade.

2. RATIONS.

Railhead = BRULOZE

Refilling Point and Brigade Dump = N. 21. C. 8. 6. KEMMEL.
 Supplies are drawn at 1100 daily by 1st Line Transport and 'out up' at Quarter master Stores at the Wagon Lines (N. 21. Central) close by.

Q.M. Stores are conveyed to Battalion 'Ration Points' by 1st Line Transport via routes as under :-

Right Battalion. KEMMEL - WYTSCHAETTE Road - LAMP POST CORNER - Cross roads O. 20. C. 2. 4. to LUMM FARM (O. 26. D. 7. 7.) thence by track to ULSTER HOUSE along ANTRIM ROAD - GUN ROAD to HO" FARM (O. 27. D. 1. 9.) thence carrying parties convey to Cooks.

Right and Left Centre Battalions. KEMMEL - WYTSCHAETTE Road - LAMP POST CORNER - Cross Roads O. 20. C. 2. 4. - Cross Roads O. 20. C. 2. 8. - TOPREKEN CORNER to VERNE Dump thence carrying parties to Cooks.

Left Battalion As for Centre Battalions as far as Cross Roads O. 20. C. 2. 8. thence ESTAMINET Corner (O. 20. A. 3. 2) - IN DE STERKTE CABT. (O. 15. A. 3. 2) to GOUDEZEUNF Fm. thence track to ROSE DUMP O. 16. A. 5. 7. where carrying parties convey to Cooks.

/Cooking

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Cooking for the whole Brigade in the Line is done in forward area and front posts and picquet line supplied by food containers during the hours of darkness. It is proposed to use Light railways for Ration supplies but at present the line is convenient for Left Battalion only. When the present routes are extended, all supplies will go forward from LINDENHOEK OF PARMA DUMP on Light Railways.

3. WATER.

Water supply is as follows :-

Right Battalion.

Spring at ULSTER HOUSE.

Right Centre Battalion

O. 20. D. 1. 4. and R. A. P. O. 21. C. 8. 8.

Left Centre Battalion

O. 20. A. 3. 3., O. 14. D. 5. 6., VERNE DUMP (O. 21. Central)

Left Battalion

O. 14. A. 3. 1., DENYS WOOD (O. 9. D. 8. 8.)
RAVINE O. 10. D. 2. 7.

In addition to the above, there are water points at N. 24. C. 8. 2. and N. 28. B. 9. 8. both on GORDON ROAD.

There are also a number of other springs and wells in the area, which will be tested and marked in due course.

4. RESERVE RATIONS AND WATER.

Reserve Rations are stored in the vicinity of the Coy. Headquarters of Coy. in the line as follows :-

<u>Right Battalion</u>	- about	O. 28. B. 8. 1.	1000 rations
<u>Right Centre Bn.</u>	- "	O. 22. D. 9. 4.	500 "
<u>Left Centre Bn.</u>	- "	O. 23. A. 3. 6.	1000 "
<u>Left Battalion</u>	- "	O. 11. B. 2. 4.	500 "

and also 450 rations at each of Right Centre and Left Centre Battalion Headquarters.

Reserve of 50 petrol tins of water is kept at each Battalion Headquarters.

5. TRANSPORT.

Brigade Transport lines are at KEMMEL and in charge of Brigade Transport Officer. It would be possible in the case of necessity to establish a Transport Bivouac further forward. Brigade Headquarters lines are adjacent to Brigade Headquarters.

TRAFFIC.

Headlights are not permitted further forward than the road R.E. Farm - KEMMEL - LA POLKA - LINDENHOEK. Traffic is not allowed to proceed by day nor lights to be used by night forward of the line O.19.A.8.8. = O.19.C.5.6. = EARL FARM (O.25.D).

Transport must not proceed by day beyond RED CHATEAU on the VIERSTRAAT - TYTSCHAETE Road, except singly and then only under exceptional circumstances.

Vehicles are forbidden to halt in daylight on the unscreened portions of the KEMMEL-TYTSCHAETE Road east of PECKHAM.

A.P.M. Division supplies all traffic control posts in the area and Battalions place sentries on C.T's or roads in the foremost part of the area which it is forbidden to use in daylight.

It is essential to prevent unnecessary movement by day in those parts of the area under observation to the enemy.

SALVAGE.

There is a Brigade Salvage Officer who is responsible for the collection of Salvage in the Brigade Sector. A party of men is detailed daily by each Battalion in the line to clear the area. All material that can be sent back is collected at Battalion Ration Points or other convenient place and taken back to Brigade Salvage Dump (N.24.D.3.4.) on returning ration limbers.

The N.C.O. in charge of the Dump rendering a return to Brigade Headquarters daily.

There are, in addition, 1 N.C.O. and 4 men attached to the Brigade from Divisional Salvage Coy. The men are assisting Battalions and the N.C.O. acts as Liaison at Brigade Headquarters.

Divisional Salvage Coy. is advised when sufficient quantity of material is collected to transfer to Divisional Dump.

GUM BOOTS.

There are at present 1625 pairs of Gum Boots in the Area; they are stored at and issued from three centres as required.

GUM BOOTS
(contd)

Right Battalion - ULSTER HOUSE
Centre Battalions - LEG COPSE
Left Battalion - RAVINE WOOD

In each case the store is in charge of an Officer who supervises the drying, safe keeping and issue of the Gum Boots.

9. SOUP KITCHENS. There are four Soup Kitchens in the area -

LAMP POST CORNER
VERNE DUMP
ULSTER HOUSE
PRESTON DUMP.

The three former are controlled by the Brigade, supplies coming from the Australian Comforts Funds and the latter by the Brigade Y.M.C.A. representative.

10. CEMETERIES. List of authorised Cemeteries in the area are :-

DERRY HOUSE, WYTSCHAETE	28/ 0.27.A.15.20.
OOSTTAVERNE WOOD Cemetery	
No 1 WYTSCHAETE	28/ 0.15.C.40.85.
TORREKEN FARM Cemetery No 1	
WYTSCHAETE	28/ 0.20.C.95.10.
CABIN HILL Cemetery	
WYTSCHAETE	
LA LAITERIE MILTY Cemetery	
VIERSTRAAT Road	28/ N.18.D.2.5.
KEMMEL CHATEAU Military Cemtry.	28/ N.21.B.3.3.
WINDENHOEK CHALET Military	
Cemetery	28/ N.27.C.9.9.
PONT FARM, WILVERGHEM	28/ N.34.B.5.0.

11. PRISONERS OF WAR

Main Corps cage is situated at BAILLEUL ASYLUM. All prisoners are, under normal circumstances, evacuated through Battalion Headquarters to Brigade Headquarters to Divisional Headquarters.

In the event of a big engagement, relay posts would be established and a Brigade Detention Point established near Advanced Brigade Headquarters at which place prisoners would be taken over by Divisional M.P.

12. ORDNANCE.

Supplies from Ordnance are obtained direct from D.A.D.O.S. DRANOUTRE on 1st Line Transport.

13. R.E. SUPPLIES. All R.E. Supplies, Dumps, and ^{are} work is dealt with in APPENDIX 'C'

14. MEDICAL. Is dealt with in APPENDIX 'B'

15. MISCELLANEOUS. Socks - Facilities for drying socks exist at -

ULSTER HOUSE	for Right Battalion
VERNE DUMP	" Right Centre Battalion
O. 20. A. 7. 2.	" Left Centre Battalion
ONRAET FARM	" Left Battalion

Canteens - Main Divisional Canteen is at KEMMEL.

All Battalions have established Regimental Canteens in forward area.

15. MISCELLANEOUS. Baths - The Left Centre Battalion has a suitable place erected in the vicinity of Battalion Headquarters capable of bathing 150 men per diem. Water is obtained from well at the Baths.

Accommodation for Reserves - IRISH HOUSE and vicinity N. 23, D. and vicinity of RED CHATEAU offer accommodation for a total of approximately 25 Officers and 600 Other Ranks. RED CHATEAU being particularly suitable as a 'Rest House' at which cases of suspected Trench Feet, slight shell shock etc. could be accommodated and treated.

Roads - All roads in the Area are in good order and fit for Horse Transport.

APPENDIX 'B'

MEDICAL.

There are three R.A.P.'s in the Brigade Sector situated as under :-

ULSTER HOUSE
VERNE ROAD O. 21, Central
RAVINE WOOD O. 10, O. 2, 5.

Bearer and Relay Posts are established at -

WHIZZBANG O. 27, O. 3, 0. LUMM FARM O. 26, D. 2, 8.
CABARET O. 15, A. 9, 1. ONRAET FARM O. 14, O. 5, 8.

A.D.S. at BROKEN LAKE O. 19, D. 2, 8, whence stretcher cases are conveyed by Motor and Horse drawn vehicles to -

M.D.S. at N. 29, A. 6, 5.

Sick Collecting Post - LINDENHOEK N. 27, O. 9, 6.

In the event of extra stretchers, blankets or bearers being required, R.M.O.'s notify A.D.S. or Brigade Headquarters.

T O R K S
-----R. E. DUMPS

There are two R.E. Dumps in the area for main supply -

RAILWAY DUMP O. 20, C. 10, 30,

PALMA DUMP N. 12, C. 50, 20,

R.E. Material is brought forward to RAILWAY DUMP by Light Railway and to PALMA DUMP by heavy rail. The former Dump supplying the RIGHT & RIGHT CENTRE BATTALIONS and the latter the LEFT AND LEFT CENTRE BATTALIONS,

These dumps are in charge of N.C.O's from the attached Field Companies Engineers with men attached from the Battalions for loading.

The Left and Left Centre Battalions have forward dumps at -
IN DE STERKTE GABT. O. 15. A. 3. 2. (known as CLARKE DUMP)

PRESTON DUMP O. 15. D. 1. 3.

R.E. material is loaded on tramway at PALMA DUMP and carried forward on trollies drawn by mules to CLARKE DUMP. Right Battalion has established dumps at -

O. 27, C. 10, 85. and
O. 26, D. 60, 65.

where material is carried from RAILWAY DUMP by carrying parties and from there forward by night to work.

Right Centre Battalion has established an R.E. dump at -
VERNE DUMP O. 21, Central

where material is carried from RAILWAY DUMP by carrying parties and thence forward up MANCHESTER STREET at night to work.

Left and Left Centre Battalions have established an R.E. dump at -

ROSE DUMP O. 16. A. 5. 7.

to where material is pushed forward by pushing parties on tramway from CLARKE DUMP and is carried forward from ROSE DUMP by both Battalions by night to work.

POLICY,

The policy followed aims at making the position safe and tenable, by wiring, construction of new Defensive positions and providing accomodation for the garrisons thereof.

Field Coys.

Two Field Companies are allotted for work in the Brigade Sector, the one working in the Right and Right Centre Battalions subsectors and the other the Left and Left Centre Battalions subsectors.

ENGINEER OFFICERS.

Each Battalion has an Engineer Officer attached to work in Liaison with the Battalion Works Officer and each Battalion has a number of Sappers allotted to them to work with the Battalion under the direction of the Engineer Officer.

WORKS OFFICER.

An officer is appointed by Brigade to act as Brigade Works officer and each Battalion has appointed a Battalion Works officer.

DUTIES OF WORKS OFFICERS.

The Brigade Works Officer in conjunction with an Engineer Officer who is attached to Brigade Headquarters, inspects work done by the Battalions and any suggested new work or any alterations or additions in work are notified to the Battalion Commander in whose sector the work is required. General supervision of the whole of the work in the Brigade area is done by the Brigade Works Officer and the Engineer Officer attached to Brigade.

The Battalion Works Officer is responsible for his Battalion Area and is also responsible for the allotment of tasks and arrangements of all working and carrying parties which are requisitioned for and obtained direct from his Battalion. Battalion Works officers are not changed whilst the Battalions are in the line and are attached to Battalion Headquarters where all requisitions from Company Commanders for work requiring attention are sent. He is responsible for the amount of work done and for all necessary guides for parties proceeding to work and notifies his Battalion of numbers required and when and where they are to report.

CO-OPERATION WITH ENGINEERS.

The Officer from the Field Company attached to each Battalion is responsible only for the quality of the work done and works in close liaison with the Battalion Works officer and gives technical advice.

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WORKING PARTIES.

To ensure continuity of work, Battalions as far as possible detail same party under the same officer for the same work.

'Piece Work' principle, wherever possible, is adopted. Names of Officers and N.C.O's in charge of each party are kept at Battalion Headquarters. Parties are given about 6 hours work to do and are allowed to return on completion of their work, similarly carrying parties are given a definite amount of material to be shifted and dismissed as soon as they finish task.

A Battalion from the Reserve Brigade is attached to the Brigade in the line for work on the Reserve System.

REPORTS.

The Battalion Works Officers furnish daily reports to Brigade Works Officer shewing in detail amount of work done, shewing location of work, Number of men employed Hours worked, Material used and Measurement of work completed to. This reaches Brigade Headquarters daily at 1100 and shews work done for 24 hours ending 0600 on that morning.

The Battalion Works Officers also keep up to date, maps of their areas, shewing work completed, in course of completion and contemplated.

The Daily Intelligence Report includes any extra work done.

The Brigade Works Officer forwards weekly to Division a Summary of work completed and in hand by Battalions.

INTELLIGENCEOBSERVATION.

The ground in the Brigade Sector is suitable for good observation and all Observation Posts are sited in commanding positions.

There are 11 Observation Posts in the Sector, situated at the undermentioned positions and manned as shown:-

		<u>NO.</u>	<u>Men</u>
Brigade O.P.	MAHIEU Pm.O. 21.D. 88	1	5
Right Bn. Hq. O.P.	O. 27.D. 3. 6.	1	3
" " Coy. "	DERRY HQ. O. 27.A. 3. 6.	1	4
Right Cent. Bn. Hq. O.P.	TORREKEN Pm.O. 20.D. 2. 2	1	4
" " " Coy "	O. 23.A. 2. 2.		3
" " " " "	O. 23.C. 2. 5.	1	2
Left Bn. Hq. O.P.	O. 11.C. 12. 82.	1	3
" " Coy. "	O. 10.D. 2. 5.		4
" " " " "	O. 11.C. 7. 5.	1	4
Left Cent. Bn. Hq. O.P.	O. 15.D. 75. 50.	1	3
" " " " "	O. 20.B. 15. 20		3

On clear days, train movement in enemy back territory can be distinctly seen.

RETURNS.

The following returns are rendered daily by Battalions -

0400 }
& } Situation reports
1600 }

0820 Intelligence Summary (0600 - 0600)

The returns are due at Divisional Headquarters at 0450 and 1630 and 1200 respectively.

The amount of wire put out for the 24 hours is included in the Intelligence Summary.

Disposition Report is rendered on relief being complete and also on any change.

Patrol Report forms with map on reverse, are issued to Battalions.

APPENDIX 'E'

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following means of Communication are in use in the Brigade Sector -

Telegraph, Telephone, Fullerphone, Visual Signal, Power buzzer and Amplifier, Wireless, Despatch rider, Runners and Carrier Pigeons;

'Telegraph' from Divisional Headquarters to Brigade Headquarters with two clear speaking lines for 'telephone' conversations;

'Telephone' from Brigade Headquarters to each Battalion Headquarters. The above methods all via Buried Cable Routes as shown in map attached.

'Fuller phones' are used from and forward of Brigade Headquarters for all operation messages, and telephones are as far as is practicable out out.

Station calls only are used.

In the event of an attack, lines would be kept 'clear' to Battalion and Divisional Headquarters from Brigade Headquarters for operation messages only. All other traffic would be temporarily suspended.

Overland Cable routes are as shown in map attached;

Visual Signal Stations are established as follows :-

Central Visual Station at	Mt. KEMMEL
Brigade Headquarters at	N. 29. C. Central
Brigade Relay Runner Station at	O. 19. D. 20. 30.
Brigade Forward Station at	O. 27. A. 65. 75.
Battalion Headquarters at	O. 20. B. 15. 45.
Battalion Headquarters at	O. 20. D. 20. 30.
Carrier Pigeon Stations at	O. 27. A. 30. 60.
" " "	O. 20. D. 20. 30.
" " "	O. 20. B. 15. 45.
" " "	O. 10. D. 20. 50.
Power Buzzer Stations at	O. 11. B. 20. 00
" " and Amplifier Stations at	O. 10. D. 20. 50.
" " " " "	O. 27. A. 65. 75
" " " " "	O. 28. B. 40. 15.

Corps Directing Wireless Station in touch with the following Wireless Stations forward at -

N. 29. C. Central	(Brigade Headquarters)
O. 27. A. 65. 75	(Bde. Forward Station)
O. 10. D. 20. 50.	(Adv. Left Bn. Hqrs)

Carrier Pigeons may be sent further forward at discretion of C.O's,

D I S T R I B U T I O N .

<u>Copy No</u>	<u>To whom.</u>
1	File
2/4	War Diary
5	1st Australian Division
6	5th Battalion
7	6th Battalion
8	7th Battalion
9	8th Battalion
10	2nd M.G. Coy.
11	2A L.T.M. Bty.
12	21st M.G. Coy.
13	1st Aust. Inf. Brigade
14	3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade
15	63rd Infantry Brigade
16	COSTAVERNE Group Artillery
17	HOLLERBEKE Group Artillery
18	4th Battalion

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Appendix CXLIV



SECRET.

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

29th DECEMBER, 1917.

1st Amendment to 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade Defence Scheme.

In Appendix "E" Communications for "Station Calls"
read "Position Calls".

H. F. Watson

Captain,
brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.,

(Issued to all recipients 2nd Aust. Infantry Bdo. Defence Scheme.)

Appendix No 144
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SECRET.

COPY NO. 4.....

2nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO 70

HEADQUARTERS

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

28th December 1917

Reference. WYTSCHAETTE.
1:10,000

1. The 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade will be relieved by the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. in the left Sector of the 1st Aust. Div. Front on the nights of the 30th/31st Decr. and 31st Decr/1st Janry. in accordance with the attached table.
2. The 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. (less 5th Bn) on relief will move back into Divisional Reserve and will take over the accommodation and duties of the 1st Aust. Inf. Brigade.
3. The 5th Battalion will be placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. as Brigade Reserve and will be accommodated in the WYTSCHAETTE Area.
4. Advanced parties of the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. will be sent into all Advanced posts and will take part in all patrols the night before the relief. They will remain until their unit arrives.
5. Works in progress will be continued and working parties will not cease work until they are relieved.
6. The 5th Battalion will take over the work on the Reserve System of the Front Zone now being performed by the 4th Battalion and the 8th Battalion that on the Second Zone now being performed by the 2nd Battalion. Advanced parties from these Battalions will be attached to the Units now carrying out these Defensive works for one day prior to the relief.
7. The two sections of the 2nd M.G. Coy. in the Right Sub-sector will be relieved by two sections of the 1st M.G. Coy. on the night of the 30th/31st December and the two sections in the Right centre sub-sector on the night of the 31st Decr./1st Janry. The O.C. 2nd M.G. Coy. will be responsible for the tactical handling of all guns until the final relief is completed.
8. The Sub-sections of the 2A L.T.M. Bty. in the right and Left centre Sub-sectors will be relieved by the 1A L.T.M. Bty. on the night of the 30th/31st Decr. and the remaining Sub-sections on the night of the 31st Decr./1st Janry. O.C. 2A L.T.M. Bty. will be responsible for the tactical handling of all Mortars until the final relief is completed.
9. No movement forward of the WYTSCHAETTE-MESSINES Ridge will take place before 1830.
- 10 (a) All maps, photographs, Defence Schemes, plans of work, and Documents of value to the Incoming unit will be handed over.
(b) Area and Trench Stores will be handed over and receipts in triplicate obtained. Two copies will be sent to reach Bde. Hqrs. by 1800 on the day after the relief takes place.
(c) Transport lines will not change.
11. Completion of relief will be notified by wire to this Office in Code.

(over)

- 12. Details of relief not herein provided for, will be mutually arranged between G.O.'s concerned.
- 13. Command of the forward sector will pass to G.O.C. 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. on completion of relief.
- 14. On completion of relief, Brigade Headquarters will close at REGENTS DUGOUTS and open at KEMMEL CHATEAU.
- 15. Acknowledge.

H. F. Watson

CAPTAIN,
Brigade Major
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Copy No.	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	1500	
2/4	War Diary	"	"
5	5th Battalion	"	D.R.
6	6th Battalion	"	"
7	7th Battalion	"	"
8	8th Battalion	"	"
9	2nd M.G. Coy.	"	"
10	21st M.G. Coy.	"	"
11	2A L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
12	4th Battalion	"	"
13	1st Aust. Division	"	"
14	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
15	3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
16	63rd Inf. Brigade	"	"
17	G.O.C.	"	"
18	Brigade Major	"	"
19	Staff Captain	"	"
20	No 4 Signal Section	"	"
21	Camp Commandant	"	"
22-25	Spares.	"	"

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RELIEF TAILE to accompany Brigade Order No 70.

D a t e.	U n i t.	From	To	Relieving Unit	R e m a r k s.
Night 30/ 31st Decr.	5th Battalion	Line Right	"WYTSCHAETE Area	4th Battalion	2 Coys. in O. 25. A. 1 Coy. GATACOMBS 1 Coy. OOSTTAVERNE "WOOD
do	8th Battalion	Line Left centre	LINDENHOEK Camp	2nd Battalion	2 Coys. at IRISH HOUSE
Night 31st/ 1st Janry.	6th Battalion	Line Right centre	RAMILLES Camp	3rd Battalion	
"	7th Battalion	Line Left	ROSSIGNOL Camp	1st Battalion	
Nights 30th/ 31 Decr. and 31st Decr./ 1st Janry.	2nd M.G. Coy.	Line	KEMMEL	1st M.G. Coy.	
do					

2nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE,

Intelligence Summary No.1.

From 0600 14/12/17 to 0600 15/12/17.

Headquarters,
2nd Aus. Inf. Bde.
15/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

Reliefs. - The 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved the 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the night of 14/15th December. During the relief the enemy shelled ROSE WOOD with 5.9 H.E., but otherwise the relief was completed without incident by 2100.

(a) Artillery - During the morning our artillery was quiet. Throughout the afternoon and night the following targets were engaged:- SQUARE FARM, LAKE FARM, PILLEGREMS FARM, BANG FARM, WHIZ FARM, BUTK FARM and JULY FARM. From 1200 to 1400 our heavies shelled COMINES and WAM FARM.

At 1200 our 18 pdrs shelling caused a fire to break out at P.7.A.7.4.

(b) Patrols - Visiting and protective patrols were sent out from Battalions as follows -

- (1) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men at 2045 patrolled No Man's Land to a depth of 150 yards over the left Battalion front and returned without incident at 2200.
- (2) A patrol 1 N.C.O. and 2 men reconnoitred our wire and No Man's Land along the Right Battalion front. No Man's Land was found to be in good going order.
- (3) A patrol of 1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks reconnoitred the front of Right Centre Battalion and reported everything normal. No Man's Land found to be boggy in parts.
- (4) One Officer and 3 Other Ranks reconnoitred the front of the Centre Left Battalion and reported the ground pitted with shell holes and very wet.

(c) Machine Guns - During the day inactive. At night our M.G.'s fired on enemy works at PILLEGREMS FARM, trenches at O.18.D.10.10. to road in O.18.D.30.45., also POLL FARM and Cross Roads at O.18.B.

(d) Trench Mortars - During the day our trench mortars were inactive. At night 13 rounds were fired on enemy tracks and other targets as harassing fire, and also in retaliation to enemy T.M. firing from the vicinity of The TWINS.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS -

N 1 1.

3. ENEMY SHELLING -

Normal. At 0930 GREEN WOOD was shelled lightly with 77s from the direction of HOUTHEN.

At 1200 light enemy shelling in vicinity of LUM FARM with 4.2 H.E.

At 1300 ROOZEBEEK VALLEY was shelled with 4.2. S shrapnel

At 1400 enemy shelled between VERNE Road and LEG COPSE with 5.9.H.E. and also between TORREKEN FARM and WYTSCHAETE.

From 1700 to 2300 KILPATRICK was subjected to both shrapnel and H.E. fire.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE -

Artillery quiet. Infantry normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES.

Enemy M.G.'s were moderately active during the night.
Enemy T.M. fired 12 rounds from the direction of THE TWINS.
A suspected Minonwerfer and M.G. position is reported at
O.17.B.62.12.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY.

N 1 1.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT

Owing to poor visibility up to 1200 no enemy movement could be observed, after this hour the visibility greatly improved.
Between 0700 and 0900 20 men were observed to move from LAKE FARM to trench at O.24.O.4.3.
At 1500 6 of enemy were seen to run from VAM FARM and disappear behind PELLEGRAMS FARM.
During the afternoon occasional movement was observed in the vicinity of SQUARE FARM.

Train movement was observed as follows:-

1230 WERVICQ to COMINES
1230 Shunting in WERVICQ
1245 TENBRIELEN to ZANDVOORDE
1250 Two trains MENIN to WERVICQ
1255 GHELUWE to TENBRIELEN
1300 WERVICQ to COMINES
1300 Shunting in WERVICQ - Sud.
1300 Shunting in COMINES
1315 GHELUWE to WERVICQ
1340 TENBRIELEN to ZANDVOORDE
1340 WERVICQ to GHELUWE
1340 MENIN to HALLUIN
1350 TENBRIELEN to WERVICQ
1355 MENIN to WERVICQ
1425 TENBRIELEN to WERVICQ.

8. SIGNALLING

At 0800 enemy signalling with lamp was observed at about P.8.D.6.5.

At 0946 lamp signalling was observed on a true bearing of 82 degrees from O.27.D.90.65.

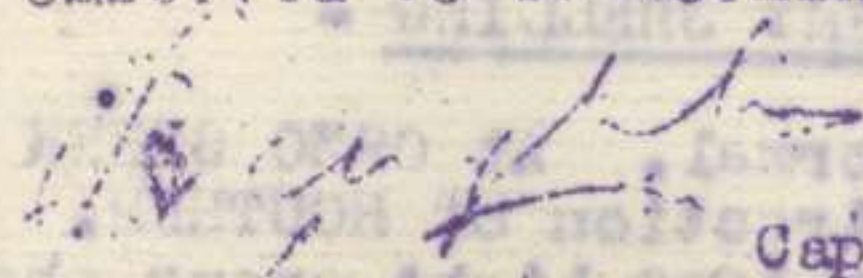
During the night white flares were frequently sent up along the enemy line.

9. MISCELLANEOUS.

Whilst our 18 pdrs were shelling in vicinity of P.7.A.7.4. at 1200 a fire was seen to break out there.

Whilst our heavies were shelling COMINES at 1310 an explosion was caused near the cathedral.

At 1345 windmill at P.17.O.2.O. was observed to be working.


Captain,
2nd Brig. Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 2.

From 0600 15/12/17 to 0600 16/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
16/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

(a) Artillery - During the morning quiet. From 1200 to 1400 our artillery shelled LAKE FARM and wire in vicinity. The TWINS also came in for a good deal of attention by our 18 pdrs. During the night 0.24.0.3.3. to 0.24.0.1.5. and back to LAKE FARM was systematically shelled. In the course of the day Pill Boxes in 0.18.B. were shelled by our heavies.

(b) Patrols -

- (1) A reconnoitring patrol of 1 Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our post at 0.11.E.9.3. at 2300 to inspect No Man's Land south of HOLLEBEKE - CANAL Road. The patrol was fired on from several positions by enemy M.Gs. The ground is broken and boggy, shell holes being full of water. No enemy patrols were encountered. The patrol returned at 0.11.D.15.20. at 0230.
- (2) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 Men left our lines at 0.23.0.30.25. at 1715 to locate enemy M.Gs. and suspected forward posts. Patrol reports no enemy seen or heard and RIFLE FARM appears to be the nearest point occupied by the enemy. A M.G. was observed to be firing from direction of RIFLE FARM. No Man's Land is considerable out up and shell holes full of water.
- (3) A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines at 0.23.0.34.25. at 0500 to reconnoitre the northern bank of the WAMBEEK and across to Right Centre Battalion. The valley of the WAMBEEK was found to be swampy for a width of 40 yards.

Protective Patrols were out throughout the night along the whole of the Brigade front. No enemy was seen but a M.G. firing from direction of FLY Buildings was active firing along VERNE Road, especially about JUNCTION Buildings. Lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades.

(c) M.Gs. - Quiet during the day. At night our M.Gs. subjected the following places to intermittent fire :- PILLEGREMS FARM, POLL FARM, Cross Roads in 0.18.B., the valleys of the BLAUNEP-OORTBEEK, and the WAMBEEK to sweeping fire, enemy's system of trenches in 0.18.D.

(d) TRENCH MORTARS - During the day our T.Ms. were inactive. At night 38 rounds were expended and following targets were fired on at intervals :- BEEK FARM, THE TWINS, and enemy M.Gs., which were observed to be firing from forward positions. The activity of our patrols restricts the use of our T.Ms.

(e) OUR AIRCRAFT - Our planes were active throughout the day, flying in the forward area rather low. Many planes crossed into enemy territory where they were engaged by A.A. guns.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS -

N 1 1.

P.T.O./

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Above normal.

At 1000 enemy shelled O.9.A. with 5.9 H.E.

From 1300 to 1500 enemy shelled O.30.A. with 5.9. H.E. from the direction of HOUTHEM.

From 1100 to 1500 VERNE Road and MANCHESTER Street were lightly shelled by all calibres.

At 1530 WYTSCHAETE Cross Roads were shelled with 4.2 H.E. from direction of COMINES.

From 0900 to 1200 O.34.A. and B. and O.28.C. were shelled from the direction of WARNETON with 5.9. H.E.

From 1500 to 1550 the enemy shelled ROSE WOOD with 5.9. H.E. from direction of KORTENDE.

During the afternoon the valley of the ROOZEBEEK was lightly shelled with H.E.

At 2200 KELO FARM was shelled with 77s.

1400 to 1700 O.28.C. was subjected to fire of 5.9. H.E. from direction of WARNETON.

WALLEEK valley was shelled with Gas shells during the night.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Increased artillery activity; Infantry normal. M.G. fire active during the night.5. ENEMY DEFENCES - Left Battalion reports that the enemy appears to have a strong line of pill boxes, in some cases connected by caps about 1000 yards in front of our outpost line. At night he appears to put M.Gs. into shell hole positions, but no sign can be seen of them during the day.

M.Gs. in the vicinity of BEEK FARM were active throughout the night.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - At 0815 two enemy planes patrolled the forward area for about 10 minutes and then flew east. They did not cross our line.7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - At 0645 a party of about 30 men was seen at PILL FARM in fatigue dress going in an easterly direction.

Train movement was observed as follows :-

0815 at station about P.34. Central.

1100 " " " "

1330 " " " "

1130 train leaving WERVICQ travelling north.

At dusk enemy transport could be distinctly heard by Left Centre Battalion.

8. SIGNALLING -

N 1 1.

9. MISCELLANEOUS - At 1150 a large cloud of smoke was observed at about P.32. Central.

White flares were not used/ extensively as on previous night.

Enemy flares render wiring in front of our posts difficult.

At about 0500 this morning two prisoners of 26th and 360th regiment stating that they had escaped from near BOULOGNE were captured in the picket line of our left centre battalion.

A. F. Watson

Captain,

Brigade Major,

2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.

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2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 5.

From 0600 16/12/17 to 0600 17/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
17/12/17.

1. OPERATION -

(a) RELIEFS - The 21st A.M.G. Coy relieved the 25th A.M.G. Coy on the night of the 16/17th December. The relief was completed without incident by 1930.

(b) Artillery - During the morning slightly increased activity. About 1100 LAKE FARM and THE TWINS came in for a good deal of attention. During the shelling of THE TWINS two direct hits were observed. Throughout the afternoon and night enemy trenches in P.19.c, d, and P.25.c. was systematically shelled. 1300 to 1400 SPUD FARM was shelled at intervals by our heavies.

(a) Patrols -

- (1) A patrol of one Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our line at O.17.d.15.40, at 1800 to reconnoitre No Man's Land. An enemy small post with M.G. was located at about O.17.d.7.5. This appears to be manned at night only.
- (2) Right Battalion sent out three reconnoitring patrols during the night. An old enemy post was located at O.29.o.45.50. This post was unoccupied and shows no signs of recent use. No enemy were encountered by any of the patrols, and movement was difficult owing to water-logged shell holes.
- (3) A patrol of one Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines at 2300 from O.11.b.80.25. to reconnoitre No Man's Land. Movement was difficult owing to the swampy condition of the ground. No enemy were encountered, and only one M.G. firing from the direction of POLL HOUSE, hampered the movement of this patrol.

Lateral communication was maintained throughout the night with flank Brigades.

(d) M.Gs. During the night our M.Gs. expended 8,000 rounds in indirect harassing fire on various targets

(e) T.Ms. During the night 49 rounds were fired on known tracts and suspected M.Gs. in vicinity of BEEK FARM, JULY Farm, FLY buildings and THE TWINS. Our forward posts in O.11.d. report direct hits on THE TWINS and on M.G. at O.11.d.75.45. M.G. firing from JULY Farm was silenced

(f) OUR AIRCRAFT - Our planes were very active throughout the day flying well over the enemy lines.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - 0620 this morning a prisoner of 8 Komp., 103 I.R. walked into our lines at O.29.o.2.4.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Normal.

- At 1100 YTSCHAEDE Cross roads were shelled with 4.2.H.E.
- At 1400 O.22.o. was shelled with 4.2. H.E. from the direction of COMINES.
- Throughout the day O.28.a. and DRUID Farm were shelled with 5. O.34.a. was intermittently shelled throughout the day with 77s H.E. from direction of WARNETON.
- At 2200 MANCHESTER Street was shelled with 77s.
- At 2330 several H.E. shrapnel burst over O.23.o.
- About 0620 7 5.9s; fell at TORREKEN Corner.

P.T.O./

- 4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Artillery quiet; infantry normal.
- 5. ENEMY DEFENCES - During the day M.Gs. were inactive. At night enemy M.Gs. were active, firing low over our left centre Bn. picquet line. They were also very active on right Bn. front. PINEAPPLE bombs were fired from vicinity of WHIZ Farm on to about O.17, Jertal. Enemy post, was observed in vicinity of O.17, d.7.5. This is evidently a night post only.
- 6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - About 0800 two enemy planes crossed our line but were soon driven off by the fire of our A.A. guns. From 0845 to 1315 three balloons were observed up at true bearings of 108, 118, and 128 degrees from O.27, d.90, 70.
- 7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - Between 0800 and 1400 several small parties were observed in vicinity of LAKE Farm. At 1630 a small party moving in a westerly direction entered JULY Farm. At 0930 several men were observed around PARTNTHE Farm. At 0700 smoke of trail was visible in direction of WERVIOQ. At 0842 trail was observed at P.34, b.8, 5, travelling N.E.
- 8. SIGNALLING - At 1605 enemy were lamp signalling at a true bearing of 92 degrees from TORREKEN Farm. Last part of the message read - UNSVONGR. At 0630 a green flare breaking into 2 greens was put up by the enemy. His M.Gs. immediately ceased fire.
- 9. MISCELLANEOUS - At 1650 a large white flare or rocket burst very high over the enemy lines. It burst until it reached the ground giving out many sparks as it fell.
- 10. DISPOSITIONS - Locations unchanged, with the exception of 21st M.G. Coy. - relieved 25th M.G. Coy.

[Signature]
 Captain,
 - Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

LATER - The left centre Battalion reported that No.13 post at O.17, a.9, 4, was captured by the enemy this morning. The left Battalion reports that the enemy party was engaged by them and that most of our men were recaptured and a few prisoners taken.

[Handwritten initials]

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE,

Intelligence Summary No. 4.

From 0600 17/12/17 to 0600 18/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
18/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS - At an early hour yesterday morning one of the posts of our left centre Battalion at O.17.b.0.3, was raided by an enemy party of 14 and the garrison of the post, five in number captured. While attempting to return to its own lines the party came under rifle and Lewis gun fire from our left Battalion and was forced to take shelter in shell holes. Under cover of this fire, which prevented the enemy from retiring further, a party from the left Battalion was sent out and succeeded in surrounding them, capturing two Officers (one of whom has since died of wounds) and 4 other ranks. Four of the enemy are known to have been killed, whilst the captured Officer states that he believes none of his party escaped, all being either killed or captured. Of the garrison of the captured post three were rescued, whilst the remaining two are missing. It is possible they may have been killed by our fire.
- (a) Artillery - Quiet during the morning.
At 1230 LAKE Farm was shelled by our heavies.
From 1200 to 1430 BEEK Farm and vicinity was shelled by our 18 pdrs.
At 1150 a train moving in COMINES was seen to be shelled by our heavies. No hits were observed.
Between 1400 and 1615 the following targets were engaged: - BILL Farm, FILLEGREMS Farm, LAKE Farm and SQUARE Farm.
Throughout the night our 18 pdrs. intermittently searched known tracks with shrapnel.
From an observation post in O.20.b. a direct hit by our heavies was observed on a church in TERVIOQ.
- (b) Patrols -
- (1) One Officer and two Other Ranks left our lines at 0500 from O.23.a.9.4. to reconnoitre No Man's Land. No enemy was encountered but they could be heard talking and hammering in the direction of BIFLE Farm.
 - (2) At 1745 a patrol of One N.C.O. and two Other Ranks left our lines from O.23.a.6.1. for the purpose of reconnoitring No Man's Land. Patrol travelled forward of our posts to a depth of 150 yards in a Southerly direction. Nothing of the enemy was seen or heard.
 - (3) A patrol of One Officer and 2 Other Ranks left our lines at 2240 from O.23.a.7.1. to ascertain if JUNE Farm was occupied. A flare was sent up from the vicinity of JUNE Farm and a M.G. then opened fire. No talking or movement could be heard.
 - (4) A patrol of one Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines at 2100 from O.23.c.35.45. to locate enemy M.G. at about O.23.d.1.6. The patrol encountered barbed wire which appeared to be continuous. An enemy M.G. was located at O.23.d.16.61.
 - (5) A patrol of One Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines at 2330 from O.17.b.0.3. to reconnoitre No Man's Land. Nothing of the enemy was seen or heard.
 - (6) A patrol of One N.C.O. and 3 Men left our lines from O.29.o. at frequent intervals throughout the night to reconnoitre No Man's Land. No Man's Land was in fairly good condition, being covered with long grass. Man could be heard singing in enemy lines.
- Protective patrols were out in front of our wire throughout the night, and lateral communication with Flank Brigades was maintained.

P.T.O./

- 2 -

- (c) M.Gs. - Inactive during the day. Throughout the night 10,000 rounds were expended on the following targets :- PILL Farm, junction of Roads at O.24.e.78.02., LAKE Farm, Track at O.24.a.50.40., O.24.e.35.60. - O.24.e.45.40., O.18.e.15.50. - O.18.e.70.35.
- (d) T.Ms. - Inactive through out the day. During the night 51 rounds were expended on known tracks and reported T.M. and M.G. position.
- (e) OUR Aircraft. - Active throughout the day and night., and about 1800 flew over the enemy lines dropping bombs. Searchlights and A.A. guns were used by the enemy.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS -

One Officer and 2 Other Ranks of 153 I.R. and 1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks of 4th Pioneer Battalion were captured by us in O.11.d. at 0800 during an attempted raid on one of our posts. A prisoner belonging to 102nd I.R. walked into our lines in O.29.c. and was captured at 0630 (previously reported).

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Normal.

At 0715 six 4.2.H.E. fell in WYTSCHAETE.
 At 1030 MANCHESTER Street at about O.22.Central was shelled with 77s and 4.2s.
 ROSE WOOD and W. of GREEN WOOD were shelled fairly consistently throughout the day with 77s and 5.9.H.E.
 From 1445 to 1500 the RAVINE and OLIVE Trench were shelled with 4.2. at 1 minute intervals, the same position was shelled from 1600 to 1630 to 0320 to 0330, and 0440 to 0445. This shelling came from TERNER.
 At 1540 O.28.a. was shelled with 5.9.H.E.
 Junction of GUN Road and DORSET Street in O.27.b. was shelled during the night.
 At night Gas shells fell in the vicinity of ANZAC Farm.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Artillery normal. Infantry raided one of our posts in O.17.b.; enemy sniping for a few hours after raid, otherwise normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES - M.Gs. active throughout the night. His T.Ms. (Pincapple bombs were also used throughout the night on to our positions O.18.e. They appeared to be fired from about O.23.b.2.8. A M.G. position was located at O.23.d.16.61.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - Morning nil. During the afternoon more active than for some days past. At 1500 three enemy planes engaged one of ours over our lines. After a short time enemy planes retired. At 1515 One enemy plane was engaged by one of ours without result. At 1545 enemy planes crossed our line but was forced to retire by our A.A. guns. At about 1330 a new German type of plane was observed, and from the ground, appeared similar to R.E.8. but without Dihedral. It was very fast. From 1430 ten enemy planes appeared over our lines.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - At 0800 small parties of the enemy were seen moving LAKE Farm. At 0900 five men were seen in vicinity of LAKE Farm and at 0930 a carrying party carrying timber and material was also seen at this position. At 330 two men entered PARTYNTJE from direction of COMINTS. At 1400 they returned towards COMINTS.

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- 3 -

The following train movement was observed during the day:-

AT 1335 COMINES to WERVIOQ
 1335 TENBRIELEN to WERVIOQ
 1405 WERVIOQ to COMINES
 1434 WERVIOQ to COMINES
 1435 COMINES to WERVIOQ

At 1335 a train was seen moving in V.5.c. in a S.W. direction.
 At 1518 a train travelling in a N. direction was seen in V.5.c.

8. SIGNALLING - At 1600 a lamp was lit at a true bearing of 87 degrees from O. 27. d. 20. 70. Several flashes were sent on this lamp. At completion of our barrage at 1730 enemy sent up four flares which burst into 2 red and 2 green. At 1705 enemy lamp signalling was observed on a true bearing of 92 degrees from O. 20. d. 2. 3. The following letters were observed, OOUSOTBT-INSSTZNTHEAAA. At 1810 some of our planes crossed into enemy territory. A flare was sent up which burst into about 20 white lights where upon 3 enemy searchlights operated. At 1815, 1820 and 1825 enemy rockets bursting into two white stars was sent up. No action followed.

9. MISCELLANEOUS - Snow fell during the early morning and the ground was white until about 1100. Throughout the day at frequent intervals smoke screens were observed at COMINES. Flashes of enemy guns were observed on a true bearing of 95 degrees from O. 20. d. 1. 1. 1550 and 1630 it was noticed that the shells used against our aircraft sent out shrapnel like a spray of tracer bullets when they burst. A gun flash was seen at a true bearing of 109 degrees from O. 21. d. 0. 2. A quantity of Hessian Camouflage has been erected at O. 24. d. and P. 25. d. A fire which burnt for 6 minutes was seen west of COMINES in W. 2. 0.

H. F. Watson

Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

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2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 5.

From 0600 18/12/17 to 0600 19/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
19/12/17.1. OPERATIONS -

Reliefs - Inter-Company reliefs were carried out on the night of the 18th/19th Decr. Reliefs being completed by 2300.

- (a) Artillery - From 1400 to 1730 the following targets were engaged:-
By our 60 pdrs and 18pdrs:- PARTINTJE, LAKE, PILL and BO^W Farms
1400 and 1550 LAKE farm and vicinity was heavily shelled by our heavies.
Pill boxes between LOCK S 4 and 5 received a great deal of attention throughout the day by our heavies.
During the night our 18 pdrs. were active, firing on known tracks and also sweeping the area O.18.c.O.O. - O.30.c.O.O., P.13.c.O.O. - P.25.c.O.O.
PILL, LAKE and RIFLE Farms were subjected to short bursts from our 18 pdrs. throughout the night.

- (b) Patrols -
- (1) A patrol of 1^{5wo} officers and 5 Other Ranks left our lines at 0030 from O.11.c.8.3. to search for the two missing men of left centre battalion. Green WOOD, ROOZEBYK VALLEY, and No Man's Land in O.11.D. was searched without success.
 - (2) A patrol of one Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines in O.17.a.9.3. at 1930 to examine No Man's Land. The breaking of the ice would not permit the patrol getting close to the enemy lines. A party of the enemy were heard working West of FLY BUILDINGS.

Protective patrols were out in front of our posts throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades

- (c) M.Gs. - Inactive during the day. Throughout the night the following targets were engaged :- O.24.a.15.25. - O.24.c.78.02., O.24.c.45.40. - O.24.c.25.60., O.23.f.90.10. - O.24.a.30.40., O.18.c.15.50. - O.18.c.70.65., O.30.d.10.70. - O.30.d.10.95., O.30.c.90.40. - O.24.c.80.10. - O.24.c.50.40.
Harassing fire was maintained during the night on BILL, PILLEGRIMS and CENTRE Farms; HOLLEBE^E CHATEAU, Road through O.12.d. to Cross-roads in O.12.c., and on enemy tramway system in O.24.a. and O.24.d.
- (d) T.Ms. - Inactive during the day. Throughout the night 50 rounds were fired on to known tracks and occupied positions. A suspected enemy S.P. at O.23.f.30.70. was also fired on.
An enemy M.G. firing from FLY BUILDINGS at 2335 was effectively silenced by a burst of 5 rounds.

- (e) Our Aircraft - Our planes were very active throughout the day, many planes crossing over enemy territory where they were actively engaged by A.A. and M.G.
At 1630 about 5 planes were heard flying east towards enemy lines.
At 2200 our planes bombed rear enemy lines.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS -

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3. ENEMY SHELLING - Quiet during the morning.
 At 0900 ten 77s fell at O.11.b.3.1. from the direction of ZANDVOORDE.
 From 0900 to 1200 ten 4.2.H.E. fell in O.26.c. from the direction of
 VARNETON.
 From 1200 to 1400 about 44 4.2.H.E. shells fell in O.27.a. and O.
 and O.28.a. and c. from direction of HOUTHEN.
 From 1200 to 1330 O.31.b. was shelled with about 20 rounds 5.9.H.F.
 from the direction of COMINES.
 At 1625 twenty H.F. Shrapnel were fired over FORRET Farm from
 direction of WERVICQ.
 From 1930 to 0430, 40 5.9.H.F. fell in RAVINE WOOD from direction
 of ZANDVOORDE.
 From 1900 to 2100 O.26.b., O.27.c. and O.27.d. were shelled with
 5.9s, and 77s from the direction of COMINES.
 At 2230 enemy shelled O.22.b. with 77s. from the direction of
 HOUTHEN.
4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Both artillery and infantry normal.
5. ENEMY DEFENCES - Enemy M.Gs. at 0300 swept the ground in O.21.d. and
 O.22.a. continuing at intervals until 0530.
6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - Inactive during the morning.
 At 1500 several planes crossed our lines but were driven off by
 A.A. fire.
 At 1005 an aeroplane, believed to be an enemy plane, was driven down
 in rear of enemy lines. No movement near the plane was
 observed, where it fell at about P.7. Central.
7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - Between 0730 and 0800 small parties of 2 and 3 men
 were observed in the vicinity of LAKE farm.
 At 1100 2 men were observed repairing telephone wires between O.24.
 c.5.4. and O.24.b.30.8.6.
 At 1410 one man was observed using pick and shovel at O.24.d.9.3.
 At 1430 two men were observed in the vicinity of PILL FARM, they
 came across country from the direction of HOUTHEN.
 Between 0800 and 0900 smoke could be seen rising from stationary
 engine on COMINES - WERVICQ Railway.
 The following train movement was observed :-
 0816 WERVICQ to COMINES
 0817 COMINES to WERVICQ
 0851 WERVICQ travelling South-East,
 0905 TENBRIELEN to HOUTHEN
 0907 " to WERVICQ
 1000 Stationary between TENBRIELEN and WERVICQ
 1000 Travelling North-East in P.34.b.
 1100 COMINES to WERVICQ
 1230 WERVICQ to COMINES
 1250 Travelling South-West from V.5.d.
 1330 travelling towards COMINES in P.30.0.
 1410 Stationary S.W. of WERVICQ.
8. SIGNALLING - At 1230 a white light was observed on a grid bearing of
 105 degrees from O.21.d.8.9. The light is reported at W.S.A.2.A.
 and showed for 10 minutes.
 At 1345 a bright red light lasting 4 minutes was seen in P.34.b.
 apparently on a house top.
 1505 a bright red light lasting about 8 minutes was observed on a
 grid bearing of 107 degrees from O.21.d.8.9. This light was
 raised from the ground.
 At 1630 a lamp was observed signalling on a true bearing of 87
 degrees from O.27.d.9.7.
9. MISCELLANEOUS - Ground has been frozen throughout the night and
 patrolling was made difficult owing to the breaking of ice. Enemy
 did not send up the usual number of flares.
 At 1030 three distinct gun flashes were observed on a true bearing
 of 103 degrees from O.21.d.8.9. Location of flashes given as
 P.26.d.7.3.
 At 1600 gun flashes were observed on a grid bearing of 112 degrees
 from O.21.d.8.9. These flashes were east of COMINES and appeared
 directed in a N.W. direction.

2nd ANST INFANTRY BRIGADE.

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Intelligence Summary No. 6.

From 0600 19/12/17 to 0600 20/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
30 Decr. 1917.

1. OPERATIONS - At 1915 a party of about 10 of the enemy covered by M.G. firing from a forward position moved forward towards our post at O.17.c.9.8. They fired a few rifle shots and threw some bombs but were easily driven off by our Lewis Gun and rifle fire. No casualties were sustained as a result of this attempted raid.
- (a) Artillery - Quiet during the day. During the night our 18 pdrs. were active firing on O.23.d. and O.24.c. Between 1230 and 1300 our heavies shelled COMINTS heavily. At 1515 our 18 pdrs. fired out 30 rounds at COPSE FARM. From 1800 to 2400 our 18 pdrs. were active shelling enemy positions in O.17.d. and O.18.a. Patrols report that our 18 pdrs. were accurately shooting onto WHIZ FARM at about 2030.
- (b) Patrols -
 (1) A patrol of 1 Officer and 2 other ranks left our lines from O.17.b.0.8. at 1915 to reconnoitre No Man's Land. No sign of the enemy was seen and enemy M.Gs. were quieter than usual. Patrol travelled to about O.23.b.0.9., passing through a quantity of broken wire.
 (2) A patrol of 1 Officer and 2 other ranks left our lines from O.17.c.9.8. at 0300 to patrol No Man's Land. The ground between O.17.d.1.4. and O.23.b.1.8. was very swampy but passable now the ground is frozen. An enemy M.G. was active in the vicinity of WHIZ FARM. An enemy M.G. position heavily wired was located at about O.17.b.15.10. Protective patrols were out in front of our fire throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained with flak Brigades.
- (c) M.Gs. - Quiet during the day. Throughout the night the following targets were engaged about 10,000 rounds being expended:- O.24.a.50.25., O.24.c.78.02, O.24.c.45.40., O.24.b.20.10. - O.24.a.50.40., LAKE FARM, O.24.d.50.40, O.18.c.60.00., O.18.c.15.50 - O.18.c.70.65., O.24.b.00.55., O.24.c.80.05., O.29.b.75.05., O.24.a.25.15 and SPUD FARM, POLL HOUSE, PILL, PILLEGETS, CENTRE, PAT and MURPHY FARMS, and enemy trench system in O.18.a.
- (d) T.Ms. - Inactive during the day. During the night 61 rounds were expended against enemy known tracks and posts. Bursts at irregular intervals were fired on road from O.23.b.2.4. to O.23.b.5.2. where traffic was suspected. An enemy M.G. firing from vicinity of JULY FARM was effectively silenced. At 1915 RIFLE FARM was engaged.
- (e) Our Aircraft. - Active during the day, and at night a considerable number of bombs could be heard dropping on enemy territory.
- (f) Firing -
 (1) Right Battalion - From O.29.c.8.3. to O.29.c.8.7. and along the BLAU TEP WOORTBEEK for 100 yards in a 7. direction there is a belt of French wire with an apron of barbed wire. The road at O.29.a.20.15. is securely wired. Between O.29.c.4.5. and O.29.a.4.2. there is a gap of 30 yards which is being worked on nightly. The wire from O.29.a.4.3. to O.29.a.4.8. is weak, there being only scattered portions of concertina and trip wire. This is being continuously improved nightly.

- (2) Right Centre Battalion - From the WAMBEEK up to O.23.c.6.7. there are two belts of apron wire. From O.23.c.6.7. to O.23.a.7.0. the wire is thinner but 14 coils were put out during the night. From O.23.c.7.0. to O.23a.7.6. there are at least two strong belts of wire. Excepting one strip of wire from O.23.c.3.6. there is no wire between the picquet and outpost line, to O.23.a.5.1.
- (3) Left Centre Battalion - 450 yards of wire has been completed out in front of the outposts, and wire round the posts has been strengthened.
- (4) Left Battalion - A continuous double line of french and barbed wire is in front of the outpost line. The wire in front of Strong Points from O.11.c.9.2. to O.11.c.9.6. is very strong. Approximately 12 coils of wire are being put out nightly in forward positions.

3. IDENTIFICATION -

N 11.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Below normal during the day, but increased activity at night.

<u>Time.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>Calibre.</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
0715.	LEG COPSE	4	5.9.	COMINES
0800	HOPF FARM	3	4.2.	TRNBRIEMEN
0845	do	12	do	do
1300	O.17.a.	10	5.9.	
1500	O.17.c.	10	4.2. Shrap.	
1905	GUN FARM	4	77s.	HOUTHEN
2000 to 2100	O.22.a.	30	4.2. (Gas)	
2030	LEG COPSE	6	(Gas Shells)	WERVICQ
2100	O.20.d.	5	77s.	WAPNETON
2315	O.21.b.85.90.		4.2. (Gas)	
2315 to 0335.	O.22.b.	15	(Gas shells)	WAPNETON
0415 to 0500.	O.20.c. & d. & O.26.b. & d.	100	(Gas shells) 4.2.H.F.	WERVICQ

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Normal, excepting an attempted raid on left centre Battalion post.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES - At 1930 two heavy T.M. shells fell in vicinity of O.17.b.1.7. immediately afterwards gas was noticed. An enemy M.G. position heavily wired was located at about O.17.b. 15.10. Slight activity in enemy T.Ms. is reported by right and right centre Battalions, and enemy M.G. was very active during the night firing from direction of PUMP FARM. Out picquet line and S.P. O.22.c.5.6. was subjected to M.G. fire during the night. An enemy M.G. opened fire last night from about O.23.b.3.8.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - At 0900 an enemy plane crossed our lines. It was engaged by one of ours and driven off. At 1130 two enemy planes appeared on our left Battalion front and flew in a southerly direction. They were kept from crossing out lines by our planes. At 1530 five enemy planes appeared but were driven off by our A.A. guns.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - A small party of the enemy was seen moving in the vicinity of LAKE FARM. At 0845 smoke was seen rising from SPUD FARM. A party of 50 men was seen at O.17.d.7.7. at 0930.

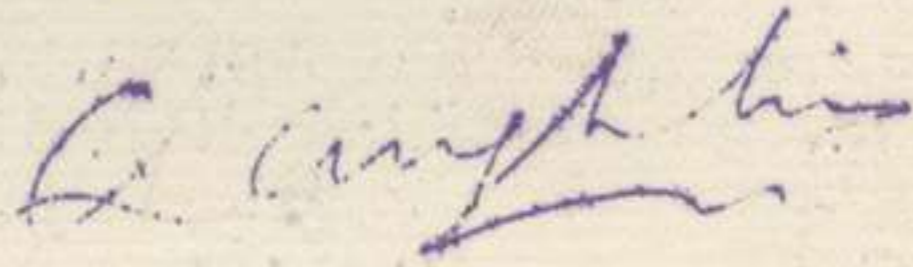
8. SIGNALLING - At 1135 the enemy was observed using a signalling lamp on a true bearing of 132 degrees from O.11.c.0.6. The flashing lasted about 15 minutes.

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Appendix No

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Flashes of guns were observed at a true bearing of 75 degrees from O.15.d.75.50.
 At 0915 and throughout the day smoke was observed rising from pill boxes at O.30.b.4.2. (SQUARE FARM)
 At 0919 a heavy cloud of smoke was observed rising from TENBYTLEEN.
 At 0925 heavy smoke was observed rising from house in WERVIOQ.



Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE,

Intelligence Summary No. 7.

From 0600 20/12/17 to 0600 21/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
21/12/17.

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OPERATIONS. -(a) Artillery - Below normal.

During the day PUMP FARM in O.12.b. received a good deal of attention by our heavies.

During the day LAKE FARM and PARTYNTJE FARM were engaged by our 18 pdrs, and 4.5 howitzers.

Throughout the night all known enemy tracks and occupied pill boxes were subjected to bursts by our field artillery group.

(b) Patrols -

(i) A patrol of one Officer and 9 Other Ranks left our lines at 0400 20th Decr. from O.29.e.3.3. to patrol No Man's Land. The water in shell holes is frozen and sufficiently thick to be walked on. No hostile patrols were encountered, and the patrol returned at 0730.

(ii) A patrol of one Officer and 2 Other Ranks left our lines at 0800 from O.23.e.3.5. and penetrated to a depth of about 300 yards passing JUNE FARM at about O.23.e.90.52. The patrol was fired on from approximately JULY FARM. Patrol considers that JUNE FARM is unoccupied.

(iii) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 Other Ranks left our lines from O.23.e.35.25. at 2030 to reconnoitre No Man's Land. After travelling in front of our outpost wire to O.23.e.7.0. the patrol moved about 100 yds east towards RIFLE FARM and then North to O.23.e.8.3. returning at O.23.e.50.35. No enemy was encountered.

(iv) Under cover of a thick fog during the afternoon party of 2 Officers and 2 Other Ranks left our lines from O.11.b.2.1. to try and locate enemy M.G. reported firing in vicinity of O.11.d.9.7. Patrol penetrated No Man's Land for a depth of 300 yards in places and after finding a likely shell hole position at about O.11.d.9.8. returned to FORRET FARM. At 1615 a fighting patrol of 1 Officer and 6 Other Ranks went out and took up the position and waited for the enemy to occupy it. No enemy came out but talking was distinctly heard at both The GIANT and The TWINS and bursts of M.G. fire came from these positions.

(v) A patrol of one Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines at 2240 from about O.17.e.8.3. The patrol traversed the whole of the left centre Battalion front and were fired on by M.Gs. at approximately O.17.d.5.2. and O.17.d.30.85. and also by snipers from vicinity of GREEN FARM. Enemy was very alert and opened fire on least movement. No enemy patrols were encountered.

(vi) A patrol of 1 Officer and 1 Sgt. left our lines on 20th Decr. from O.17.e.8.3. at 0445 to attempt to catch enemy withdrawing night posts. Patrol reports that night posts were withdrawn earlier than usual and that fresh troops appear to be holding the front. Patrol returned at 0715.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades.

(c) M.Gs. - During the day inactive. At night the following targets were engaged, 15,000 rounds being expended :-

O.24.a.50.25, O.23.e.78.02., O.24.e.45.50. - O.23.e.35.60.,
O.24.e.55.45., O.23.a.90.10. - O.24.a.30.40., O.24.d.50.40.,
O.18.e.60.0.0., O.18.e.15.50. - O.18.e.70.35., O.33.b.30.50.,
O.30.d.30.10. to O.33.a.25.50., PILL, PILLEGREMS and CENTER FARMS,
roads in O.12.b. and enemy trenches in O.18.b. and d.

P.T.O./

(d) T.Ms. - During the night 47 rounds were expended on enemy tracks and positions. Enemy M.G. firing from vicinity of WHIZ FARM was effectively silenced.

(e) Our Aircraft - Nil.

(f) wiring - Four coils of wire were used to strengthen posts at O.23.c.30.15. Ten coils of wire were put out at O.23.a.7.0. Twenty coils of wire were used in wiring support S.P. at O.22.0.5.6. 70 yards of wire was put out across the valley of the ROOSEBEKE, about O.11.d.1.1. 30 yards of apron wire was erected across the HOLLENKEKE Road at O.11.b.9.6. 130 yds. French and 160 yds. barbed wire was put out in front of picquet line of right Battalion.

(g) Operation - At 1230 a party of about 10 of the enemy succeeded under cover of the thick fog, in moving up the valley of the WAMBEEK and capturing our post consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men at O.23.c.4.2. On returning to their lines they were observed by the left post of the right Battalion, who immediately sent out a patrol working in conjunction with a patrol from the right centre Battalion to engage them. On seeing this the enemy left a small party in shell holes to cover the retirement. Our patrols engaged the enemy with rifle and Lewis gun fire and it is believed that casualties were inflicted, although the enemy succeeded in returning to his lines.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - At 0800 20th Decr. a prisoner belonging to 5th Komp. 72 I.R. was captured at O.23.b.4.6. (previously reported).

3. Enemy Shelling. - Below normal.

Time	Location	No. of rounds.	Calibre.	Direction.
1100	O.26.c.	6	4" H.E.	COMINFES
1310	O.28.b.8.8	4	5.9.	do
1520	O.25.b.8.8	8	77mm	do
1640	GUN FARM	6	5.9.	do
1845	O.27.b.30	30	4.2.	HOUTHEM
2310	O.25.b.	6	4.2.	COMINFES
2000 to } 0600	ROSE WOOD	40	5.9.	ZANDVOORDE
2030	O.27.c	7	5.9.	COMINFES
2145	O.19.b.	4	77mm (Gas)	do
2230	O.19.b.	8	4.2.	COMINFES
2205	O.21.d. Cent.	2	4.2.	HOUTHEM
2230	GUN FARM	17	(Gas Shells)	COMINFES
0230	do	12	do	do
0420	O.25.b.	12	4.2.	do
0500	O.20.d.	17	4.2.	WARNETON

(7 duds)

ENEMY ATTITUDE - With the exception of raid on right centre Battalion post, normal.

ENEMY DEFENCES - Enemy M.Gs. were active throughout the night. The wire in front of THE GIANT and THE TWINS is very strong. 30 small shells from enemy mortars fell at O.17.b.0.4. from the vicinity of GREEN FARM. An enemy M.G. was located at about O.29.d. cent. An M.G. firing from the direction of BEEK FARM chipped the parapet of our picquet line in O.29.a.

HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - Nil.

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MISCELLANEOUS - Observation has been poor owing to the low lying mist. Very few flares were sent up along the Brigade front during the night. At 0935 and 1045 enemy engine whistles were distinctly heard several times from the direction of COMINES. A heavy frost last night and during the period under review the ground has been frozen. The left Battalion report at 2300 gas could be strongly smelt all over the forward area. No gas shells fell in the Battalion area. Wind was light and from the north. A heavy bombardment was heard in the direction of YPRES about 1 hour previously.

H. F. Leaton

Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

LATER -

At 0600 this morning prisoner was captured in O. 23. D.
belonging to 6th Komp. 72nd I.R.

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 8.

From 0600 21/12/17 to 0600 22/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
22/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

(a) Artillery - Our artillery has shown marked activity during the last 24 hours. Short bursts of harassing fire at irregular intervals were maintained on all known enemy positions along the front, particularly THE TWINS, THE GIANT, PUMP and LAKE FARMS and LOOK No. 5.

Opposite the left of the right Battalion an enemy S.A.A. dump was blown up by our fire at 0130.

During the ranging of a 4.5. howitzer battery at 1430, several shots fell comparatively short, some only clearing the top of the right Battalion picquet trench.

(b) Patrols -

(i) A patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks left our lines at 0430 from O.29.c.3.3. No Man's Land was penetrated to a depth of 200 yards. No movement of enemy was observed and nothing unusual happened. Patrol returned at 0730.

(ii) A fighting patrol of one Officer and 12 Other Ranks left our lines at O.23.d.15.20 and proceeded about 150 yards East along the WAMBEK, and then took a N.E. course towards enemy wire and located a M.G. apparently at JULY FARM. The patrol fired 4 rifle grenades into the M.G. position. The M.G. did not fire again during the patrol. Patrol returned at 0335 to O.23.a.35.25, having gone at 0145.

(iii) At 1415 a patrol of one O.S.M. and 6 Other Ranks left our lines at HOLLEBEKE cross-roads and moved down the road under cover of the fog. The whole front was patrolled but no enemy could be seen. Patrol returned at 1630.

(iv) A patrol of one Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines at 2315 from O.11.c.85.25. to gain touch with Battalion on the right. The patrol then moved out to the front of our wire and worked northwards across our front. No enemy movement was seen or heard. M.Gs. were observed firing from the GIANT and THE TWINS and a light T.M. was firing also, apparently from the vicinity of GYM FARM, the bombs falling 200 yards in front of O.11.c.85.25. Patrol returned at 0115.

(v) A patrol of one Officer and 8 Other Ranks left our lines at O.23.a.6.3. at 0415 and patrolled the whole of the left centre Battalion front until 0715. No enemy encountered.

Usual flanking patrols were established during the night, and during the day when visibility was bad.

(c) M.Gs. - During the period under review the following targets were engaged :- Cross-roads at O.24.a., PILLEGRIMS FARM and enemy trench system at O.18.d.1.1., roads from O.18.b. to O.12.a.15.05., PILL FARM, O.24.c.78.02., LAKE FARM, O.23.b.90.10. to O.24.a.30.40., cross-roads at O.24.d.5.4., O.18.c.6.2. to O.18.c.35.20., O.24.b.4.2. to O.24.d.4.2.

(d) T.Ms. - 36 rounds were expended during the period under review on known tracks. Our T.Ms. replied to enemy T.M. fire at the TWINS on several occasions during the day and night.

(E) Our Aircraft - Nil.

P.T.O./

- (f) Wiring - During period the following defensive wiring was done:-
 170 yards of French and barbed wire between O.29.a.4.8. and O.29.a.4.6.
 200 yards of french in front of No.1 S.P. at O.28.c.60.15.
 15 coils of barbed wire covering 30 yards at O.23.a.65.00. on left of No.8 post.
 12 coils concertina and 15 coils barbed wire at O.22.a.2.0.
 16 coils of barbed wire and 13 coils French wire at O.22.a.35.25.
 200 yards of single apron wire in front of posts in O.17.d.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - N 1 1.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Enemy artillery slightly above normal during the period.

<u>Time.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>Calibre.</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
1005	O.27.b.05.60.	4	5.9.H.E.	COMINES
1150	HOUT FARM	6	do	do
1410 to 1430	O.27.b.6.0. to O.27.d.3.9.	9	do	do
1520 to 1530	O.27.b.6.1. to O.27.d.3.9.	8	do	do
1600	O.11.a.	50	4.2.H.E.	WEEVICQ
1935	COSTAVERME	20	5.9.H.E.	TENDRIELIN
2030	O.26.b.5.5.	37	5.9.H.E.	WEEVICQ
2050	O.10.d.9.2.	10	4.2.H.E.	VILLERS FARM
2200	O.26.b.	7	do	East
2245	O.22.b & d.	12	do	do
2150	O.27.c.9.7.	13	do	COMINES
0400	O.17.a.70.45.	3	5.9.H.E.	East
0430	O.26.b.8.8.	7	4.2.H.E.	COMINES
2040	O.11.c.	25	(Gas shells)	HOLLFBECK MILL.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Increased M.G. and artillery fire, and more liberal use of flares.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES - An enemy M.G. is suspected at O.29.a.50.95.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - Nil.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - At 0930 two of enemy observed in outpost at JULY Fm. 1145 enemy movement in vicinity of LAKE FARM.
 0730 through a break in the fog two parties of enemy were observed by right platoon of right Battalion to be converging at a point about 400 yards from our lines. Heavy fire was brought to bear on the party, and it is believed that casualties were inflicted.
 At 1030 two of enemy were observed moving from WHIZ FARM to corner of hedge at O.17.d.12.50. They were fired on from No.12 post whereupon they ran back to their own lines.
 At 0930 movement of large party was observed at RIBL FARM. Our artillery was informed.
 Owing to the heavy fog during the greater part of the day, observation of enemy movement was limited

8. SIGNALLING - N 1 1.

9. ISCELLANEOUS - At 2000 when our S.O.S. relay test was being carried out, the enemy made frequent use of white flares along his front, and he continued to send up more flares than usual during the whole of the night.
 At 0338 a green flare was sent up by the enemy at centre of Brigade front. No action followed.

W. J. H. H.
 Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

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7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. - The enemy took advantage of yesterday's fog to patrol by day. At 1430 a small enemy patrol was seen in O.17.b. returning to his lines. At 1505 another patrol of 4 men was seen returning to his lines in O.17.d.
8. SIGNALLING - Nil.
9. MISCELLANEOUS. - Throughout the day a thick fog made observation impossible for more than 150 yards. Very few flares were used during the night. The ground everywhere is frozen hard. At about 1645 enemy whistles were heard, sounds being passed along the front.

H. J. Watson Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

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2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 9.

From 0600 22/12/17 to 0600 23/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
23/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

Reliefs - Inter-Company reliefs were carried out on the night of 22/23rd Decr. Reliefs were completed without incident, with the exception of that of the right Battalion relief, which was delayed slightly owing to enemy shelling Communication Trench. Relief complete by 1955.

(a) Artillery - Our artillery have been more active than usual. During the day LAKE, PARTINTJE, SQUARE, JULY, RIFLE, BEEK, GREEN and PULP FARMS, and GARDEN DIEU, HOWEHTEN, THE TRINS, THE GIANT and TERVICQ were shelled. The usual harassing fire on known enemy positions and tracks were carried out during the night. At 1015 CO. INES was shelled by our heavies and several fires were observed during the shelling.

(b) Patrols -

- (i) A fighting patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men left our lines from left Battalion posts at 0.11.d.2.7. and 0.11.b.2.3. at intervals during the night. No enemy were encountered.
- (ii) A patrol of One Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines from 0.17.b.1.6. and 0.17.d.1.4. at intervals during the night to examine No Man's Land and gain information of the enemy. Voices were heard at approximately 0.17.b.5.0. and also sounds of sandbagging being carried on. Nothing of the enemy was seen.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained throughout the Brigade and also with flank Brigades.

(c) M.Gs. - Inactive during the day. At night 10,000 rounds were expended in indirect fire on the following targets :-
0.33.b.30.50., 0.30.d.10.70., 0.30.d.10.95., 0.30.c.90.40.,
0.30.b.15.20., 0.30.b.20.55., 0.30.c.95.50., 0.24.d.20.20.,
0.24.c.5.2., 0.36.a.45.25., 0.24.b.4.2., 0.24.d.4.2., 0.24.c.78.02., PILLEGRENS, CENTER, PILL and LAKE FARMS, and known enemy tracks in 0.18.c., 0.24.d., 0.24.b., 0.18.a., LOCK No. 4., and TRANSM SYSTEM in 0.24.a. and d.

(d) T.Ms. - During the night 57 rounds were expended in known enemy tracks and positions. An enemy T.M. firing from the direction of THE TRINS was engaged : result unknown.

(e) Our Aircraft - Our planes were very active throughout the day, flying at times well over enemy lines, despite the fact that they were heavily engaged by A.A. and M.G. fire. At night our planes were heard flying in an easterly direction towards enemy territory.

(f) Firing -

- (i) Right Bn. - 180 yards French and 100 yards barbed wire was erected between 0.29.c.2.8. and the WABEEK.
- (ii) Right Centre Bn. - 13 coils of barbed and 4 coils concertina wire was erected at 0.23.c.4.7.
- (iii) Left Center Bn. - 50 yards of wire erected at 0.17.d.1.4. 75 yards wire erected from 0.17.d.1.4. to 0.23.b.1.9. 30 coils of barbed and concertina wire were also used in

strengthening entanglements between posts.

(iv) At 0.11.b.7.0. 80 yards of semi-circular wire was erected.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - N 1 1.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - During the morning normal; but much more active than usual in the afternoon and night.

TIME.	LOCATION.	No. of rounds.	CALIBRE.	DIRECTION
0630	0.28.c.	30	77mm.	TENBRIELEN
0755	0.22.a.	4	5.9.H.F.	WERVICQ
0820	0.19.b.	6	77mm.	do
1110	0.26.a.	8	4.2. H.F.	do
1215	0.32.b.	2	do	COMINTS
1300	0.19.c. & d.	20	do	TENBRIELEN
1300	0.20.c.	4	77mm.	WERVICQ
1300	0.22.a.4.9.	10	5.9.h.o.	do
1400	0.19.b.	4	77mm.	do
1555	ROSE WOOD	12	H.F. Shrap.	do
1600	0.15.d.	30	do (5.9.)	do
1700	0.19.b.	2	5.9. H.F.	TENBRIELEN
1710	0.26.b.5.5.	12	H.F. Shrap.	do
1830	0.21.d. & 0.22.d.	60	4.2.	do
1840 to 1900	0.27.b. & d.	40	Gas Shells	COMINTS
1900 to 1920	0.26.b. & d.	60	4.2. and Gas	do
1920	0.25.b.	4	77mm	TENBRIELEN
1930	0.27.a.	16	5.9. Shrap.	COMINTS
2000	0.22. & 0.28.a. & b.	20	5.9. H.F. and Gas.	do
2030	KILO FARM	10	5.9.H.F.	do
2038	0.20.c.	20	do	WERVICQ
2045	0.23.a.	17	do	East.
2050	VAN HOVE FARM	30	4.2.	TENBRIELEN
2130	0.22.b. & d.	15	5.9.H.F.	do
2130	0.25.b.	4	77 mm.	do
2145 to 2300	0.27.b.	30	do	WARTTON
0105.	0.20.a.5.2.	4	Gas Shells.	TENBRIELEN
0255	0.20.b.5.2.	8	do	do

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - The two Right Battalions report infantry normal. Artillery and M.Gs. more active than usual. Our two Left Battalions report both artillery and infantry normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES - Enemy M.Gs. firing from THE GIANT and THE TWINS were active during the night.

Right Battalion reports that enemy M.gs. were unusually active at 1800, about 12 M.Gs. keeping up a continuous fire on their left flank.

At irregular intervals throughout the night pineapple bombs, all of which fell short in No Man's Land, were fired from the TWINS. Enemy A.A. guns were active against our planes and the shooting at times was good.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY - At intervals throughout the day enemy planes flew over our lines and were engaged by A.A. fire. No of the planes penetrated to any great distance into our territory. Enemy balloons were up at the following grid bearings :-

FROM	0.10.d.85.80	-	144, 114, 103 and 82 degrees.
"	0.27.d.90.70.	-	133, 74, 117, 82 and 147 degree s.
"	0.15.d.75.50.	-	162, 142, 111, 81, 52, 120, 92 degrees.
"	0.20.d.2.2.	-	25, 99, 71, 43, 102, 84 degrees.
"	0.20.b.1.1.	-	83, 88, 103, 113, 133 degrees.

These balloons were up and down throughout the day.

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 10.

From 0600 23/12/17 to 0600 24/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
24/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS. -

(a) Artillery - Our artillery was active both during the day and night. Throughout the day destructive fire was carried out on LAKE and PUMP Farms, POLL HOUSE, THE TWINS, THE GIANT, SPUD FARM and LOCK No. 5. At night the usual harassing fire on enemy known tracks and positions was carried out.

(b) Patrols -

(i) A patrol of one Officer and 5 Other Ranks left our lines from O.29.a.4.4. at 0500 (Decr. 23rd) to encounter the enemy. No enemy was encountered and movement was hampered owing to M.G. fire. Patrol returned at 0615.

(ii) A patrol of one Officer and 10 Other Ranks left our lines from O.23.a.4.0. at 0200 to locate enemy positions and to encounter the enemy. Patrol proceeded towards RIFLE FARM and then proceeded S. of JULY FARM. Flash of M.G. was detected at approx. O.23.d.3.7. None of the enemy were encountered.

(iii) A patrol of one N.C.O. and 6 Men left our lines at 1900 from O.11.d.2.8. to reconnoitre No Man's Land and to encounter the enemy. An enemy M.G. was located firing from the direction of GREEN FARM. No enemy was seen or heard.

(iv) A patrol of one Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines at 0325 (23rd Decr.) from O.17.c.8.3. to harass the enemy. An enemy listening post with M.G. was located at about O.17.d.5.4. and 4 men were seen doubling back and movement heard as if moving a M.G. Patrol returned safely although enemy directed heavy M.G. fire at them at 0645.

(v) A patrol of one Officer and 5 Other Ranks left our lines at 2215 from O.17.b.1.6. to gain touch with the enemy. Patrol proceeded to position where talking and working had been previously heard at about O.17.b.8.0. Men could again be heard working in this position. Voices were also heard at about O.17.d.4.2. None of the enemy were encountered.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades.

(c) M.Gs. - Throughout the night 18,000 rounds were expended on the following targets :- HOLLEBEKE CHATEAU, Road from O.12.d.2.0. to cross roads in O.12.c., PAT, MURPHY and SPUD Fms., O.36.b.30.50., O.30.d.10.70., O.30.d.10.95., O.30.c.90.40., O.30.b.15.20., O.30.b.00.50., O.30.c.95.50., O.24.d.0.2., O.24.c.5.4., O.36.a.45.25., O.24.b.4.2., O.24.d.4.2., PILL Farm, cross-roads O.24.c.78.02., tracks in the vicinity of LAKE Farm, O.23.b.9.1. to O.24.a.3.4., FILLEGRENS and CENTRE FARMS, Cross-roads O.24.d.5.4., and tracks at O.18.c.15.50. to O.18.c.70.65.

(d) T.M. - 32 rounds were expended during the night on known positions and tracks and in retaliation to enemy T.M. firing from the TWINS. Good shooting was observed on WHIZ FARM.

(e) Our Aircraft - Our planes were very active throughout the day, frequently penetrating into enemy territory and keeping enemy planes well under control. At 1555 our planes brought down an enemy plane in O.12.d.

P.T.O./

(f) Firing -

- (i) Right Bn. - 150 yards of french and 50 yards of barbed wire was erected from O.29.c.6.1. in a N. direction. 200 yards in four rows were put out from O.21.c.8.5. to O.28.c.9.9. An apron, 150 yards long, of barbed wire was put out from O.34.a.8 to O.34.a.7.9.
- (ii) Right Centre Bn. - 24 coils of barbed and 14 coils of french wire were erected from O.22.c.6.7. to O.22.c.6.3. 12 coils of barbed and 8 coils of french (40 yards long and 20' wide) was put out in front of our post at O.22.a.4.3. 12 coils barbed and 6 coils of french wire were erected across the TAMBECK at O.23.c.3.3.
- (iii) Left Battalion - 70 yards 4 strand with a trip wire on each side has been erected across the ROOZEBEEK to O.17.b.3.8. and across HOLLEBEKE Road at O.11.b.9.6. wire has been erected 10' wide
- (iv) Left Centre Bn. 50 yards of wire was put out between O.17.b.3.1. and O.17.b.3.2. km

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - Nil.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - With the exception of early morning and night, enemy artillery was normal. Very active on Left Battalion throughout the night in O.10.b., c. and d. with 4.2. and gas shells from TENBRILEN and TERVICQ. At intervals throughout the night O.21.c. was shelled from the direction of COMINES and also a few gas shells in O.20.c. Central from direction of TERVICQ.

TIME.	LOCATION.	No. of rounds.	Calibre.	DIRECTION.
0655 to } 0730	O.26.d. & b.	30	5.9.	COMINES
0700	O.20.c.	80	4.2.	do
0718	O.27.a.3.4.	3	5.9.	S.E.
0730	O.22.a., b. & c.	10	do	COMINES
0730	O.26.central	20	4.2.	do
0750	O.34.d.	9	5.9.	TARNETON
0845	ANZAC FARM	30	4.2.	COMINES
0915	O.22.c.	5	do	do
1200	WALL FARM	12	5.9.H.E.	East
1400 to } 1530	O.22.a.	30	77. and 4.2.	East
1425	O.28.Cent.	5	4.2.	COMINES
1440	GREEN WOOD	2	77mm (Gas)	East
1730	O.26.b., d.	30	5.9.	COMINES
1750 to } 1820	O.26.a.	50	4.2.	S. of COMINES
2000	KILO FARM	10	5.9.	COMINES
2015	O.28.c.	5	77s.	GARDE DIEU
2030	ANZAC FARM	20	77s.	COMINES
2100	O.29.c.	15	4.2.	do
2100	O.22.a.		5.9.	do
2300	O.22.a.	10	77s.	GARDE DIEU
0210	O.22.a.	10.	4.2.	COMINES
0300	O.21.cent.	19	do	TERVICQ
0315	O.22.a.	15*	do	S.E.
0545 to } 0600	O.17.a. & c.	80	5.9. and 4.2.	N.E.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - At night and early morning otherwise normal.5. ENEMY DEFENCES -

(i) M.Gs - At irregular intervals throughout the night a M.G. at BEE FARM was active firing on WALL FARM. At enemy M.G. at THIZ FARM was also active. A M.G. position was located at approx. O.23.d.3.7. and another at about O.17.d.5.4.

(ii) T.Ms. - An enemy T.M. position is suspected at O.22.d.1.0.

(iii) Posts - An enemy post is suspected at approx. at O.29.a.5.4.

(iv) A.A.guns. - A.A.guns were active against our planes.

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7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - At 0815 movement was observed in the vicinity of LAKE FARM.
 Between 0830 and 1000 small enemy working parties were observed in and around KORTWILDT.
 Between 1000 and 1200 small parties were seen moving about O.12.c.6.2. going to O.12.b.3.1.
 About 1530 a man frequently showed himself at SPUD FARM.
 At 0500 enemy movement was observed at BIBLE FARM.
 At 0740 parties of 3 and 4 men were observed carrying wood at O.24.d.4.2.
 At 0800 two men came from O.24.d.4.2., walked across open and disappeared at PILL FARM.
 At 0830 a two-wheeled vehicle, moving S.E., was observed at O.30.b.9.8.
 At 0950 parties of men were observed moving about at O.30.b.2.1.
 At 1000 six men were observed walking S.E. along road at O.30.b.9.8.
 During the day the following train movement was observed:-

0808	COMINTS to WERVICQ
0830	do do
1005	TENBRIELEN from N.E.
1215	P.34.a. shunting.
1216	TENBRIELEN to WERVICQ
1225	do do
1230	WERVICQ to COMINTS
1230	COMINTS travelling S.E.
1225	WERVICQ to TENBRIELEN
1305	TENBRIELEN to N.E.
1320	V.11.a. travelling N.E.
1335	Stationary at TENBRIELEN
1325	WERVICQ to TENBRIELEN
1343	TENBRIELEN to N.
1345	V.5.d. travelling N.E.
1345	TENBRIELEN to WERVICQ
1345	WERVICQ to COMINTS
1345	To COMINTS from S.E.
1354	To TENBRIELEN from N.E.
1350	WERVICQ to COMINTS
1350	Stationary at V.5.d.
1405	WERVICQ to KENIN
1527	V.5.c. travelling N.E.

8. SIGNALLING - At 0715 lamp flashes were observed from the direction of BANG FARM. The following letters were read:-
 TTT. SANGAS. SANGAS.
 From 1450 to 1500 signalling by lamp from building at Q.32.a.6.0. was observed.
 At 1515 a white light was observed at W.2.c.3.3. lasting about 10 minutes and appeared raised off the ground.

9. MISCELLANEOUS - At 0725 enemy sent up a flare from the front opposite our right Bn. This was repeated along the whole front, various colored flares being used and passed to the rear with flares which burst into showers of sparks. No action followed.
 At 0535 a red flare was sent up opposite left centre Bn front. No action followed.
 At 0826 and again at 1405 smoke was observed rising from building at O.30d.3.9.
 At 1040 a fire lasting 90 minutes was observed at V.4.b.2.8.
 At 1250 smoke screen was observed being ejected in COMINTS.
 At 1100 enemy dump was blown up P.4.b.6.8.
 At 0840 a large cloud of smoke was observed 71 degrees grid from O.15.d.75.50.

P.T.O./

At 2400 a large fire broke out in the direction of COMINES.
 During the day a large fire was burning in COMINES.
 At 1130 a balloon at 88 degrees grid from O.L.D. 85.80. came
 down deflated, observer descending in a parachute.
 During the night enemy used a large number of flares in his
 back areas, which broke into 6 white stars one below the other.
 Our planes were over his lines at that time.
 A strip of hessian camouflage has been erected from approx.
 P. 20.d.5.4. to P. 27.a.1.8.
 At 1830 our S.O.S. when up north of our sector.

[Handwritten signature]
 Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 11.

From 0600 24/12/17 to 0600 25/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
25/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

Relief - The Left Battalion carried out an inter-Company relief on the night 24/25th Decr. Relief being completed by 1900. without incident.

(a) Artillery - During the day and night our 18 pdrs. and 4.5. howitzers carried out harassing fire on enemy roads, tracks and strong points. LAKE, BANG and WHIZ Farms receiving particular attention.

(b) Patrols - (i) A patrol of 1 Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines at O.29.c.4.4. at 0500 (24th.) to encounter enemy before dawn in O.29.a. or O.29.d. Patrol traversed to a depth of 300 yards without encountering the enemy. Patrol returned at 0630.

(ii) A patrol of 1 Officer and 10 Other Ranks left our lines from O.23.c.20.25. at 0400 (24th) to reconnoitre WAM Farm and bomb the garrison. Voices were heard in WAM Farm. The patrol bombed this position and it is believed that casualties were inflicted. Patrol returned at 0630.

(iii) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 other Ranks left our lines at 2300 from FORRET Farm to locate suspected posts in vicinity of the TWINS and WYM Farm. Patrol reconnoitred ground to within 50 yds of the TWINS and WYM Farm but no enemy posts were located.

(iv) A patrol of 1 Officer and 6 Other Ranks left our lines from O.17.b.1.1. at 0120 to engage working party previously reported working at about O.17.b.8.0. Nothing however was seen or heard of the enemy.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night and communications with flank Brigades maintained.

(c) M.Gs - Throughout the night 15,000 rounds were expended on known tracks and positions in O.36.a., O.30.a,c,d., O.24.b,c,d., and O.18.c., O.18.a., and enemy trenches in O.18.b. and d.

(d) T.Ms. - During the night 37 rounds were expended on known enemy tracks and positions.

(e) Our Aircraft. - Nil.

(f) Wiring -

(i) Right Bn. - 150yds., 4 rows of french concertina wire was erected from O.28.a.65.85. to O.28.a.70.55. 80 yds. french and 50 yds. barbed wire was erected in front of post at O.29.c.5.4.

(ii) Right Centre Bn. - 6 coils barbed and 3 coils of french wire were used to thicken wire in front of posts at O.23.c.3.3. and O.23.c.4.6.

10 coils barbed and 3 coils of concertina wire were erected across the WAMBEEK.

11 coils of barbed and 8 coils of concertina wire (45 yds.) were erected at O.23.a.4.4.

(iii) Left Centre Bn. - 50 yards of wire was erected between posts situated at O.17.d.1.5. and O.17.c.9.0. Wire around latter post was also strengthened.

(iv) Left Bn. - 40 yds by 6 yds. of barbed wire was erected at O.11.d.4.7.

60 yds by 8 feet barbed wire was put out at O.11.b.95.60. 18 coils of french and 8 coils of barbed was erected from O.11.c.9.2. across the ROOZEBEEK to GREEN WOOD.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS. - Nil.

P.T.O./

5. ENEMY SHELLING - Slightly less than during the previous 24 hours, with the exception of the light barrage placed on the Left Centre Bn. sector.

<u>TIME.</u>	<u>LOCATION.</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>CALIBRE.</u>	<u>DIRECTION.</u>
0630	0.11.b.	20	4.2.	HOLLTERT Ch.
0645	0.20.d.5.4.	30	77mms	TENBRIELFN
0700	0.17.b,c,d.	light barrage	mostlt 4.2.	South-East
0845	0.28.c.2.9.	8	4.2.	TENBRIELFN
1630	OOSTTAVERNE	70	77mms.	N. of COMINES
1930	0.25.b.7.8.	8	4.2.	VERVICQ
1930	0.21.c.0.34.a.	60	77mms.	WARTTON
1945	0.29.b.	30	do	COMINES
2000	0.10.d.	30	4.2.	TENBRIELFN
* 2100	0.16. & 17.	50	77mms.	East.
2115	0.23.a.	40	do	TENBRIELFN
2320	0.20.a.	8	77mm (Gas)	VERVICQ
0215	TORREKEN Corner	8	do	do
0300	0.21.central	60	77mm.	do
0420	0.25.central	4	4.2.	do
0530	0.10.d.	8	do	TENBRIELFN

From 1000 to 0330 salvo's of 4 consisting of 4.2.s and 5.9.s fell in the vicinity of KILO Farm, totalling about 100 shells for the period. Direction COMINES.

* This shelling happened at the time our artillery was shelling WHIZ and BANG Farm.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES -

(a) M.Gs. - Enemy M.Gs pay particular attention to KILO Farm and a duckwalk from KILO Farm to DORSET Street.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. - Nil.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT -

At 0715 20 men were observed leaving the GIANT and to move in an easterly direction.

At 0830 movement was observed round WAM Farm.

8. SIGNALLING - Nil.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. - At 0630 (24th) enemy sent up double red flares on Left Centre Bn. front. No action followed.

At 0700 a white flare bursting into a cluster was sent up opposite our Left Centre Bn. Enemy then commenced shelling 0.16. and 17.

At 0530 white flares were sent up in rear of enemy's front line, opposite our Right Bn. front. No action followed.

After the bombing of WAM Farm (reported in patrol No. 2.) enemy sent up double red flares, and his artillery immediately opened fire on Rt. Centre Bn. front system and in No Man's Land.

A screen has been erected in front of LAKE Farm from about 0.24.c.5.5. to 0.24.c.4.4. (Movement has been reported almost daily in this vicinity.

Throughout the day a white flag was observed outside pill box at approx. 0.17.b.8.1.

At 1750 a small enemy patrol of 4 men was observed moving from behind GREEN Farm towards our post 0.17.b. A party of 12 men was sent out from post at 0.17.b.1.5. to engage the enemy. Shots were exchanged but the enemy retired hurriedly to his lines.

At 2200 an enemy party of about 12 men approached our post at 0.23.b.1.9. from direction of FLY Buildings. They were driven off by Lewis Gun fire.

H. F. Watson
 Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

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HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. - Normal.

At 1450 an enemy balloon was observed 66 degrees grid from
O.15.d.75.50.

At 1527 an enemy balloon was observed 70 degrees grid from
O.20.d.2.2.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT - At 0845 small working party was observed at TAM FM.
At 0930 a patrol of 8 men was observed west of our post at O.17.d.1.9.
They were engaged by our Lewis Guns and dispersed.
At 1315 smoke was observed rising from an engine in P.35.d. travelling
in direction of HOUTHELL.
At 1330 movement could be observed at BEEK FARM.
At 1445 one man was observed at O.24.a.5.3. walking west for about
100 yards and then disappeared into a trench.
At 1620 four men were observed hurrying to a post at approx.
O.29.a.5.4.

8. SIGNALLING - Nil.9. MISCELLANEOUS. -

At 0600 this morning enemy sent up double red flares opposite
Right Centre and Right Battalion fronts. This was immediately
followed by heavy shelling from front to rear. The front system
only of the left centre Bn. was also shelled but not the rear.
At 1645 2 red flares were sent up S. of Right Bn. sector.
At 1330 fire was observed 78 degrees true from O.20.d.2.2.
At 1612 three enemy shells burst high in the air, each giving out
10 light green lights.
At 1200 smoke was observed rising from THE T'INS.

H. F. Watson

Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd AJST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

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Intelligence Summary No. 12,

From 0600 25/12/17 to 0600 26/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
26/12/17.OPERATIONS

- (a) Artillery. - During the period under review, our artillery carried out the usual harassing fire on enemy roads, tracks, and strong points. THE TWINS, POLL HOUSE, THE GIANT, PUMP Farm, LOCK No. 5, BEEK, JULY and RIFLE Farms receiving most attention. Some good shooting was observed by our Left Battalion. At 1430 our heavies caused a fire in COMINES.
- (b) Patrols - Owing to the night being particularly bright moonlight, it was not possible for patrols to get near enemy positions.
- (i) A patrol of 1 Officer and 10 Other Ranks left our lines at 0400 from O.23.a.4.3. Enemy M.G. fire from about O.23.d.10.95, O.23.d.10.85 and O.23.d.05.30 greatly hampered the movement of the patrol. Flares were fired from JULY Farm, and nothing was seen of the enemy.
- (ii) A patrol of 1 Officer and 5 Other Ranks left our lines at 1815 from O.11.b.8.5. to gain information about enemy post reported by Right Bn. of Left Bde. at O.12.a.12.20. Patrol went to this position and found it unoccupied. The patrol then moved behind a hedge at O.11.d.9.8. from which position a close watch could be kept on enemy movement along their front defences. A man was observed to leave THE GIANT, walk to a tree at about O.12.c.1.6. stop there for 2 minutes and then proceed to THE TWINS, where he stopped for a few minutes. He then returned to the tree, stopped again for a few minutes and went to the GIANT, and later across to a point O.12.a.4.1. where there appears to be a strong pill box. The tree visited by this man is short and broad and shaped like a wheat sheaf.
- (iii) At 2200 a patrol of 1 Officer and 4 Other Ranks with a Lewis gun moved out from O.11.b.8.4. to the hedge mentioned in patrol No. 2. A party of the enemy was observed near pill box at O.12.a.4.1. coming from a northerly direction. The party was dispersed by a burst from the Lewis gun. An enemy T.M. firing from THE TWINS was effectively silenced by direct hits from our L.T.Ms. During this patrol no movement was observed at tree at O.12.c.1.6.
- Protective patrols were out throughout the night and lateral communications was maintained with flank Brigades.
- (c) M.Gs. - During the night 18,000 rounds were expended on known enemy tracks and positions.
- (d) T.Ms. - Owing to good visibility during the night opportunities for ranging and checking bursts were taken advantage of. During the night 45 rounds were expended on enemy positions. Near RIFLE Farm a party of about 10 of the enemy were dispersed. enemy Mortar firing from the TWINS was effectively silenced.
- (e) Our Aircraft. - Active during the morning from 0730 to 1030 and again about noon.
- (f) Wiring - 18 coils of barbed and 8 coils of French wire were erected between O.23.a.5.4. and O.23.b.1.8. 16 coils of barbed and 7 coils of french wire were erected across the VAMBEK and at O.23.c.4.5. 15 coils of barbed and 5 coils of concertina barb wire were erected at about O.23.c.4.4. 200 yards by 8 feet thick double apron between O.17.d.3.8. and O.17.b.2.5.

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Normal.

<u>TIME.</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>CALIBRE.</u>	<u>DIRECTION.</u>
0645	TORREKEN Cr.	30	77mm.	
0610	O.22.b and O.23.c.	100	77mm, H.E. (Shrap.)	WERVICQ.
0730	O.11.c.	20	4.2.	KORTVILDE
0800	O.22.b.	15	77mm	WERVICQ
0800 to } 0900 }	DENYS WOOD	50	4.2.	KORTVILDE
1150	O.15.b.	12	H.E. Shrap.	S.E.
1240 to } 1315 }	O.15.b.,c.	50	4.2. H.E.	S. E.
1245	O.20.d.	15	(Gas)	COMINES
1500	DENYS Farm	10	5.9.	HOUTHEN
2010	O.22.b.	40	4.2.	WERVICQ
2100 to } 2300 }	O.28.a, b.	30	Gas	COMINES
2130	O.26.c,d.	10	4.2. H.E.	GARDE DIEU
0100 to } 0300 }	O.21.c.,d.	20	4.2. and Gas	COMINES
0430	ANZAC Farm	30	4.2.	COMINES
0610	O.17.	Light barrage	4.2.H.E.	

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Normal but were alert in O.17.d. where M.G. fire was opened on the slightest movement.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES -

- (i) M.Gs - M.Gs. were located at approx. O.23.d.10.95., O.23.d.10.85. and O.23.d.05.30.
- (ii) T.Ms. - Enemy T.M. firing from about O.17.b.6.4. fired 12 rounds Granatenwerfers on about O.17.b.1.2.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. - Nil.7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. - At 0720 parties of men were observed moving about in vicinity of LAKE Farm.

- At 0740 five men were observed to walk from O.24.a.5.2. to O.24.a.4.2.
- At 0730 six men were observed working around WAM Farm.
- At 0800 two men were observed repairing telephone wires between WAM and JULY Farms.
- At 1525 a small party was seen moving towards HOUTHEN from O.24.cent.
- At 1100 and 1300 men were observed in vicinity of RIFLE Farm.
- At 1615 man left RIFLE Farm and moved " to a position at O.23.d.1.6
- At 0940 a small party of the enemy were seen in the vicinity of THE GIANT.

The following train movement was observed :-

0845 N.E. from WERVICQ.

0915 TENBRIELEN to WERVICQ

0930 WERVICQ to COMINES.

0935 WERVICQ to COMINES

0940 do do

0940 to 1000 Train shunting in P.27.d. and P.23.b.

1010 TENBRIELEN to COMINES

1010 S.W. in WERVICQ.

1013 COMINES to TENBRIELEN

1020 WERVICQ Stn. (Stationary) and then travelled N.E.

1115 WERVICQ to COMINES.

1445 do do

At 0830 and 1225 train travelling N.E. at 82 degrees grid from O.15.d.75.50

8. SIGNALLING - At 1500 a flash lamp was observed on a grid bearing of 132 degrees from O.10.d.85.75.

Signalling from COMINES was observed throughout the night.

At 1600 lamp signalling in COMINES

At 2150 signalling from direction of TENBRIELEN read :-

T.L.S.M.O.D.S.T. - I.H.R. - N.T. - M.I.S.I.H.TT. - T.

At 0745 smoke was observed rising from trench at O.24.c.5.2.

Left En. reports that the right church tower has disappeared

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during the recent misty weather. (In COMINES.)

The enemy is showing 2 Red Cross Boards 100 yards apart south of KORTILDE.

At 0740 a flash from an enemy gun was observed on a grid bearing of 88 degrees from O.15.d.75.50.

At 1620 an enemy battery was observed firing on a grid bearing of 84 degrees from O.20.d.2.2.

At 1900 and 2025 flares bursting in 2 reds were observed S. of Divisional sector. No noticeable action followed.

At 2045 a working party of about 60 of the enemy working about 500 yards East of our Right Bn. sector was dispersed by Lewis gun fire.



for
Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

SECRET

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2nd JUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Intelligence Summary No. 13.

From 0600 26/12/17 to 0800 27/12/17

HEADQUARTERS,
27/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS.

Reliefs - Inter-Company reliefs were carried out on the night of 26/27th instant without incident. Reliefs completed by 2100.

(a) Artillery - Our artillery was active throughout the period under review, and fired intermittently on roads, tracks and strong points. During the day, goodshrapnel bursts from 18 pdrs were observed over enemy roads. Our heavies fired 30 rounds on a point between COMINES and HOUTHEN, and also engaged an enemy battery west of COMINES.

(b) Patrols -

- (i) A patrol of one Officer and 7 Other Ranks left our lines at 0450 (26th) from O.29.c.4.3. to prevent possible enemy raid. No Man's Land was penetrated to a depth of 300 yards without any of the enemy being encountered. M.Gs. from the direction of ARROU and BOU Farms were very active. Patrol returned at 0630.
- (ii) Patrol of 1 W.O. and 10 Other Ranks left our lines at 0515 (26th) from O.23.c.20.35. to try and find traces of the enemy. The patrol came under fire from 77's at O.27.a.8.3. Nothing of the enemy was seen or heard. Patrol returned at 0630 (26th).
- (iii) A patrol of 1 Officer and 5 Other Ranks left our lines at 2000 and 2315 from O.17.d.0.0. to locate M.G. positions and enemy disposition. M.Gs. were located at approx. O.17.d.5.3. and O.23.w.7.9. A M.G. was also located firing from about WHIZ Fm.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night in front of our wire and lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades.

- (c) M.Gs. - 15,000 rounds were expended during the night in harassing fire on enemy known tracks, roads and positions.
- (d) T.Ms. - During the night 30 rounds were fired on THE TWINS, FLY BUILDINGS and other known positions. An enemy L.T.M. firing from the TWINS was temporarily silenced.
- (e) Our Aircraft. - Throughout the day our aircraft were active although at times being heavily engaged by A.A. and M.Gs. Our planes frequently flew well over enemy territory.

- (f) iring - 90 yards of 4 rows french concertina wire were erected from O.29.a.95.85. in the direction of the WAIBEEK. An apron of wire has been erected from O.28.c.6.2. to the BLAUPEOERTSEK;
- 23 coils of barbed, 4 coils large and 3 coils small, concertina wire has been erected from O.22.c.7.7. to the WAIBEEK.
- 1 coil strengthening wire was erected at O.17.d.1.8..
- 5½ coils barbed and 7 coils small french wire was used in strengthening wire from O.11.b.95.45. to O.11.b.75.20.
- 10 coils barbed and 10 coils French wire used in strengthening old wire from HOLLEBEKE Cross-roads to O.11.b.9.8.
- 7 coils barbed, 7 coils french wire erected from O.11.b.7.2. to O.11.d.7.8.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - N 1 1.

F.T.O. /

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3. ENEMY SHELLING. - During the shelling of O.27.a. the enemy sent over three shells which on bursting sent forth volumes of smoke.

During the period under review R VINE WOOD was intermittently shelled with 4.2.'s from the direction of TENBRIELEN.

<u>TIME.</u>	<u>LOCATION.</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>CALIBRE.</u>	<u>DIRECTION.</u>
0430 to)	0.28.a, b.	32	4.2.H.E.	COMINFs.
0500)	0.20.c.	15	do	do
0600	0.23.a., c.	100	77s.	83 & 90 degree grid. (0.20.d.2.2.)
0630	do	100	(Shrap) 77s.	do
0645	do	100	do	do
0800	WYTSCHAETE	12	4.2.	TENBRIELEN
0920 to)	0.27.a.	60	5.9.	COMINFs.
1035)				
0800	0.20.b.	30	77	TENBRIELEN
1300	0.21.c.	30	4.2.H.E.	East.
1330	0.15.d.	10	do	S.E.
1630 to)	DENYS WOOD	heavy shelling.	4.2. and Gas.	KORTWILDT
1830)				
1720	0.20.c.	19	4.2.	100 deg. grid (0.20.d.2.2.)
2020	0.28.a.	25	4.2.	COMINFs
2330	0.19.b.	10	77s.	VERVICQ
0300 to)	ORANGE Tch.	30	5.9.	COMINFs
0400)				
0305	0.21.c.	36	77s.	100 deg. grid (0.22.d.2.2.)

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. - Normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. -

(i) M.Gs. were located at O.17.d.5.3., O.23.b.7.9. M.G. IN WHIZ Farm was active.

(ii) T.Ms. A graterwerfer fired 9 rounds from THE TWINS at intervals during the night.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL Activity. - More active than usual during the day, frequently crossing our lines. They were heavily engaged by A.A. and M.G. fire.

At intervals throughout the day balloons were up as follows :-

108 degrees grid from O.27.a.2.4.

95 "do " do

135 "do " do

65 "do " do

69 "do " do

75 "do " do

30 "do " O.20.d.2.2.

110 "do " do

90 "do " do

120 "do " do

85 "do " do

75 "do " do

96 "do " do

163 "do " O.15.d.75.50.

116 "do " do

111 "do " do

70 "do " do

90 "do " do

83 "do " do

103 "do " O.20.h.0.1.

80 "do " O.10.d.85.75.

98 "do " do

119 "do " do

134 "do " do

114 "do " O.21.d.8.9.

106 "do " do

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7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. -Trains -

0900 Shunting in vicinity of COMINES
 1010 TENBRIELIN towards HOUTHEM
 1022 WERVICQ to TENBRIELIN
 1031 Stationary at TENBRIELIN
 1214 At V.5.d., travelling N.E.
 1225 TENBRIELIN to WERVICQ
 1300 Stationary in COMINES
 1343 P.35.d., travelling S.E.
 1414 TENBRIELIN to WERVICQ
 1420 COMINES travelling South.

A party of 12 men seen at about P.19.c.8.7. and disappeared in to a dugout.

From 0.930 to 1000 a party of men were observed working around dugouts at O.30.b.3.8.

At 1015 a vehicle " " and two men travelling S.E. at P.25.a.3.8.

At 1415 four men were seen in HOUTHEM.

A patrol of about 15 of the enemy were seen moving in O.17.d. at 0500. They were dispersed by Lewis Gun fire and were not afterwards seen.

8. SIGNALLING. - At 0200 enemy shelled in front of Left Bn., the shells falling very short. 5 red flares were fired from the enemy front and the shelling ceased.

At 0730 a lamp was observed flashing from the direction of TENBRIELIN.

At 1517 a HELIOGRAPH flashing on a magnetic bearing of 115 deg. from O.20.b.1.1.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. -

At 1320 and approx. O.30.b.1.4. four men were observed bring a M.G. from a dugout into the open. The gun was fixed in position and about 200 rounds fired. It was then covered over and the men were observed moving round the dugout during the afternoon, except when our planes appeared. Our artillery opened on this position. The gun fired one burst only at 1900.

At 1315 heavy smoke rising from COMINES.

At 0250 five red lights and 1 single red light was followed by heavy M.G. fire.

At 1310 two enemy guns could be seen firing from P.25.d.35.90., and P.26.a.2.1. These guns fired on Left Brigade sector.

At 1543 a battery firing 81 degrees grid from O.20.d.2.2.

Four gun flashes from clump of trees on a grid bearing 119 degrees from O.21.d.8.9.

At 1545 27 flashes were observed on a grid bearing of 95 degrees from O.21.d.8.9. Time of sound was 17 seconds.

At 1555 five flashes were observed on a grid bearing of 94 degrees from O.21.d.8.9. The time of sound was 19 seconds.

H. F. Watson

Captain,
 Brigade Major,
 2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 14.

From 0600 27/12/17 to 0600 28/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
28/12/17.

1. OPERATIONS -

- (a) Artillery - Our artillery were active throughout the period under review carrying out harassing fire on known enemy tracks, roads and positions - LAKE, PILL, PILLEGRENS, and RIFLE Farms. Trench system in O.18.d. and O.24.a. came in for a great deal of attention.
- (b) Patrols -
- (i) A patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks left our lines at 0.400 (27th instant) from O.29.a.4.5. to prevent the enemy from patrolling. Patrol penetrated No Man's Land and traversed same to a depth of 300 yards without encountering any enemy.
 - (ii) A patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks left our lines at 0130 from O.17.c.9.6. to disperse an enemy party seen at O.17.d.6.5. The patrol worked in an Easterly direction and when within range fired 4 rifle grenades into the enemy and dispersed them.
 - (iii) A patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks left our lines at O.23.b.1.9. to gain touch with enemy posts about FLY BUILDINGS. Working parties were heard east of FLY BUILDINGS, and on patrol approaching they were fired on by a M.G. and snipers. No enemy patrols were encountered.
 - (iv) A patrol of one Officer and 3 Other Ranks left our lines at 2000 from O.11.b.85.45. to examine ground where enemy patrol was seen and dispersed at 0600 (27th inst.) Enemy tracks and 6 stick grenades were found and tracks were followed for a distance of about 250 yards. An attempt was made to approach a suspected enemy post between the GIANT and the TWINS but the patrol encountered heavy M.G., rifle and granatenwerfer fire.
- Protective patrols were out throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained with flank Brigades.
- (c) M.Gs. - 12,000 rounds were expended throughout the night on known enemy tracks and positions.
- (d) T.M.s. - 20 rounds were expended during the night on known enemy positions.
- From 1300 to 1330 a six inch M.T.M. fired 28 rounds on the TWINS. Two direct hits were observed and two men ran from there at full speed to POLL HOUSE.
- At 1300 a L.T.M. firing on O.17.b.8.4., 2 men were observed to run to pill box at O.17.b.9.4.
- (e) Our Aircraft. - Our planes were active during the morning and night.
- Between 2100 and 2300 bombs could be heard dropping from the direction of COMINES.
- (f) Wiring. -
- Owing to the very good visibility during the night work has been made difficult.
- 25 coils barbed wire were used in strengthening wire from O.17.c.9.8. to GREEN WOOD.
- 14 coils of barbed and 6 coils of french wire were erected at O.22.c.7.8.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS - N 1 1.

P.T.O./

3. ENEMY SHELLING - Less active than usual for the period under review.

Our N.T.M. firing from O.10.d.9.7. was rather heavily shelled about 1400, and COSTAVERNE Spur, also received attention during the afternoon.

<u>TIME.</u>	<u>LOCATION.</u>	<u>No. of rounds.</u>	<u>CALIBRE</u>	<u>DIRECTION.</u>
0610	O.11.a & c.	50	4.2.	ZANDVOORDE
0930	GREEN WOOD	12	do	South-East.
0940	HOPE Farm	15	do	TENNIELTJE
1345 to) 1540)	O.11.d.8.7.	50	do	ZANDVOORDE
1505 to) 1535)	O.16.c. & d.	200	77s.	East.
1825	O.22.a. & O.23.a.		Gas.	
2025	O.28.a.	15	77s.	GARDE DITU.
2100	O.20.b.	20	77s.	COMINFS
0220	O.20.c.	12	5.9. Shrap.	do
0500	O.20.d.	8	5.9.	do
	GUN Farm.	12	H.E. Shrap.	WEEVICQ.

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE - Infantry normal and artillery less active.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES -

- (i) L.Gs. were active from both the GIANT and THE TWINS, rifle fire also came from these positions.
- (ii) T.Ms. - Two L.T.Ms. were observed firing from the vicinity of POLL HOUSE and one from THE GIANT. An enemy T.M. firing from the direction of THIZ Farm placed 30 shells about O.17.d.29.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. - During the day nil.

At 2135 enemy plane was picked up by search lights. It turned back and dropped bombs in the vicinity of COSTAVERNE. From 0800 to 0900 balloon at 73 degrees grid from O.27.a.2.4. At 0740 3 enemy balloons on grid bearings from O.15.d.75.50 were observed as follows :- 120, 140 and 26 degrees.

From 0835 to 0900	110 deg. grid	from O.21.d.8.9.
" 0845 to 0920	96 "	" "
" 0930 to 1040	96 "	" "

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

At 0600, (27th inst.) a party of about 15 enemy were seen approaching post at O.11.b.9.4. They were immediately dispersed by Lewis Gun fire. At 0500 3 enemy observed at O.17.d.25.19. One of our Lewis Guns opened fire causing one casualty. At intervals during the day movement was observed at FIELE and BWR Farms. These positions were kept under artillery fire. At 2225 parties of the enemy were observed moving out from THE TWINS to positions about O.11.d.8.7. to O.12.b.2.8. and parties returning by the same route. Lewis gun fire was brought to bear on this movement, 100 rounds being expended. At 2150 party of about 20 of the enemy was seen near THIZ Farm. Lewis guns opened fire and casualties were inflicted. Movement was again reported around the M.G. placed at O.30.b.1.4. (see Summary No.13). This gun has not been moved and arrangements have been made for the artillery to shoot on same. At 2100 a party of enemy was seen on road at O.23.c.8.2. Lewis gun fire was directed on them and the enemy disappeared.

8. SIGNALLING. - Nil.

9. MISCELLANEOUS -

Gun flashes were observed as follows :-
98 degrees grid from O.10.d.85.80.

103	"	"	"
120	"	"	O.20.d.2.2.
73	"	"	"
70	"	"	"

Right Centre Bn. reports that at 0745 a red flare was immediately

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followed by heavy M.G. fire.

Left Centre Bn. reports that at 0745 on a white flare being fired from their front 3 M.Gs. opened fire immediately on VEPNE Road and front system.

At 0500 a torch was flashed from FLY BUILDINGS and immediately several M.Gs. in vicinity opened fire. Shortly afterwards the gun stopped firing and a single white flare was sent up at the time.

At 0400 A.A. Guns firing at our aircraft used shells which burst into many white flares.

At 0910 on enemy M.G. firing a number of rounds other M.Gs. repeated it from North to South, each firing a large number of rounds.

A considerable number of flares were sent up in the back area about COMINES and TRVICQ between 0800 and 0900.

At 0810 3 single white flares followed by one red which burst into three reds and 4 single whites.

H. F. Watson

Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

From 0600 28/12/17 to 0600 29/12/17.

HEADQUARTERS,
29/12/17.1. OPERATIONS -

(a) Artillery - Our artillery carried out the usual harassing fire on known enemy tracks, roads and positions. FLY BUILDINGS, RIFLE and PUMP Farms, LOCK No. 5, POLL HOUSE, The GIANT and The TWINS came in for a good deal of attention. At about 1030 our heavies shelled COMINES. Correct shooting was observed at 1545 by our 18 pdrs. on enemy trenches at O.29.d.7.7.

At 1500 retaliation fire was obtained on enemy battery shelling left sector on a grid bearing of 120 degrees from O.11.d.85.70.

(b) Patrols -

(i) A fighting patrol of one Officer and 11 Other Ranks with a Lewis Gun left our lines at 1700 from O.28.b.8.5. to mop up enemy patrols. No Man's Land was penetrated and traversed to a depth of 300 yards but no enemy patrols were met.

(ii) A fighting patrol of one Officer and 13 Other Ranks with a Lewis gun left our lines at 2000 from O.29.a.2.4. to engage enemy patrols. No Man's Land was patrolled to a depth of almost 400 yards and when the patrol was at about O.29.a.7.5. it was fired at by a M.G. approx. 75 yards away. None of the enemy were encountered.

(iii) A patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks were out from 1900 to 2230 from Left Centre Bn. patrolling old communication trenches in which the enemy could possibly take cover. No enemy were encountered but an enemy wiring party could be heard about WHIZ Farm. This party had a M.G. out screening them, thus preventing our party from getting within bombing range.

(iv) At 2300 a patrol of one Officer and 4 Other Ranks left our lines from O.17.d.15.50. to engage enemy patrols. A large enemy patrol at least 25 was seen at O.17.b.45.30. Our party got close and fired on them inflicting casualties (report later). (Enemy patrol wore white overalls.)

(v) At 2000 a patrol of one Officer and 10 Other Ranks left our lines from O.23.a.30.25. to locate and engage the enemy. No enemy patrols were encountered and RIFLE and JULY Farms were found unoccupied. Enemy wire at O.23.b.2.2. was followed to BEE Farm. The wire was in good condition. A body of an apparently British soldier was found in a very decomposed condition, and identification was impossible.

Protective patrols were out throughout the night keeping a close watch on the enemy, and communication was maintained with flank Brigades.

(c) M.Gs. :- 6,500 rounds were expended on known enemy tracks and positions throughout the night.

(d) T.Ms. - During the night 22 rounds were expended on enemy M.G. positions at approx. O.29.a.9.4. effectively silencing them.

(e) Our Aircraft. - Our planes were active throughout the day and at times flew well over the enemy lines.

(f) Wiring -

At O.22.c.1.3. 75 yards concertina and 225 yards double strand barb wire was erected from the WAIBEEK in a northerly direction. 200 yards double apron and concertina and trip wire in front (12 feet wide) from O.17.a.8.2. to O.17.a.9.7.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS -

N i l.

P.T.O./

- 83 3. ENEMY SHELLING. - During the afternoon enemy 5.9.s and 4.2.s were particularly active in WYTSCHAELE and vicinity. The shelling came mostly from COMINES. Throughout the night a noticeable decrease in enemy shelling.

TIME	LOCATION	No. of rounds.	CALIBRE.	DIRECTION.
0610	0.23.c.	20	H.E. Shrap.	VERVICQ
1150	0.22.a.	20	77s.	S.E.
1200 to 1600	WYTSCHAELE	50	5.9.	COMINES
1220	0.22.a. & b.	30	4.2. & 5.9.s.	do
1315 to 1415	0.26.b.	80	do	do
1350	0.21.c.	25	77s.	100 deg. grid from 0.20.d. 2.2.
1430 to 1515	0.26.a. & b.	50	5.9.s	COMINES
1445 to 1555	0.11.b. & c.	100	4.2.s.	180 deg. grid from 0.11.d. 85.
2040	RAVINE	12	do	TENBRIELEN. (70.
2200	0.10.b. & d.	15	do	do
2210	OOSTTAVERNE	31	77s.	80 deg grid from 0.20.d. 2.2.
2300	0.17.c.	50	4.2.s.	East.
0230	0.27.b.	15	5.9.	COMINES
0545	0.10.b.	20	34.2.	TENBRIELEN

4. ENEMY ATTITUDE. Artillery were active during the day but less active throughout the night. Infantry normal.

5. ENEMY DEFENCES. -
 (1) M.Gs. - M.Gs. were active in the direction of BAB and RIFLE Farms. Three M.Gs. fired at our patrols from approx. 0.28.a. 9.4.
 (e) ii enemy wiring at about 0.17.d. 8.5. could be heard.

6. HOSTILE AERIAL ACTIVITY. - High flying planes were active throughout the day. They were engaged by A.A. Planes were observed as follows :- 0935, 1040, 1100, 1120, 1145, 1230, 1415. Enemy balloon were up as follows :-

0830-0915	130 degrees	grid from 0.22. d. 2.3.
0920-1000	100	" "
1030-1115	100	" "
0900-1000	115	0.21.d. 8.9.
1035-1110	105	" "
1025	108	0.10.d. 85.70
0900	138	0.17.d. 75.50.
0.930	106	" "
0900-1030	98	0.27.a. 2.6.

7. ENEMY MOVEMENT. - 0500 (28th) considerable amount of movement was observed in vicinity of THE TWINS and SPUD Farm. They were dispersed by Lewis Gun fire. 1050 about 20 men seen carrying material from P.25.d. 7.5. to P.25.d. 5.6.

Trains -

1120	112 degrees	from 0.21.d. 8.9, travelling N.E.
1205	112	" " " N.E.
1315	112	" " " S.E.
1525	MENIN to	VERVICQ
1545	Stationary	at V.5.d. 4.9.

8. SIGNALLING - At 1405 a flash was observed at P.23.d. 8.2. At 1630 flashes : from two signal lamps in Q.25.a.

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- 3 -

9. MISCELLANEOUS. -

Bearing were taken on enemy batteries as follows :-

100	degrees	grid	from	O.20.d.2.2.	
110	"	"	"	"	
120	"	"	"	"	
75	"	"		O.17.d.75.50.	(At 1640)
106	"	"		O.11.d.85.70.	} Time between flash and report - 16 seconds.
110	"	"	"	"	
112	"	"	"	"	

At 1430 enemy gun flashes at P.24.c.10.15. were observed.

At 1430 to 1530 two enemy gun flashes at V.3.d.0.0. firing at 3 minutes intervals.

At 1530 and 1550 enemy guns firing from P.25.d.6.7.

While the enemy was shelling O.11.b. & c. enemy red flares bursting into two reds were observed to be sent up opposite Left Battalion centre.

At 1230 while enemy planes were over our lines a glove was dropped at about O.17.d.7.5. stamped on inside as follows :-

"Fig Bekl.
"Doberitz"
1917.

At 1430 while one of our planes was over enemy lines yellow flares bursting into yellow stars were sent up.

H. F. Watson
Captain,
Brigade Major,
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade.

2nd Aust Inf Bde

Appendix CXLVII

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Casualties for month ending December 1917

Units	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Officers	ORs	Officers	ORs	Officers	ORs
2nd Bde HQ	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd MG Coy	-	1	-	2	-	-
1st L G M Bty	-	-	-	3	-	-
5th Pwr	-	-	-	7	-	-
6th Pwr	-	2	-	8	-	7
7th Pwr	-	4	8 ⁺	31	-	-
8th Pwr	1*	2	1*	10	-	2
	1	9	9	61	-	9

+ Capt A.F. Phillips. Lts L.H. Kelly. A.J. Cox
W.H.G. Smith. AM Teare. 2/Lts R.W. Mallett
R.G. Swift. LT E.W. Hill.

* 2/Lt W.F. Brinsmead + 2/Lt A.C. Hall

31-12-17

Appendix No. 147

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Reinforcements received during Month.

Units	Officers	Other Ranks	Remarks
2nd Bde HQ	-	-	
2nd MG Coy	1	-	2Lt OS Baird
2nd L LMB	-	2	
5th Bn	4	10	2Lt A M Gillies " J Labenck " J V Kinwood Capt F Angel from 21st Bn
6th Bn	3	2	2Lt J Fischer " D Arnold " J P Day
7th Bn	2	8	2Lt M V Crowe " J H Hamblett " PT Hatfield
8th Bn	1	7	2Lt J Bourke - PT Hatfield
	12	29	

31-12-17

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Appendix No 149
Appendix (149)

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2nd AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----SCHOOLS ATTENDED DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER 1917.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O'Ranks.</u>
ix Signalling	4	51
Musketry	9	11
Gas	4	14
Lewis Gun	2	7
Infantry	4	4
Bombing	1	4
Elementary German		5
Machine Gun		1
Anti-aircraft		2
Stokes		2
Veterinary Duties		2
Scouting, Observation and Sniping	1	
Ferriery		1
Intelligence		1
Cookery		1
L.G. Instructor		1
M.G. Cadet		1
Armourer		1

25 Offrs. 109 O'Ranks
=====

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2nd Aust Inf Bde

Appendix No 130

C 88

Return No 1

Units	Establishments				Attached			
	off	Mes	Total	Horses	off	Mes	Total	Horses
2nd Inf Bde Hors	7	29	36	20	4	41	45	
								5 th Pms 1 - 8 6 " 1 - 10 7 " 1 - 11 8 " 1 - 10 DHD 1 indep 1 <u>4 - 41</u>
2nd M Coy	15	174	189	53	2	2		
2nd L LMB	5	67	72					
5 th Pms	56	869	925	54	2	7	9	
								AMC 1 - 4 Chas 1 RAPL 1 Ann Sgh 1 indep 1 <u>2 - 7</u>
6 th Pms	43	856	899	53	2	19	21	
								AMC 1 - 3 Chas 1 RAPL 1 Salvage 1 indep 4 indep 8 indep 2 <u>2 - 19</u>
7 th Pms	48	846	894	54	2	7	9	
								AMC 1 - 4 Chas 1 indep 1 RAPL 1 Ann Sgh 1 <u>2 - 7</u>
8 th Pms	45	864	909	58	2	7	9	
								AMC 1 - 5 Chas 1 RAPL 1 AOL 1 <u>2 - 7</u>
4 th Coy Sects	24	105	107	6				
	221	3810	4031	298	12	83	95	

Offs 233IRs 3893Total 4126Horses 29831-12-17

Captain
Staff Captain
2nd Aust Inf Bde

2nd Aust Inf Brigade

Returns No 3

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Unit	Strength previous day		Details previous day		Officers			Other Ranks			Strength This day		Details This day	
	Off	Mk	Off	Mk	Cas	Ans	Sick	Cis	Ans	Sick	Off	Mk	Off	Mk
2nd Aust Inf Bde HQ	3	11									3	11		
2nd MG Coy	16	173	2	27			1*				15	173	3	27
2nd A L I M B Coy	5	88		5						1	5	67		4
5th Pns	57	876	15	218			1*			13	56	867	17	203
6th Pns	44	859	9	241			1*	1		4	43	854	9	238
7th Pns	48	852	10	149		1*	1*	4	1	7	48	842	11	155
8th Pns	45	865	8	174		1*	1*		1	4	45	862	8	175
	218	3704	44	812		2	5	5	2	29	215	3676	48	802

31-12-17

- + Lt G. G. Thomas to 2nd MGT Depot
- * Lt H. G. Mackay to 2nd Coy Pns.
- + 2nd S/P Stafford "
- * 2nd T/P Hillfield from RfB
- " W. G. Tucker to 2nd Coy Pns
- " Lt Blackman from " "
- 2nd R. Lowday AS

Captain
 Staff Captain
 2nd Aust Inf Brigade

Appendix No 150

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Appendix C.I.

Reports re raids

- on posts (i) 8th Bn
- (ii) 6th Bn

[Handwritten signature]

~~*[Handwritten signature]*~~ XL

(in pads of 100.)

WIRE SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at m.
Sent	Service.	Date
At m.		From
To		By
By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { 2 Mrs Inf Bde

* Sender's Number. No 38	Day of Month. 17	In reply to Number. AAA
-----------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

Enclosed please find Special Intelligence report.

B 10 to see HPL

From 7 B		
Place		
Time 1445		

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) *M. Lawrence*

* This line should be erased if not required.

(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

To. 06. B. Coy.

At 0725 a party of about 20 enemy were seen approaching No 6 SP. This morning. No 5 SP immediately opened fire with L.G. No 6 SP opened rifle fire.

The enemy dropped into shell holes and disappeared. Word was immediately sent to C. H. Q and a sharp look out kept. The enemy were seen moving from shell hole to shell hole whilst we kept sniping. Scouts were sent round C. I. leading to left sector to locate the enemy. No 16 Post and No 5 Post were reported correct. Scouts reported one of the enemy waving a stick. A party of 8 men were taken out by Sgt. Shawille, surrounded the enemy and swept back towards our trench. The following prisoners were captured - (continued)

(continued)

3 Unwounded prisoners (including 1 officer)
 1 Slightly wounded
 1 Stretcher case.

Also there are at least 4 enemy
 reported killed in No 6 Barr Land.

3 men and 1 Lt (belonging to 8th Coy)
 who had previously been captured by
 the enemy were recaptured.

1 of the enemy is still in the open
 in front of No 6 SP. and sharp look
 out is being kept on him and
 a suitable opportunity to capture
 him will be taken. All prisoners and
 8th Coy men were sent to Coy Hq.

In the field 1030 / 17/12/17

J. J. Grant / Lt.

20 7th Bn
Don OCB Coy

At 0740 I received a message from Lt Grant No 6 S.P. that the enemy were attempting a raid on our sector, about 30 in number. I went out to the post and found that the enemy had dispersed when fired on by our Lewis gun and rifle. I sent A/S.M. Charville with a patrol of 7 men to cut them off and capture them. He succeeded in getting 5 prisoners including an officer. There is still one unwounded Hun in a shell hole, and under observation. It is known that 4 Huns have been killed. All papers found have been sent down to Adv. H.Q.

From information, the following is the story.

The Enemy in two parties, each under an officer totalling 14 raided the 8th Bn. No 73 Lewis

Appendix No. 151.

✓ Saw post of 5 men, capturing
 these and the gun. They
 apparently lost their way and
 were found on by our No 5
 post. The enemy immediately
 took cover in shell holes. Our
 patrol went out and patrol
 took prisoner 5 It was the
 3 other men (one of which ran
 away, the other is missing)
 and the Lewis gun, (which I
 have retained).

As far as I can gather one
 of them was killed by one of the
 patrol.

At 0900 all was quiet.

17/12/17

1050

Stephen East

Lt Grant's report
 enclosed

SE

Appendix No. 151.

GR 101.

7th Aus. Bn.
17/12/17

Special Intelligence Report.

At 0725 this morning a party
~~was~~ of enemy estimated at about
 20 were seen from our S.P. 0.11.2.
 Fire was opened from both S.P. 0.11.1
 and 0.11.2. Whole party dropped
 into shell-holes. Slow rate of
 fire was kept up to prevent them
 from moving till flanking parties
 from our B Coy were sent out
 to capture them.

Sgt CHARVILLE and 8 men worked
 out to Post No. 2.0.11 from North and
 2/Lieut GRANT and 2 men from the
 SOUTH. Enemy party was
 surrounded and surrendered without
 further fighting. They had with
 them some men of the 8th Bn
 and a Lewis Gun.

Captures are as follows

1	officer	unwounded
1	man	"
1	officer	badly wounded
1	man	"

(2.)

2 men slightly wounded
4 - killed

Recaptured

3 men of 8th Bn. and 1 Lewis Gun. 1 man of 8th Bn escaped when party was fired on by us and is believed to have got back to the 8th Bn lines. 1 man of the 8th Bn cannot be accounted for.

From information the following appears to be what occurred.

The enemy in two parties each of 1 officer and 6 other ranks captured No. 13 post of the 8th Bn with its garrison of 5 men and 1 Lewis Gun. On trying to return to their own lines they got astray and came under view from our posts where they were driven into shell holes and held there till captured.

4 Germans were killed by our first burst of fire

(3)

It will appear that 4 Germans and 1 man of 8th Bn are still unaccounted for. Ground is being patrolled and a sharp look-out being kept.

The names of the 3 men of 8th Bn recaptured by us are
KILBURN — MARTIN — DAFFY.

This will not be embodied in tomorrow's report.

Entered Lieut. Col

1200

17/12/17.

Code..... m		Words.	Charge.	This message	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Sent	Date.....
.....				At..... m.	Service.....
.....				To.....	From.....
.....				By.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.") By.....
TO {		2 nd A.I. Bde			
Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.		A A A	
* G R 31	17				
Herewith 1 officer and					
2 other rank prisoners					
captured AAA The enclosed					
notes are taken from enemy dead AAA					
Also sending 3 men of					
8 th Bn recovered by us					
from the enemy AAA					
Full report to follow					
From	7 th Am Bn				
Place					
Time	1050				
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.				(Z)	[Signature]
Censor.				Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	
* This line should be erased if not required.					
(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)					

2nd A. I. Bde

Herewith pocket book
taken from the badly
wounded German officer
also identity discs and letters
taken from a dead German.

The enemy party was
2 off 12 ORanks
10 have been accounted for
as follows.

1 off sent to you
1 off at RAP badly wounded
2 men prisoner sent you
2 - - wounded
5 - - killed

The 11 not yet accounted for
are probably hiding in shell-
holes - a strong patrol is
now out looking for them.

The 8th Bn party captured by the
above consisted of 5 ORanks
The NCO in charge

Lt Cpl Armstrong was seen
running towards the 8th Bn line.

2.

One man Bell is not
accounted for he may be
with the 4 Germans, but he
may have got back with
the Corporal.

The remaining three have
been sent to you

Pls Kilburn - Martin and
Duffy.

We have the Lewis Gun.

Reserved 1st Lt
Conroy
9th Am Bn.

17/12/17.

Lt Col Armstrong - Ran towards our line

3374	"	Kilburn G.	} OK.
6562	Pto	Martin G.S.	
773	"	Duffy R.	
	"	Bell ?	

All "B" Coy, 8th Bn.

Enemy Raid on Post at 0.17.3.03 at
0645: 17/12/14.

YTD,

"C" Form. Army Form C 2123
(in books of 100).

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Pretr..... Code..... Words..... £ s d.	Received From..... By.....	Sent, or sent out. Atm. To By	Office Stamp. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">17/12</div>
Charges to Collect Service Instructions			

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

TO { FN 26

* Sender's Number 14R 317	Day of Month 17th	In reply to Number	AAA
---	--	--------------------	------------

Re captured post
~~our~~ ^{front} fort line
 report as follows aaa
 one of the garrison reported
 to coy HQ at 0730 that post
 was captured aaa he was
 one of the half post who had
 returned to the PILL BOX
 after dawn and he stated
 FROM that he heard ~~RA~~

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required
 (5554). Wt.14832/M1523. 2/17. 400m Books. N.P.Co. (E930). A.F. C2123.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prelux.....Code.....Words..... £ s. d.	Received From..... By.....	Sent, or sent out. Atm. To By	Office Stamp.
Charges to Collect			
Service Instructions			

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

TO { *CAF* }

* Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
-------------------	--------------	--------------------	------------

2 rifle shots and saw about 40 enemy standing round post he therefore ran here immediately aaa No officer was at the post he having returned at dawn aaa

A party of 12 immediately on receipt of news was sent to report on situation

FROM _____

PLACE & TIME _____

* This line should be erased if not required
(5554). Wt.14832/M1523. 2/17. 400m Books. N.P.Co. (E930). A.F. C2123.

216

Appendix No. 151

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message 151

Prefix..... Code..... Words..... t s d.	Received From..... By.....	Sent, or sent out. Atm. To By	Office Stamp. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">19/12</div>
Charges to Collect Service Instructions			

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

TO { C 47

* Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
-------------------	--------------	--------------------	------------

and reestablish
 post aaa strength of
 post 1 sgt 1 ^{1 cpl} ~~1 cpl~~
 12 men 1 Lewis gun.

FROM	FS 47
PLACE & TIME	11040

* This line should be erased if not required
 (5554). Wt.14832/M1523. 2/17. 400m Books. N.P.Co. (E930). A.F. C2123.

1 Off.
2 OR W.
1 OR
1 K.

5 K 1539R-

Appendix No 151

103

216

216

106

Appendix No 151

"C" Form.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message 56

Prefix <u>SB</u>	Code	Words	Received.
			From <u>FS4L</u>
			At m.
Charges to Collect			By <u>AMP</u>
Service Instructions.			To
			By
Handed in at		Office	Received <u>1131</u> m.

Office Stamp: OUTB
17/11

TO: FN26

*Sender's Number. <u>HR220</u>	Day of Month. <u>17</u>	In reply to Number. <u>AAA</u>
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

The suggested that ground in front of No 13 post from 017 B 28-07 south east to 017 D 62-74 and 017 D 68-78 be searched with shrapnel to dislodge snipers, and

FROM: FS47

TIME & PLACE: 1115

* This line should be erased if not required.
100.000—John Wiley & Sons—517—51st—New York—1915

216

106 1117

Appendix No 151

"C" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

No. of Message 18

Prefix <u>HR</u>	Code	Words	Received.	Sent, or sent out.	Office Stamp.
		£ s. d.	From <u>FS 47</u>	At	<u>CSA</u> <u>17/12</u> <u>1145</u>
Charges to Collect			By <u>RA 7</u>	To	
Service Instructions			By	Received <u>1145</u> m.	
Handed in at					
Office					
m. Received					
m.					
TO <u>FR 26</u>					
*Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.	
<u>HR 321</u>		<u>17th</u>		<u>AAA</u>	
<p>Reconnoitring party returned 2 casualties 1 of-ficer Killed and party reports post unoccupied but enemy having position by strong screen ^{screen} of snipers about <u>50 YARDS</u> in front of post and snipers are very active and 1 sgt and 8 men have formed a post at <u>HP PROX 017/C 77</u> and officer reports reestab- lishment of post at present impossible</p>					
FROM <u>FS 47</u>					
TIME & PLACE <u>1110g</u>					

* This line should be erased if not required.

100.000—John Riscoe Ltd.—2/17—2141—Forme GS/25

Report on No 13 Post

Map Sheet 28

This post located at O 17 A 95 25 consisted of a boomerang shaped trench sandbagged & duckboarded. It was well wired in front & to the south though not finished to the north.

The post was garrisoned by 1 Sgt 2 Sgts & 11 men with 1 Lewis Gun. By night the whole of the garrison occupied the post but by day half the garrison retired to a "PILL BOX" some 30 yds in rear of the post.

No officer was stationed at the post but the Outpost Commander visited it at least every two hours during the night. Also there have been 3 inspection rounds per night from Coy HQ. In addition to above OCs patrols visited this post whilst on patrol.

From statements of men who escaped from "PILL BOX" during action this morning the following report is constructed.

At dawn this morning (about 0615) the Sgt & 7 men retired to "PILL BOX". Some of the party had removed their boots when about 0645 they heard shouting & two rifle shots. On looking out they observed about 40 enemy grouped around the post. The Sgt told them to run & warn the other posts. Three men ran off without their boots. Two of them remained at Post 12 A having informed the garrison of what had occurred.

2

Whilst the remaining man ran straight on to Coy HQ arriving at about 0700.

After extracting as much information from him as possible, & having wired a warning to the Support Coy & Bn HQ, a party of 2 officers & 10 ORs was formed to ascertain the situation at 13 post & if possible to re-establish the post.

This party left HQ at 0800 & picking up a Corporal & 1 man at the Pacquet Line & the 2 men from 13 post at 12A worked towards post 13. They encountered very heavy rifle fire from an enemy screen some 50 yds in front of post 13 & were also bombarded with pineapple bombs. LT BRINSMEAD & one man were killed by snipers. The party got to within 30 yds of the post which appeared to be unoccupied but were unable to approach any closer owing to the enemy rifle fire. Accordingly they withdrew & passing 12A established a post of 1 Sgt, 1 Cpl & 9 men at road junction O 17 C 60-55. The officer, 1 Sgt & 1 man returned to Coy HQ & reported. (Report attached).

The reconnaissance party was assisted by the snow storm which helped to conceal their movements, but by the time the officers

3

had returned the storm had ceased & all was very clear. Accordingly I decided it inadvisable to attempt any further action during daylight.

With the exception of the 3 men mentioned above the remainder of the garrison 1 Sgt. 2 Ppls & 8 men are believed to have been killed or captured & also the Lewis Gun captured.

Lt. Jovett Capt
OC B Coy
8th Bn
17.12.17

Appendix No 151.

17.12.17 B Coy 8th Bn
Report on Reconnaissance
of Post 13 after
capture by enemy.

I was a member of a patrol
consisting of 2 Officers
& 10 ORK which left
Company Head Qrs at
0800. To ascertain
situation at No 13 Post
& if possible re-establish
same. We arrived at
the Piquet & then went
forward to No 12 Post
& found them alright.
We then crept
forward with 3 men
towards 13 post we
could not take any
more as the snipers
were so keen, got up to
within about 20 yds
of Pill Box along side
No 13 Post & there appeared
to be nobody in 13 post
but in front of the post
there was a large group
of enemy snipers at about
a distance of 30 yards

Then came back to No 12^A
 post as we found we could
 not do any good, ~~there~~
 I then established a
 post with the men I
 had at the corner of
 Kerne Road & Road running
 N.E. consisting of 1 Sgt.
 1 Cpl 3 S/Cpls & 6 men with
 orders to keep a sharp look
 out for enemy & to lay quiet
 until further orders I then
 returned to Coy HQ.
 The party collected
 from the Piquet line
 1 Cpl & 2 men the 2 men
 being men who were on
 13 Post.

The party sustained
 2 casualties killed
 by snipers.

Lt Brinsmeade R
 & 1 O Rank name
 not yet known.

J. Anderson
 2nd Lt

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)

Prefix, Code, m, Words, Charge, Office of Origin and Service Instructions, No. of Message, Recd. at, Date, From, By, Service, (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO: 7th H.I. Bn

Sender's Number, Day of Month, In reply to Number, A A A

Herewith reports of A.C. front line... A.C. front line Coy has been ordered to occupy No 13 Post immediately after dark tonight & also if half the Garrison cannot return to Pil Post after daylight they are to remain in Post.

From, Place 1800, Time, The above may be forwarded as now corrected, (Z)

Censor, Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name. * This line should be erased if not required. (3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H. W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

at 0645 a post of 5 men & 1 Lmb ^{was captured by}
^{consists of 2 Officers 12 OR}
 patrol of the enemy. ^{on seeing the enemy} came within the range of
 a post left Bn which opened fire on the
 patrol was sent out with following results.

2 Officers captured 1 dead - R.A.P.

4 P.R. captured.

~~1~~ OR. Killed.

3 of our own & 2 Lmb recaptured.

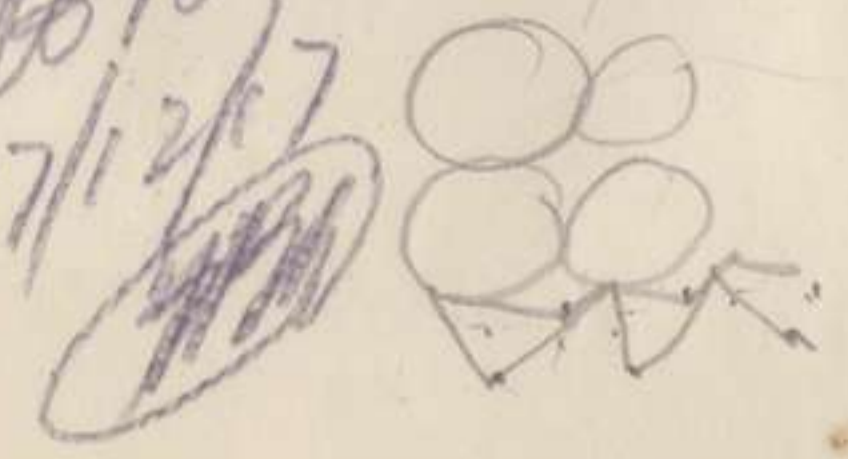
1 man was seen to run towards left centre of sector

1 " " towards the German line.

¹/₅ It is believed that the rest of the enemy & our own men
 are still in shell holes & they are being searched for.

Further particulars:

Wired to Div HQ.
 at 1200. 17/12/17



Appendix No. 151

216

A FORM. Army Form 57/2212
(In pads of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	in	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent	 Service.	Date.....
						At..... m.
.....			To.....		By..... (Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
						By.....

TO { 8th Battalion

Sender's Number. * A7B 75	Day of Month. 17	In reply to Number.	A A A
------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-------

Please forward particulars of all orders to O.C. Coy on front line, to officers etc of frequent & out post lines, to N.C.O's etc of outposts particularly of the front parties & especially for reports forwarding of sentries, bending point of patrols, time of withdrawal of the whole or part of garrisons & hours of stand to be kept

From 7th Inf Bde

Place

Time 9.2.10

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) H. F. Lethbridge

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ltd. (E. 1187.)

2nd Aust-Inf Bde.

Reference yours A.Z.B. 45.

At 0745 the following wire was received from O.C. Front line Coy. "Enemy party took post 13. am investigating" The following was sent in reply at 0750.

"Please state who reported enemy party having taken Post 13. & about what time A.A.A. Was an officer with the post. A.A.A. Was listening post also taken A.A.A. Have any steps been taken to retake the lost post. A.A.A. give exact strength of the post. A.A.A." The following reply was received from O.C. front line Coy at 0900. "one of the garrison reported to Coy H.Q. at 0730 that post was captured A.A.A. He was one of the half post who had returned to the Pill Box after dawn and stated that he heard 2 rifle shots and saw about 40 enemy standing round post. he therefore ran here immediately A.A.A. No officer was at the post he having returned at dawn A.A.A."

(2)
 "Listening post was a night post only and therefore withdrawn A.A.A. party of 13 immediately on receipt of news was sent to report on situation and reestablish post. A.A.A. Post strength 1 Sgt 1 Lt 12 Men 1 Lewis Gun"

The following was received from O.C. Front-line Coy at 1015. "Reconnaissance party returned two casualties killed (Lt BRIMSMEAD) A.A.A. party reports post unoccupied but enemy having position by strong screen of snipers about 50 yds in front of 13 post who are very active A.A.A. Two of the party have returned with information and remainder 1 Sgt and 8 men have formed a post at approx O. 17. C. 7. 4. A.A.A. Three men from 13 post are safe A.A.A. Andersson reports reestablishment of post at present impossible"

at 1038 the following was received "We would suggest that ground in front of 13 be searched with Shrapnel back to (WH 12. FARM. in order to dislodge snipers"

The following was sent to O.C. Front-line Coy. "Arrange to occupy No 13 Post immediately after dark to night A.A.A. In future Garrison

(3)

of this post - must remain in position until after daylight if possible half the garrison may return to PILL. Box. otherwise they will all stay in post - A.A.A. All ranks under your command must be warned to be on the alert to prevent their posts being surprised, Vigorous patrolling must also be gone on with A.A.A. 7th Battalion will continue to hold No 14 post - until further notice A.A.A. Also arrange to have listening post connected up with No 13 post. My hand wire A.A.A. Keep Bn H.Q. informed of all actions." At 1820 the following wire was received.
 "13 post re-established and OK"

I wish to state that verbal orders were issued to all Coy Commanders re Patriots "Stand to" at a meeting of Coy Commanders held at Rommel prior to taking over front line. I also would like to state that I myself in company with Capt Trail D.S.O M.C. & the O.C. Front-Line Coy. visited every post in the front line between 10 P.M. & 1. A.M. on the night 16/17 inst & at every post we found every thing as it should be in every post the men were keen & we

Appendix No 151

(4)

were challenged in every instance
Enclose further report of OC.
front-line Coy.

18/12/14

0330

J. P. Keller Major
Commanding 8th Bn

Report on Orders Issued to
Outpost & Picquet Commanders
NCOs i/c posts.

B Coy
8th Bn

18.12.17

OUTPOST COMMANDER

To mount at evening "stand to" & thence on to continuously patrol the line visiting all posts, until morning "stand to" & to report back to Coy H.Q. before light became too strong to render movement unsafe. To report to PICQUET COMMANDER at frequent intervals during the night.

In event of attack to endeavour to beat it off & not to retire.

PICQUET COMMANDER

To mount at evening "stand to" & continue his tour of duty until relieved at "stand to" next evening.

During his tour of duty to be responsible for the holding of the front. To visit the posts of PICQUET LINE continuously during the night, receive all reports & forward same direct to Coy H.Q. To supervise all ration & fatigue parties checking movement & noise. During the day to see that all movement was suppressed. To see that all posts were warned of pass word.

Appendix No 151

2

NCOs i/c of posts

To hold posts at all costs. To "stand to" at 04.30 & 16.30 & not to "stand down" until ordered to at night or until day was fully broken. In the case of posts which occupied day & night positions, to move to day position before light became too strong but to continue to "stand to" in day position until light was strong.

To allow no smoking or lights of any description & to allow no movement during day light.

The only special order re withdrawing to "Pill Box" issued to 13 Post was that half garrison only would withdraw before light became too strong the remainder remaining on duty in post. This NCO received orders to patrol to post on his left as per arrangements to be made with patrols from this post.

No special orders were issued as regards posting of sentries but all posts were ordered to keep a lookout during the day.

The hours for "stand to" were given as above but were only guides as times would naturally depend on climatic conditions

Lt Lovell ^{Capt} 13 Coy

3

No detailed orders were handed over by
 OC 58th Bn Coy who had none. Verbal
 orders of a hazy nature only were
 available.

Lt Jovett Capt
 OC "B" Coy
 8th Bn

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"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2127
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions			Sent			Service.
.....			At.....m.		From.....
.....			To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
.....			By.....			

TO {

 _____ *2nd A.I. Bde* _____

Sender's Number. * <i>ERO16</i>	Day of Month. <i>20</i>	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------

The following report has been received by us from our front line Coy:
 "My ~~patrol~~ *patrol* report as follows:- At 1300 I sighted an enemy patrol of 12 men on the top. A patrol ^{sent out} of 1 sgt 2 cpts + 7 men. I also sent along to advise 6" B Co of the patrol going out and found that their post of 1 NCO and 5 men had been captured by the enemy patrol. ~~found their~~ *my* patrol got in touch with another patrol of

From			
Place			
Time			

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

.....

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (2981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2127
(In pads of 100)

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		Sent			Service.
		At.....m.			From.....
		To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
		By.....			

TO {

	- 2 -	
--	-------	--

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

of the 6" B.M. and combined
 in engaging the returning
 enemy ~~the~~ Rifle and M.G.
 fire was exchanged in the
 fog but the enemy got
 away quickly and our
 patrols lost touch with
 them and returned. Our
 patrol then returned with no
 loss."

sgt T.H. Malley Capt

From 2/12/1917

Place

Time 1500

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (7981) Wt. W492/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

A FORM
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

(In pence or 100.)

Prefix.....	Code.....	m	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				This message is on a/c of:		Recd. at m.
				Sent		Date.....
				At..... m.		From.....
				To.....		By.....
				By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { 2 Capt Bde

Sender's Number. * FK-66	Day of Month. 20	In reply to Number.	AAA
-----------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----

Front Company reports as follows:

At 1230 voices were heard in direction of our right post No 5 no firing was heard. A patrol was sent out & discovered the post empty & 6 men missing.

The post has been reoccupied & patrol sent out to search for tracks & no man's land.

I am going forward to enquire further personally.

From	Place	Time
FK-66	14-20	

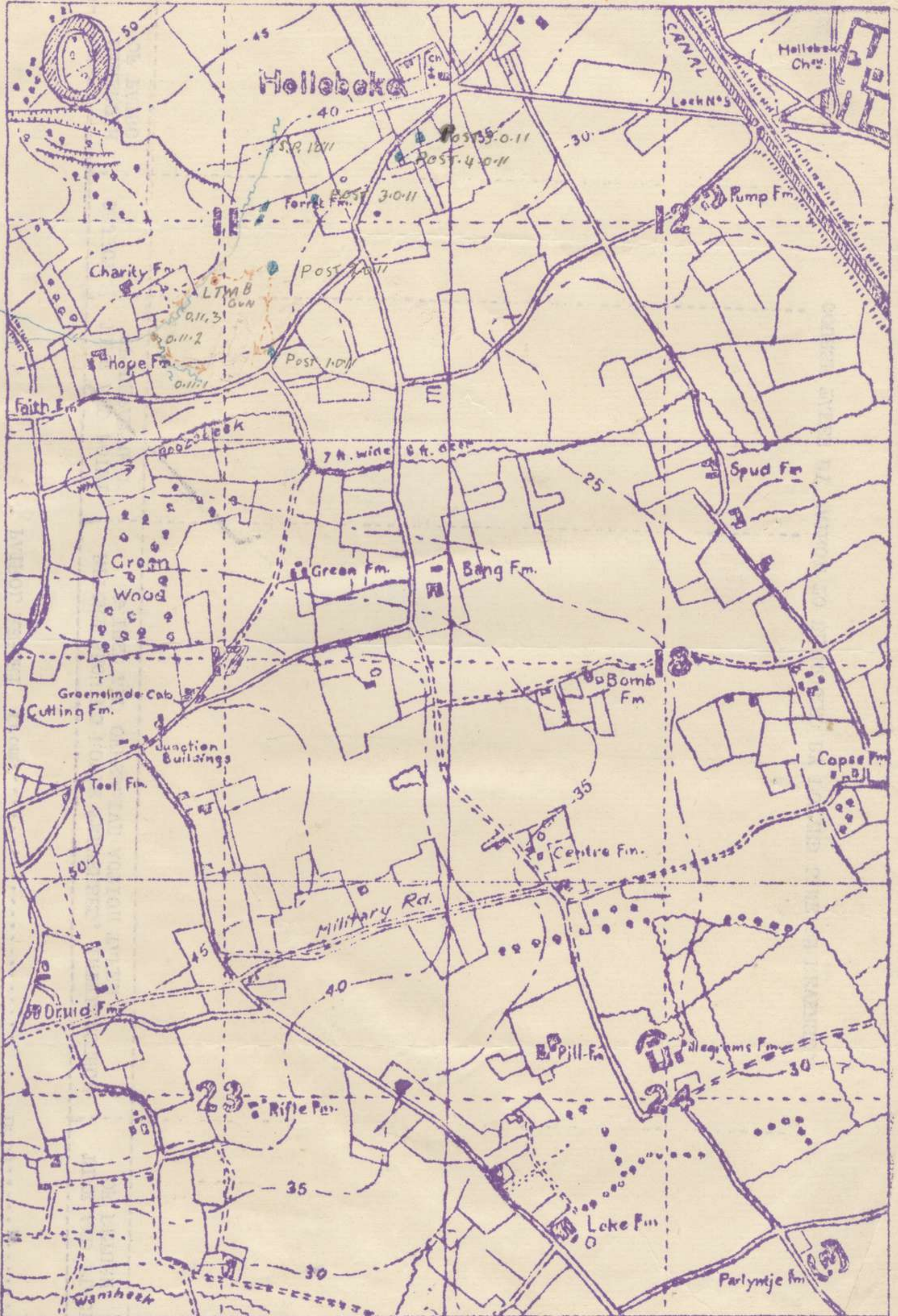
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) [Signature]

* This line should be erased if not required.
(3796.) Wt. W 492/M1647. 650,000 Pads. 5/17. H.W. & V., Ld. (E. 1187.)

one post
S.P

L.T.M.B position

Routes taken by flanking parties



Sheet 28. 0. 11. 12. 17. 18. 23. 24. Scale 1:10,000

216

PATROL REPORT

from.....

Date.....

STRENGTH OF PATROL	OBJECT	TIME AND POINT OF DEPARTURE	REPORT SHOWING ROUTE TRAVERSED, INTELLIGENCE GAINED AND OFFENSIVE ACTION TAKEN	TIME AND PLACE OF RETURN.

COURSE TAKEN BY PATROL TO BE MARKED BY DOTTED LINE ON REVERSE.

127 APPENDIX