

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/7/25

**Title:** 7th Infantry Brigade

September 1917



AWM4-23/7/25

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

ORIGINAL

Army Form C. 2118. 95

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.

September 1917.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME 17	Remarks and references to Appendices														
RENESECURE AREA	1917. Sept	1/4th	<p><u>Ref. Sheets 27 &amp; 28 1/40,000.</u></p> <p>7th A.I. Bde remaining in RENESCURE AREA and car rying on with Training. Health of troops excellent and weather fine.</p> <p>7th A.I. Bde took part in attack exercise, with other Brigades of Division. See 7th A.I. Bde Order No. 121.</p> <p>7th A.I. Bde in conjunction with remainder of 2nd Aust. Div. carried out Attack Exercise. Full details as per Bde Order No. 122 and sketch attached.</p> <p>Further <del>at</del> training of Brigade in attack. See Bde Order No. 123.</p> <p>On 11th inst. orders were received for Brigade to move to STEENVOORDE AREA.</p>		Appen. 1. 1 " 2. " 3.														
STEENVOORDE	12th		<p>Brigade moved to STEENVOORDE AREA by march route. On completion, disposition of units as follows :-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bde H.Q.</td> <td>Rue POPERINGH E, STEENVOORDE.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th Bn. H.Q.</td> <td>K.20.d.4.2.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26th Bn. H.Q.</td> <td>K.14.c.9.2.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th Bn. H.Q.</td> <td>K.15.c.8.8.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28th Bn. H.Q.</td> <td>K.26.d.4.0.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.Gun Coy H.Q.</td> <td>K.26.a.2.1.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T.M.Bty H.Q.</td> <td>K. 6.d.8.9.</td> </tr> </table>	Bde H.Q.	Rue POPERINGH E, STEENVOORDE.	25th Bn. H.Q.	K.20.d.4.2.	26th Bn. H.Q.	K.14.c.9.2.	27th Bn. H.Q.	K.15.c.8.8.	28th Bn. H.Q.	K.26.d.4.0.	M.Gun Coy H.Q.	K.26.a.2.1.	T.M.Bty H.Q.	K. 6.d.8.9.		" 4.
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M.Gun Coy H.Q.	K.26.a.2.1.																		
T.M.Bty H.Q.	K. 6.d.8.9.																		
	13th		<p>7th A.I. Bde marched to HALIFAX AREA. Dispositions on completion of march as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>7th Bde H.Q.</td> <td>WIN NEPEG EXTENSION CAMP.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th Bn.</td> <td>MONTREAL CAMP.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26th Bn.</td> <td>WINNIPEG CAMP.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th Bn.</td> <td>MONTREAL CAMP.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th M.G.Coy</td> <td>HALIFAX CAMP.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th A.L.T.M.B.</td> <td>HALIFAX CAMP</td> </tr> </table> <p>See 7th A.I. Bde Order No. 125.</p>	7th Bde H.Q.	WIN NEPEG EXTENSION CAMP.	25th Bn.	MONTREAL CAMP.	26th Bn.	WINNIPEG CAMP.	27th Bn.	MONTREAL CAMP.	7th M.G.Coy	HALIFAX CAMP.	7th A.L.T.M.B.	HALIFAX CAMP		" 5.		
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 95

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices														
HALIFAX AREA	Sept 1917		- 2 -															
	14/16		7th A.I. Bde remained in HALIFAX AREA, during which time training in the form of route marching etc. was carried on. A series of Lectures on the principles of attacking troops were given, and in addition, officers and N.C.O's of Battalions attended a special Lecture given by the R.F.C. on aeroplane photographs in the CINEMA HALL, HALIFAX AREA.															
	17/18		<p>Under orders of 6th A.I. Brigade (which relieved 141st British Brigade) the following moves took place :</p> <p>On 17th September 27th Bn. moved to RAMPARTS, YPRES.                      " " Half 25th Bn. moved to ESPLANADE SAP, YPRES.                      On 18th " Half 25th Bn. " " BELLEWAARDE RIDGE.                      " " 26th Bn. moved to CANAL &amp; PIONEER AREA.</p> <p>See 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 126.                      Orders received of pending attack. Preliminary Instructions No.1. issued. (Appen.7)                      Orders for attack issued. For Objectives, Boundaries &amp; Dispositions see Bde Order No. 127. (Appendix 8)</p>	<p>Appen. 6.                      " 7.                      " 8.</p>														
LINE & FORWARD AREA (East of YPRES)	18/19		<p>Remainder of 7th A.I. Bde move to Forward Area. See Bde Order No. 128.                      25th Bn. took over Right Sector of Divisional Front. Dispositions of Brigade Units on night of 18/19th September were as follows</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brigade H.Q.</td> <td>MURIEL DUGOUT I.12.c.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25th Bn.</td> <td>Front Line.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26th Bn.</td> <td>Canal &amp; Pioneer Area.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th Bn.</td> <td>Ramparts, YPRES.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28th Bn.</td> <td>CANAL &amp; PIONEER AREAS.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th M/G Coy</td> <td>Bar racks, YPRES.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7th A.L.T.M.B,</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> </table>	Brigade H.Q.	MURIEL DUGOUT I.12.c.	25th Bn.	Front Line.	26th Bn.	Canal & Pioneer Area.	27th Bn.	Ramparts, YPRES.	28th Bn.	CANAL & PIONEER AREAS.	7th M/G Coy	Bar racks, YPRES.	7th A.L.T.M.B,	" "	<p>" 9.</p>
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7th M/G Coy	Bar racks, YPRES.																	
7th A.L.T.M.B,	" "																	
	19/20		<p>On the night of 19/20th September, 7th A.I. Brigade H.Q. moved to Advanced Battle Headquarters at J.7.d.9.9.</p>															

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 95

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			- 3 -	
LINE & FORWARD AREA (East of YPRES)	1917 Sept. 20		<p>In accordance with Orders issued under Preliminary Instructions No. 1. and Brigade Order No. 127, the 7th A.I. Brigade formed up on Jumping Off line in readiness to attack before daylight on morning of 20th September. Everything worked according to plan, and at 5.40 a.m. our artillery barrage opened, and our attacking troops went forward.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">25th Battalion attacked, captured, consolidated and held RED LINE                  27th " " " " " BLUE LINE                  28th Bn. (with 26th Bn. in close support) attacked, captured, consolidated and held the GREEN LINE.</p> <p>The attack was everywhere successful. The moral of the officers and men was excellent - Prisoners were numerous, and our casualties light. For full report on Operation see Appendix 10.</p> <p>Instructions issued to units to reconsolidate and maintain captured position. See Brigade Order No. 129.</p>	Appen. 10.
	21/22		<p>7th A.I. Brigade (less 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty) were relieved in the line by 6th A.I. Bde. On relief, units moved back to CANAL AREA.</p> <p>On 22nd inst. Battalions and Brigade H.Q. moved independently to HALIFAX AREA. Dispositions as before.</p>	" 11. " 12
HALIFAX AREA	23		<p>7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty were relieved under orders of G.O.C. 6th A.I. Bde, and took up old position in HALIFAX AREA.</p>	
	24th to 29th		<p>Brigade in HALIFAX AREA resting. During this time, reorganization and re-equipment of Units was proceeded with and completed.</p>	
	28		<p>As the result of a bomb dropped from hostile aircraft, Lieut. Colonel G.A. READ, Commanding 28th Battalion was wounded. Lieut. R.H. GILL was killed, Major H.F. Darling, 2nd in Command, 28th Bn. was wounded and also four other officers of 28th Battalion.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 Sept		- 4 -	
HALIFAX AREA	30th to 1st Oct.		7th A.I. Brigade moved to Canal Area and PIONEER Area preparatory to again taking over line. Brigade H.Q. situated at BELGIAN CHATEAU H.23.c.	Appen. 13.
	Oct. 1/2nd		28th Battalion took over front line from "A" Bn. of 9th A.I. Brigade. 27th Battalion - 2 Coys WESTHOEK RIDGE, 2 Coys BELLEWAARDE RIDGE. 25th & 26th Bns. YPRES and GORDON AREAS. 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty in line.	
			Statement of Casualties for September 1917, Appendix 14.	" 14
			" Reinforcements arrived in September 1917. Appendix 15.	" 15
<p><i>R. Lee major</i></p> <p>for Lieut. Colonel, Tempy Commanding 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.</p>				

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 121.

3rd September 1917.

Reference: Sheet 36.A. N.W., 1/20,000  
Sketch issued with General & Special Ideas.

1. Information as in General & Special Ideas already issued.
2. At 9.30 a.m. on WEDNESDAY the 5th inst., 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. will attack RED and BLACK lines within limits of boundaries shown in YELLOW on Sketch.  
  
The 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. on our right and 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. on our left are attacking simultaneously with us.
3. (i) The attack will be on a one battalion frontage.  
(ii) 26th Battalion will capture RED Line (1st Objective)  
(iii) On capture of RED line 28th Battalion will pass through 26th Battalion and capture BLACK Line (2nd Objective)
4. The 28th Bn. will follow the 26th Bn. at about 1,000 yards distance until the RED line has been taken and will then get into position to jump off for the attack on the BLACK Line at 12 noon (2nd Zero) at which time the second phase of Artillery action will commence.
5. X Group, 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery will cover the attack. Barrage table is attached.
6. The O.C., 7th Aust. Machine Gun Coy will arrange to cover the attack with two Six Gun batteries for barrage work, and Four mobile guns for close support of infantry. Task table for Machine Guns will be issued later.
7. (a) O.C., 7th A.L.T.M. Battery will arrange to assist the infantry in the attack on the Strong Points included in First Objective.  
When RED line has been gained he will arrange to assist the attack on BLACK line by engaging any hostile Strong Points, and enfilading enemy switch trench (Black dotted line on sketch).  
  
(b) Two mortars will be held in Brigade Reserve at A.17.a.90.60.
8. Moppers-up will be detailed by the Battalions carrying out the attack.
9. Carrying parties will be detailed as under :-  
(i) 26th and 28th Bns. each 1 platoon for carrying Trench Mortar Ammunition.  
These parties will report at time and place to be arranged by O.C., 7th A.L.T.M. Battery with C.O's concerned.

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- (ii) 26th Bn. 1 N.C.O. 6 men to carry wireless set. Party to report to Brigade Signal Officer at Brigade H.Q. 1 hour before ZERO.
- (iii) 27th Bn. will detail 1 Company to report to Captain A.V. GALLASCH (A/Brigade Bomb Officer) at Main Dump A.17.b.7.0. 1 hour before ZERO.
10. Dumps will be established as under :-
- Main Brigade Dump A.17.b.7.0.  
Forward " " A.17.c.6.2.
11. Advanced Dressing Station will be at A.18.c.1.5.
12. Details of Supply of Ammunition, Medical arrangements, Dumps, etc. will be dealt with in Administrative memo.
13. Communications. Principles laid down in S.S. 148 (Forward Inter-Communication in Battle) will be adhered to.  
Signalling instructions are issued as an appendix.
14. Liaison.
- (i) 26th & 28th Bns will each detail officers for liaison duties with units attacking on their flanks.
- (ii) Major "X" will be Brigade Liaison Officer with 3rd A.I. Brigade, and Major "Y" with 6th A.I. Bde.
- (iii) All Liaison Officers will report to units to which they will be attached at least 2 hours before ZERO.
15. Battalions will arrange for success signals on gaining their objectives, and will notify Brigade H.Q. what their signals are, and from what points they may be expected.
16. Brigade H.Q. will be at A.17.d.75.60.
17. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*A.G. Boase*  
Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at 5.30 pm

Distribution :-

File 1. File.	14. 26th Bn.
2 to 4 War Diary.	15. 27th Bn.
5. G.O.C.	16. 28th Bn.
6. B.M.	17. 7th M/G Coy
7. S.C.	18. 7th A.L.T.M.B.
8. Bde Bomb Off.	19. Lieut. Turner.
9. Bde Sig. Off.	20. Capt. Corney, M.C.
10. Bde I.O.	21 to 24. Umpires.
11/12 2nd Aust. Div. (for information)	
13. 25th Bn. (for information)	
	25 to 30 Spare.

BARRAGE TABLE

To accompany 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. Training Order No. 121.

X Group. 2nd Aust. Div. Artillery.

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1. The following barrages will be supplied :-  
 (a) Creeping Barrage - by 6 - 18 pdr. batteries.

PHASE 1.

ZERO Hour 9.30 a.m.

Zero to Zero +5 mins. - A.17.a.3.6. - A.16.d.7.9.  
 Zero + 5 barrage lifts to line A.17.a.3.9. - A.16.b.2.3.

(Intense Machine gun fire will be opened by the Four mobile Vickers guns on three Strong Points in A.17.a., A.17.c., and A.16.d. respectively, but the infantry advance does NOT commence at this stage).

Zero + 7 barrage moves back to Zero line. Machine lift to allow infantry to move up to barrage.

Zero + 9 Barrage commences to creep forward at rate of 100 yards in four minutes. INFANTRY ADVANCE Commences.

Zero + 37 to Zero + 45 barrage halts on RED line.

Zero + 45 barrage creeps forward 200 yards beyond RED line where three batteries maintain a light protective barrage from Zero + 53 to the end of Phase 1, and the remaining three batteries search the switch trench (black dotted line on sketch) and the Woods South West of, and adjoining the switch trench.

Zero + 57 Three batteries searching Woods and Switch Trench will lift on to BLACK line and engage it from Zero + 57 to Zero + 1 hour 12 minutes.

Searching batteries will then search back from BLACK line and thicken up the protective barrage for the RED line by Zero + 1 hour 25 minutes.

PHASE 11.

2nd ZERO Hour 12 noon.

2nd Zero - Protective barrage commences to creep forward to BLACK line at rate of 100 yards in four minutes. Infantry attack on 2nd Objective (BLACK Line) commences.

2nd Zero + 16 minutes to 2nd Zero + 30 minutes barrage halts on BLACK Line.

2nd Zero + 30 minutes barrage lifts and creeps forward and searches the ground for 400 yards beyond BLACK line, where it remains as a protective barrage until no longer required.

P. T. O.



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(b) STANDING BARRAGES. by four 4.5" How. batteries :-

From Zero until picked up by creeping barrage  
One 4.5" How. Battery - Wood and buildings just  
north of B in LE BIBEROU.

One 4.5" How. battery - Wood at A.10.c.2.3.

One 4.5" How. battery - Enemy switch trench  
(Black dotted line on sketch)

One 4.5" How. battery - BLACK line.

These barrages will roll forward with creeping  
barrage until protective is formed beyond BLACK line.

From 2nd Zero (Phase 11) + 46 mins. all How.  
batteries search woods in A.9.a. and b. till 2nd Zero  
+1 hour, but will stand by to thicken protective barrage if  
called upon.

SIGNAL ARRANGEMENTS.

To accompany 7th Aust. Inf. Bde. Training Order No. 121.

- (1) Principles laid down in S.S. 148 are to be strictly adhered to.
- (2) Advanced Bde. H.Q., at Cable Hea (A.17.a.6.0.) will also be provided with Power Buzzer and Amplifier for forward working and Trench W/T Set for communication to the rear.
- (3) Position of Brigade Forward Station will open at A.16.a.85.85. at Zero + 50 mins.
- (4) Battalion Forward command posts will be situated at A.16.a.85.85. for 26th Battalion at Zero + 50 mins. (approx) and for 28th Battalion at A.10.c.20.75. 2nd Zero (Phase 11) + 37 mins.
- (5) The Central Bde. Visual Station will be established at Zero + 30 mins. at approx A.17.a.2.2.
- (6) Power Buzzer will be allotted to 28th Bn. Operators will be provided from Bde. Sig. Section.
- (7) Eight runners and four linesmen per Battalion will report to Bde. Signal Officer at Advanced Bde. H.Q. at (A.17.a.6.0.) Zero - 45 mins.
- (8) Lieut. RUSTON, (27th Bn) will take charge of Bde. Forward party (Detachment "A")
- (9) Lieut. R.C.HUNTER, (I.O., 27th Bn) will be in charge of cipher and code work at Bde. Forward Station.
- (10) All the Signallors in each Battalion will be grouped under the Battalion Signal Officer.
- (11) Attention is drawn to S.S. 148. Section 11 para 5(a) and Section VII para 1 (b)  
Intelligence Officers of 26th and 28th Battalions each with two Snipers or Observers will go forward with "Detachment A" of Brigade Forward Party.

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## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

September 3rd 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS to accompany Brigade Order No. 121,  
dated September 3rd 1917.

Reference : Sheet 36.A. N.W., 1/20,000.

1. AMMUNITION. The Main Divisional Dump is at A.24.a.f.9.  
The Main Brigade Dump is established at  
A.17.b.7.0. under charge of the Brigade Bomb  
Officer.  
A Forward dump will be established at A.17.c.6.2.  
under charge of Lieut. TURNER.  
The D.A.C. will be situated at REAUMONT B.19.a.1.7  
and will be in position 1 hour before ZERO.  
The "A" Echelon of 1st Line Transport of  
26th and 28th Battalions will be situated at  
A.24.a.7.9. one hour before ZERO.  
When ammunition is needed, it will be sent  
forward as far as possible in the limber, which  
when emptied, will return to the D.A.C. and refill.
2. TRANSPORT. Pack horses of all Battalions will report  
to the Brigade Transport Officer at A.24.a.7.9.  
one hour before ZERO and be prepared for carry-  
ing ammunition forward.  
Kitchens and water carts will accompany  
units.
3. ADVANCED DRESSING STATION will be situated at A.18.c.1.5.  
R.M.O's will report location of R.A.P's 1 hour  
before ZERO and apply through C.O. if in need of  
extra bearers.
4. RATIONS & WATER. A Reserve of rations and water is  
established at the Main Brigade Dump.
5. CARRYING PARTIES will bring all available YUKON PACKS.
6. BATTLE STRAGGLER POSTS are established at A.17.c.8.8.  
and A.23.d.9.9. These posts will consist of  
1 N.C.O. and 3 men each, detailed by 27th Bn.  
(These men need not report).

*Ag Boase  
maps*

for Captain, Staff Captain,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade .

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MACHINE GUN TASK TABLE.

To accompany 7th A.I.Bde. Training Order No. 121.

MOBILE GUNS - 4 Vickers.

- (i) To direct intense fire on three Strong Points in A.17.a., A.17.c. and A.16.d. at Zero + 5½ minutes, lifting at Zero + 7 to allow infantry to move up to barrage.
- (ii) To give close support to the infantry advance - especially in dealing with Strong Points.

BARRAGE GUNS.

- (i) To barrage the four Strong Points in A.16.b. and d. until infantry begin to move forward, when guns will begin to creep forward in conjunction with artillery barrage.
- (ii) Barrage RED line and switch trench until Zero + 21, then search woods, Switch Trench and grounds, from BLACK line to line 400 yards beyond RED line until Zero + 1 hour 20 minutes.
- (iii) Zero + 1 hour 21 minutes - Barrages creeps forward and engages BLACK line until 2nd Zero, when it lifts to S.O.S. line.

N.B. Arrangements will be made to lay out Machine Gun "S.O.S." lines immediately after capture of each objective.

Distribution as for 7th A.I.Bde. Order No. 121.

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

MARCH TABLE (To accompany Brigade Order No. 121)

Unit	Time to pass starting point.	Starting Point.	Route	Remarks.
26th Battalion	6.20 a.m.	Church RENESCURE	From T.9.c.4.0. - Railway Crossing T.21.a. - Church RENESCURE - Cross Roads T.26.c. - PONT ASQUIN - BELLE CROIX - Road Junction A.24.a.7.9.	
7th A.L.I.M.B.	6.30 a.m.	ditto	Same route as 26th Bn. after passing Starting Point.	Joins in column in rear of 26th Bn.
27th Battalion.	6.35 a.m.	ditto	27th Bn.H.Q.- Railway cross- ing T.21.a.- thence by same route as 26th Bn. Bn.H.Q. & 2 Coys representing enemy after passing PONT ASQUIN move via ARDRECQUES & BANDRING- HEM to positions.	
7th M/Gun Coy	6. <sup>45</sup> <del>30</del> a.m.	ditto	Same route as 26th Bn. after passing Starting Point.	Moves in rear of 27th Bn.
28th Battalion	6.50 a.m.	ditto	After RENESCURE Church, same as for 26th Battalion.	

*to Deary*

*Appendix I*

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

September 3rd 1917.

OPERATION ORDER No. 121. CORRIGENDA.

Para 4. Line 4. Delete "12 noon" and substitute "11 a.m."

Barrage Table, Phase 11. Delete "2nd Zero Hour 12 noon" and substitute "2nd Zero Hour 11 a.m."

*A. J. Boase*

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Copy No. 25

September 6th 17.

ORDER No. 122.

Reference Sheet 27 S.W. 1/20,000 (E"Series)  
and attached sketch.

1. (a) The 2nd Australian Division has reached the dotted line shown in BLUE on attached sketch.  
(b) Enemy are holding FORET DE CLAIRMARAIS South East of this line by a series of small Strong Posts with stronger and better organized lines as shown in YELLOW and RED on sketch.

2. (a) At 2 p.m. on 6th inst., 2nd Australian Division will attack and capture three objectives. Attack will be carried out "leap-frog" fashion, as under :-

1st Objective (Continuous BLUE line in sketch)	5th A.I.Bde.
2nd Objective (YELLOW line)	6th A.I.Bde.
3rd Objective (RED line)	7th A.I.Bde.

(b) Brigade boundaries are shown in BLACK continuous line. Inter-battalion boundary in dotted BLACK line.

3. (a) 7th A.I. Brigade will attack on a two battalion front with 25th Battalion on the Right, and 26th Battalion on the Left.

(b) Each Battalion will attack on a two-company frontage with each company on a two-platoon frontage.

Front wave will be in two lines extended to five paces interval at 15 yards distance. These Companies will push out a screen of scouts extended to 25 yards interval.

Half-companies in rear will advance in line of section columns in single file, in such a way that a Right Form will bring platoons into a similar formation to the leading wave (in two lines). Distances of 15 yards between lines, and 50 yards between waves will be maintained.

(c) 27th and 28th Battalions will be in Support, and will move forward at same time as 25th and 26th Battalions, and form up in the following positions in the same formations as assaulting Battalions on reaching the South Eastern edge of the FORET :-

27th Bn. along edge of FORET with Left flank resting on Road Junction T.2.d.1.8.

28th Bn. along Road N.33.d.3.7.- Cross Road N.33.b.9.7

4. 25th Battalion will be responsible for direction.

5. (a) Assaulting Bns will make their own provision for mopping up.

(b) 25th Bn. will make special provision to ward off counter-attack from direction of ABBAYE DE WOESTINE.

- 2 -

6. Units will march to position of assembly independently, and will be formed up by 12.30 p.m. in attack formation with leading wave resting on road running North East through CARR. DU RESTAT. Right of 25th Battalion resting on CARR. DU RESTAT.
7. 2nd Australian Division Artillery Group consisting of 9 - 18 pndr batteries and 3 - 4.5" How. Batteries will cover the attack, as shown in attached barrage table.
8. 7th A.I. Bde will move forward from position of assembly at 2.45 p.m. to a position with leading wave just in rear of 1st Objective (continuous BLUE line). 25th and 26th Bn. will continue the advance from this line at 3.50 p.m. and will move forward into position close up to the Yellow barrage, moving from there with the barrage.
9. (i) 5th, 6th, & 22nd A.M. Gun Coys are supplying Vickers guns for barrage work.  
(ii) 7th A.M. Gun Coy will be mobile, and will assist the attack by covering fire.  
Positions will be taken up to deal with counter-attack, especially from the Right flank.
10. (i) O.C., 7th A.L.T.M. Bty will attach 2 guns to each of 25th and 26th Bns. to assist the advance.  
(ii) Battalions to which mortars are attached will provide carrying parties of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men per gun.  
(iii) 4 Mortars will be held in reserve at MOULIN PINTET, T.2.d.
11. (a) One WHITE Very light will be fired from each Company front on capture of RED line.  
(b) S.O.S. Signal will be three WHITE Very Lights fired laterally from Right to Left across front at intervals of 10 seconds.
12. Ammunition Supply, carrying parties, medical arrangements etc. will be dealt with in Administrative memo.
13. (i) Battalions will provide for liaison with units on flanks.  
(ii) Major F.R. CHALMERS, 27th Bn. will be Liaison Officer with 5th A.I. Brigade, and Major H.F. DARLING, D.S.O. 28th Bn. with 6th A.I. Bde.  
(iii) All Liaison Officers will report to units for duty 2 hours before ZERO and will rejoin their units on capture of YELLOW line.
14. (i) Signal arrangements are attached as an appendix.  
(ii) In addition to times laid down in above appendix, Units will each send a representative to Brigade H.Q. at 12.30 p.m. to synchronise watches.
15. Brigade H.Q. will be on Road at N.31.b.0.7.
16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. J. BOASE, Major,  
Brigade Major, 7th A.I. Brigade.

Issued to Sigs. 3 a.m.

Distribution as per separate sheet.

P.T.O.



Distribution.

1. 25th Bn.
2. 26th Bn.
3. 27th Bn.
4. 28th Bn.
5. 7th M/G Coy
6. 7th ALTMBty
7. G.O.C.
8. B.M.
9. S.C.
10. Brigade Sig. Off.
11. " Bomb "
12. " I.O.
13. 2nd Aust. Div.
14. " " "
15. 22nd M/Gun Coy
16. 5th A.I.Bde.
17. 6th A.I.Bde.
18. Major Chalmers.
19. Major Darling.DSO
20. Capt. Corney, M.C.
21. Lieut. Turner.
22. File
- 23, 24, 25. War Diary.
- 26/30 Spare.

Units will report to Brigade H.Q. immediately they are in position.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADESIGNAL INSTRUCTIONS for Divisional Exercise September 6th 1917

1. The exercise will take the form of an attack by three Brigades on a front of 1,200 yards, as laid down in 7th A.I. Brigade Training Order No. 122.
2. ZERO hour will be 2 p.m.
3. Watches will be synchronized with Divisional Signal Company at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., and with Battalions by D.R.
4. The 2nd Divisional Signal Company will maintain communication with Brigade H.Q. at N.31.b.0.7.
5. The 7th A.I. Brigade Signal Section will lay two metallic pairs working Fullerphone with D.111 superimposed as far as "Blue dotted line".  
Communication will be maintained with Battalion H.Q. via above route, until Battalion Commanders move to new positions, when communication will be through Battalion Forward Command Posts to Brigade Forward station at T.3.a.7.8.
6. Brigade Forward Station will be at T.3.a.7.8., Lieut. EATHER, 25th Battalion in charge.
7. "A" and "B" detachments of Brigade Forward station will be in position at Cable Head in Blue dotted line by 1.30 p.m. They will follow last move of their Brigade and establish Brigade Forward Station at T.3.a.7.8.  
Brigade Forward Party will follow routes already laid by preceding Brigades, establishing relay posts at Brigade Forward Stations of 5th and 6th Brigades.
8. Moving after last wave of attack, Battalion Forward Command Post parties will make for their own Forward Command Post and immediately commence getting into communication with Brigade Forward Station at T.3.a.7.8. in accordance with S.S. 148.
9. Power Buzzers will be allotted to 25th and 26th Battalions, and will work to amplifier at Brigade Forward Station.
10. A Forward Wireless Station will be established at N.23.Central, working to Directing Station at Divisional H.Q. at CARR. DU RESTAT, N. 31.A.
11. All Power Buzzer and Wireless messages will be in Code.
12. Pigeon baskets will be issued at the rate of one per Battalion.

95

7th AU STRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

September 6th 17.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM (To accompany 7th Brigade Order No.122.)

1. Water Carts and Cookers will accompany units. No other transport will be taken except such as may be required to carry Machine and Lewis Gun equipment.
2. Midday meal will be carried.
3. Dress - Fighting Order.
4. Brigade Dump will be established at T.2.d.1.8. Units will indent on this dump for all requirements in S.A.A., Bombs, and Stokes Mortar ammunition.  
A reserve of rations and water is also held at Brigade Dump.
5. The following carrying parties will be detailed to report to Capt. A.V. GALLASCH, Officer i/charge Brigade Dump, at the dump, at 2 p.m. on 6th inst.
  - (a) 2 platoons 28th Bn.
  - (b) Parties detailed from 25th and 26th Bns for carrying Stokes Mortar ammunition.  
Mukon Packs to be taken.
6. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.
  - (i) 27th and 28th Bns will each detail one platoon to report to Advanced Dressing Station at 1 p.m.
  - (ii) Advanced Dressing Station will be established at N.31.d.5.7. and on capture of YELLOW line will move to MOULIN PINTET.
  - (iii) Ambulance waggons will move in by road M.36.d.6.0 - N.31.d.9.3. thence out by CARR DU RESTAT.  
(NOTE - Above men will not report)
7. Battle Straggler Posts each of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men will be established by 28th Bn. as under :-
  - N.26.a.5.6. Road Junction CARR DU RESTAT, N.31.a.  
(NOTE - These men will not report)

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

ARTILLERY BARRAGE TABLE. To accompany Brigade Order No. 122.

(a) 18-pr. batteries: Creeping barrage.

Zero to zero plus 20 ... - T.2.a.6.5 - N.33.a.60.75.

Zero plus 20 to zero plus 50. Creep at rate of 100 yds every 5 min. to line T.2.d.5.5. - N.33.d.60.75 (Blue barrage)

Zero plus .50 to zero plus 80. Blue barrage (protective barrage for 1st objective)

Zero plus 80 to zero plus 100. Creep at rate of 100 yds every 5 min. to line T.9.a.20.95 - N.34.c.25.05 (Yellow barrage)

Zero plus 100 to zero plus 150. Yellow barrage (protective barrage for 2nd Objective)

Zero plus 130 to zero plus 150. Creep at rate of 100 yds every 5 min. to line T.9.a.65.35-T.9.b.6.9 - T.3.d.45.35 T.4.a.6.7. (Red barrage)

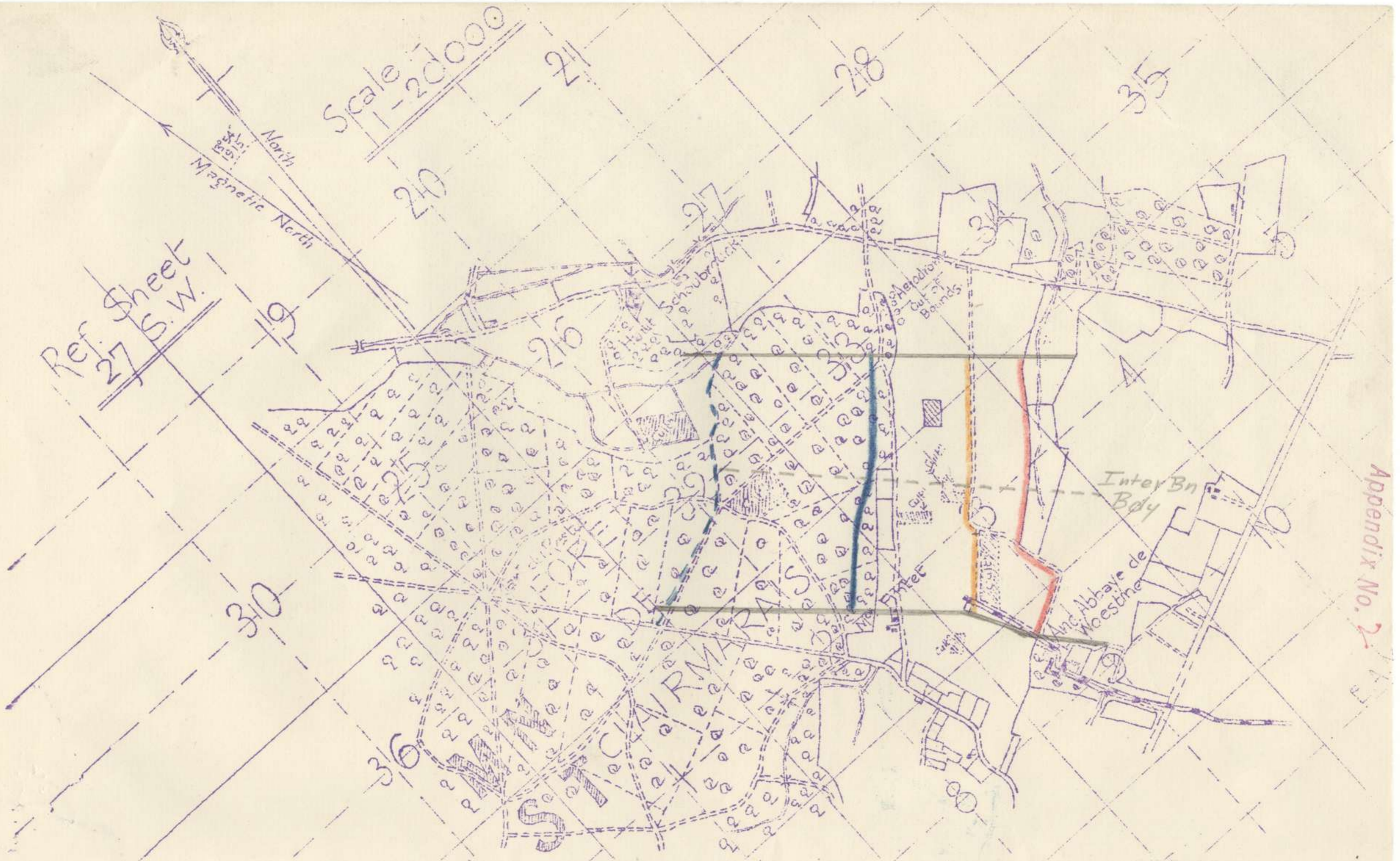
Zero plus 150 onwards ... Red barrage (final protective barrage)

(b) 4.5" Howitzer Batteries.

Zero to zero plus 100...  
1 battery right sub-group - ANC.ABBATE DE JOESTINE.  
2 batteries left sub-group- Search the valley running through T.3.d.& b. & T.4.a.

Zero plus 100 onwards.  
All batteries search the area along the road from T.9.d.1.4. to T.11.a.8.9.

-----



*W. D. Dean*

SECRET.

Copy No. 18

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Training Order No. 123

10th September 1917.

Reference: Sheet 27. S.W. 1/20,000

- (1) (a) Enemy are holding general line T.3.d.2.0. to N.32.d.5.0. with a line of posts. In rear there are two lines of mutually supporting Strong Points approximately on the lines T.3.b.9.2. - N.33.d.2.6. and line of road North West through N.34.c. and a. (as marked on ground Table of Conventional markings attached)
- (b) 2nd. Aust. Division have reached the line T.9.a.6.4. - T.3.c.3.4. - T.2.d.7.8. - Cross Roads N.31.d.9.2.
- (c) 1st Aust. Division is on right of 2nd. Aust. Div.
- (2) At 2 p.m. 11th instant 1st ANZAC Corps will attack the line of road from CHAU. VIRNOT through T.5.c. - T.4.d. and b. - N.34.c. and a. to N.27.d.8.7.
- (3) Boundaries for 7th A.I.Bde. are :-
- Bde. Right Boundary:- T.3.c.5.0. - T.3.d.1.5. - thence along line of fence to road at N.34.c.95.25.
- Bde. Left Boundary :- T.2.d.8.6. - N.34.a.3.1. (approx)
- (4) (a) 1st, 2nd and 3rd Objectives of 7th A.I.Bde are the three lines of Strong Posts in the order mentioned in para 1 (a) above.
- (b) The 7th A.I.Bde. will attack "leap frog" fashion on a One Battalion front as under :-
- |          |           |                |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
| 25th Bn. | will take | 1st Objective. |
| 27th Bn. | " "       | 2nd "          |
| 28th Bn. | " "       | 3rd "          |
| 26th Bn. | " "       |                |
- 26th Battalion will follow in rear of 28th Battalion and will be prepared to form a defensive flank on the right in case of the non-success of 3rd A.I.Bde.
- (c), Each Battalion will attack on a four company frontage with each Company on a one platoon frontage. Leading wave of each Battalion will be in two extended lines at 15 yards distance between lines. 2nd Platoon in rear will advance inline of columns of Sections in single file. The flank Section of each Platoon being echeloned to the rear. The 3rd Platoon (Moppers Up) will be extended in normal formation. The 4th Platoon (carriers) similar formation to the Second.
- Distances of 15 yards between lines and 30 yards between waves will be maintained.

(2)

- (5) MOPPERS UP. Moppers Up will be supplied from the Third Platoon in each Company and will be responsible for cleaning up the area within the limits of their company frontages.  
 25th Bn. will be responsible for "Mopping Up" area between Jumping Off line and 1st Objective  
 27th Bn. between 1st and 2nd Objectives.  
 28th Bn. between 2nd and 3rd Objectives.  
 Parties will be specially detailed to Mop Up all known Strong Points.
- (6) Units will move to position of assembly and 25th Bn. will be formed up on Jumping Off line T.9.a.5.9. - T.2.d.7.6: by 1.30 p.m.  
 Remaining Battalions will rendezvous at 1.30 p.m. (except 26th Bn. who will rendezvous at 2.30 p.m.) as under and will form up on Jumping Off line as soon as preceding Battalion clears it :-  
 27th Bn. in open space in T.8.b: between road from T.8.b.4.0. to T.8.b.6.4. and line T.8.b.8.2. - T.8.b.7.6.  
 28th Bn. along road from T.2.d.3.3. to T.2.b.6.2.  
 26th Bn. along approx. North and South Road in T.8.b.
- (7) CONSOLIDATION. Battalions will detail garrisons and parties for consolidation of objective beforehand.  
 Remainder of assaulting troops on capture of objective will be disposed suitably as supports to resist counter-attack.  
 Any tactical points in front of objective and within the limits of our barrage, are to be occupied by posts to cover consolidation. These posts must be strong enough to put up a fierce resistance, and where possible should not be less than a platoon in strength.
- (8) Barrage will be represented by horseman, and will commence to move forward at ZERO plus 4 from a line 150 yards in front of the Jumping Off line, proceeding at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes for the first two lifts; then at the rate of 100 yards in 6 minutes to first objective, where it forms a protective barrage for 15 minutes, 200 yards beyond.  
 From first objective, barrage moves on at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes, and then forms a protective barrage for 30 minutes 200 yards beyond 2nd objective. Barrage then moves on to 3rd objective at the rate of 100 yards in 10 minutes.
- (9) (a) 6th and 22nd A. Machine Gun Companies have been detailed to cover the advance by a machine gun barrage, and will lay out S.O.S. lines on capture of each objective.  
 (b) 7th A. Machine Gun Company (less 3 guns which will be allotted special tasks) will be mobile, and will assist the attack by covering fire.  
 (c) O.C. 7th A. Machine Gun Company will make provision to cover the flanks of the attack in case of the non-success of units on either side, and also assist in consolidation of objectives as they are captured.

95

(3)

10. TRENCH MORTARS.

- (i) O.C., 7th A.L.T.M. Battery will attach 2 guns to each of the 25th, 27th, and 28th Bns.  
 (ii) Two guns will be held in Brigade Reserve, and from ZERO - 8 to ZERO plus 2 minutes will deal with Strong Post at T.3.d.3.0.  
 (iii) Battalions to which mortars are attached will detail carrying parties at the rate of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men per gun.

## 11. (i) SUCCESS SIGNALS will be as follows :

- (a) 1st Objective ~ 1 White Very light fired inwards on each Company front.  
 (b) 2nd Objective ~ Pair of White Very lights fired as in (a)  
 (ii) S.O.S. Signal will be 3 White Very lights at intervals of 10 seconds, fired towards rear.

## 12. Battalions will arrange for liaison with units on their flanks.

13. (i) Ammunition and Supplies, Medical arrangements, carrying parties etc. will be dealt with in a separate administrative memo.  
 (ii) Signal instructions will be issued later.

## 14. Units will synchronize watches with Brigade Signals at 10 a.m. 11th inst. and again with the Brigade Major at 1.30 p.m. at MOULIN PINTET.

## 15. Brigade H.Q. for the exercise will be at road junction at T.2.d.3.3.

## 16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. J. BOASE,  
 Major, Brigade Major,  
 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

Issued to Signals at 9.30pm

- Copies to
- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. 25th Bn.           | 16. G.O.C.          |
| 2. 26th Bn.           | 17. File.           |
| 3. 27th Bn.           | 18 to 20 War Diary. |
| 4. 28th Bn.           | 21 to 24 Spare.     |
| 5. 7th M/G Coy        |                     |
| 6. 7th ALTMB.         |                     |
| 7. B.M.               |                     |
| 8. S.C.               |                     |
| 9. Bde Bomb Off.      |                     |
| 10. " Sig. "          |                     |
| 11. " I.I.O.          |                     |
| 12. B.T.O.            |                     |
| 13. Capt. Corney, MC. |                     |
| 14. 2nd Aust. Div.    |                     |
| 15. " " "             |                     |



## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS to accompany Brigade Order No. 123.

1. AMMUNITION.

Divisional Dump is situated at T.13.b.4.2.

Brigade Dump is at T.14.a.5.9. in charge of Captain A.V. GALLASCH.

Advanced Brigade Dump is at T.8.d.4.6. in charge of an officer detailed by 28th Battalion.

B.A.C. is at T.18.d.6.8.

"A" Echelon of 1st line transport will report to Captain LITTLE, Brigade Transport Officer on road running through S.18.b.; T.13.a. Head of column at T.13.a.9.5.

Pack horses saddled and ready for carrying will report to Captain LITTLE at the head of "A" Echelon.

2. WATER & RATIONS.

1,000 emergency rations will be at Brigade Dump at T.14.a.5.9.

3. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

M.O's

Advanced Dressing Station is at T.8.b.4.0. will report location of R.A.P's 1 hour before ZERO

4. CARRYING PARTIES.

25th and 27th Bns will each detail 1 platoon to report to O.C., 7th A.L.F.M.Bty to carry Stokes bombs, at 1 hour before ZERO, at T.2.d.3.3.

28th and 26th Bns will detail 1 platoon each to report to Captain GALLASCH at Brigade Dump at T.14.a.5.9. 1 hour before ZERO.

YUKON Packs complete will be carried by the Carrying parties.

5. BATTLE STRAGGLER POSTS.

Posts will be established at T.8.d.5.7, T.9.d.1.5. 26th and 28th Bns will detail I.N.C.O. and 5 men for these posts respectively.

Distribution as for  
Brigade Order No. 123  
of 10/9/17.

PTO

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SIGNAL ARRANGEMENTS (To accompany Brigade Order No. 123.)

1. Instructions laid down in S.S. 148 (Signal Communications in the Attack) will be strictly adhered to.
2. Brigade Forward Signal party will move forward (under 2nd Lieut. RUSHTON, 27th Battalion) at ZERO plus 8 minutes, and will be *finally* established at approx. N.34.c.7.8.  
Stations for the transmission of messages to Advanced Brigade H.Q. (T.2.d.3.3.) will be established in each objective as captured. These stations, which will be subsequently manned as relay posts for linesmen and runners, will (after the attack) be available for the transmission of messages only in the case of emergency.
3. Central Visual Brigade Station will be approx. T.9.a.9.8. and effort must be made to get in touch with this point.

INSTRUCTIONS.

- (a) Two signallers (linesmen) and four runners per Battalion will report at 1 p.m. to Brigade Signal Section at Brigade H.Q. (T.2.d.3.3)
- (b) 2nd Lieut. RUSHTON, 27th Battalion, will be in charge of Brigade Forward Station (Detachment "A") and will report to Brigade H.Q. at T.2.d.3.3. at 1 p.m.

Distribution as for  
 Brigade Order No.123  
 of 10/9/17.  
 No.25. 2/Lt.RUSHTON, 27th Bn.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

App III

Sept. 11th 17.

AMENDMENT to Brigade Order No. 183 of 10/9/1917.

Reference ADMINISTERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. Delete para 4, and substitute the following :-

4. CARRYING PARTIES.

1 N.C.O. and 10 men from each of the 25th, 27th, and 28th Bns will report to C.O., 7th A.L.T.M. Battery to carry Stokes Bombs at 1 hour before ZERO at T.3.d.3.3.

25th Bn. will detail 2 platoons to report to Captain A.V. GALLAGHER to Brigade Dump at T.14.a.5.9. 1 hour before ZERO.

YUKON pack complete will be carried by the Carrying parties.

A.J. BOASE, Major,  
Brigade Major, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.

Copy No. 14

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADEOrder No. 124.

Sept. 11th 1917

Reference HAZEBROUCK 5 A, 1/100,000,  
Sheet 28, 1/40,000.

1. 7th A.I. Brigade Group (less 7th Field Coy, A.E. and 17th A.A.S.C.) will move in accordance with attached March Table.
2. Details for Divisional Reinforcement Camp will rendezvous on main CASSEL Road opposite CHATEAU VIRNOT T.I.I.a. where the senior representative of each unit will report to Major A. BROWN, D.S.O., M.C., 28th Bn. who will take charge of the whole party, and move them to the Divisional Reinforcement Camp at CAESTRE.
3. DRESS - Marching order with hats.
4. After 10 a.m. halts will be made for the last ten minutes of each clock hour.  
The column will halt from 12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch.
5. (a) Adjutants and Quartermasters will proceed ahead of their units after the luncheon halt, in sufficient time to ascertain billeting arrangements, and meet their units before they reach the billeting area.  
(b) Guides from billeting parties will meet units at corner Q.I.a.9.2. between PANSGAT and STEENMOORDE.
6. Administrative instructions are being issued separately.
7. Brigade H.Q. will close at RENESCURE at 8 a.m. and re-open on arrival at STEENMOORDE. Reports in interim, to centre of column.
8. Acknowledge.

*A. J. Boase*

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Sigs at 10 p.m.

Copies to :-

1. 25th Bn.	10. G.O.C.
2. 26th Bn.	11. B.M.
3. 27th Bn.	12. S.C.
4. 28th Bn.	13. B.T.O.
5. 7th A.L.T.M. Bty	14. Area Commdt, Steenvoc
6. 7th M/G Coy	15. " " Renescur
7. 7th Field Amb.	16. File
8. 2nd Aust. Div.	17. War Diary
9. " " "	18. " "
	19/20 Spare.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MARCH TABLE to accompany 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 124.

Unit	Date	From	To	Route	Route	Remarks.
	1917					
26th Bn.	Sept. 12.	RENESCURE Area	STEENVOORDE Area	STAPLE-HONDGHEM-	St. SYLVESTRE.	Pass Road Junction one mile West of STAPLE at 9 a.m.
27th Bn.	"	"	"	"	"	Pass above point at 9.10 a.m.
28th Bn.	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.20 a.m.
Bde H.Q. ) No. 4 Sig Sec. )	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.30 a.m.
7th ALTMB. ) 7th M/G Coy )	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.32 a.m.
25th Bn.	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.40 a.m.
7th Field Amb.	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.50 a.m.
Brigade Details ) for Div. Rein- ) forcement Camp )	"	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.55 a.m. Details move direct to CAESTRE on passing LONGUE CROIX.

Appendix No. 4

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.  
-----

11th September 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS to accompany Bde. Order No. 124.

1. BILLETING. Billeting parties will report to Staff Captain at Town Major's office, Rue Carnot STEENVOORDE at 8.30 a.m. on the 12th instant.  

In regard to the move on the 13th inst. to forward area, this Brigade will be billeted at HALIFAX Camp H.14.c.7.8.
2. STORES. All packs, blankets and surplus stores will be dumped in STEENVOORDE by 13th instant and a guard detailed as follows left in charge -  

1 Sgt and 1 man                                26th Bn.  
1 man from each of the other Bns.

The Brigade Dump is at the Gasworks in Rue Carnot.  
Space will be allotted to Units by the Staff Captain on the 12th instant.
3. TENTAGE. All tents will be struck, rolled complete and handed over to the representative of the area Commandant at RENESCURE before leaving.  

Receipts will be obtained in triplicate, two copies being sent to Bde. H.Q. by 8 p.m. on 12th instant.
4. CLAIMS. Receipts will be obtained from owners of all billets that no damage has been done whilst occupied by the troops, and where receipts cannot be made every effort is to be made to settle claims prior to leaving the area.  

G.R.O. No. 1146 to be complied with.
5. AMMUNITION. Units will move with echelons complete - Unexpended ammunition will be dumped at Div. H.Q., before leaving.
6. ORDNANCE. Ordnance will close at RENESCURE at 6 p.m. on 11th inst. and open at 9 a.m. 13th inst. at Sheet 28., G.34.d.2.8.
7. CANTEEN The Divisional Canteen will close at RENESCURE at 8 p.m. on 11th inst and open at H.22.b.8.2. Sheet 28 N.W. at 9 a.m. on 13th inst.
8. BILLETS. Attention is drawn to para in Divisional Administrative Memo 173.
9. SALVAGE. All salvage will be collected in a central dump at Bde H.Q., RENESCURE and a list sent to Bde.

PTO

(2)

10. SUPPLIES Supplies for the 13th inst. will be carried in the supply wagons and delivered to Units on arrival at STEENVOORDE. Units will arrange for guides to meet the wagons.  
Supplies for 14th instant will be carried in Supply wagons.  
Refilling point will be H.22.d.9.5. (sheet 28).
11. TRANSPORT. Two motor lorries per Battalion will report to Units at 5.30 a.m. on 12th instant.  
Baggage wagons will report to Units to-night.
12. IRON RATIONS. Iron rations will be carried in bulk on the motor lorries and left in them on night of 12th instant., proceeding on 13th inst to forward area.
13. REINFORCEMENT CAMP. Troops proceeding to Reinforcement Camp will be rationed by Units to <sup>the</sup> night of 13th inst.
14. SANITATION. All Latrines other than fly-proof will be filled in prior to vacating the area and sites marked.
15. ABSENTEES. Units will render to Bde. H.Q., by 4 p.m. daily from 12th inst. to 18th instant inclusive a return of all absentees.

*G. H. Harrison Capt.*

Captain, Staff Captain.  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

*War Diary*

*App. 5*

SECRET.

Copy No. *20*

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 125.

September 12th 1917.

Reference Sheets 27 & 28, 1/40,000.  
HAZELBOUCK 5A, 1/100,000.

1. 7th A.I. Brigade Group (less 7th Field Coy A.E.) will move to HALIFAX Area on 13th inst. in accordance with attached march table.
2. Halts will be made for the last ten minutes of each clock hour.
3. DRESS - marching order.
4. Distances of 200 yards between Battalions, and 100 yards between smaller unit groups will be maintained.
5. Advance parties from units will report to Staff Captain at HALIFAX CAMP H.14.c.7.8. (sheet 28) (HAZELBOUCK map Square J.2., 300 yards due south of G. in GROOTE KEMMELBEEK) at 10 a.m. for allotment of accommodation.
6. (a) 7th Field Ambulance will detail wagons to follow in rear of the column to pick up casualties.  
(b) A motor ambulance wagon will collect sick from Headquarters of units before 8 a.m.
7. Attention is drawn to para 2 of Administrative Instructions issued with Brigade Order No. 124.
8. Battalions will each detail one guide to report at S.W. corner of Square, STEENVOORDE, at 7 a.m. 13th inst. to an officer to be detailed from 27th Battalion to guide motor lorries to Battalions. One lorry is allotted to 26th & 27th Battalions, and one to 25th & 26th Battalions.
9. Brigade H.Q. will close at STEENVOORDE at 7.30 a.m. 13th inst.
10. Acknowledge.

A.J. BOASE, Major,  
Brigade Major, 7th Australian Infantry Bde.

Issued to Signals at

- Copies to :
- |                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 25th Bn.       | 12. B.M.                     |
| 2. 26th Bn.       | 13. S.C.                     |
| 3. 27th Bn.       | 14. B.T.O.                   |
| 4. 28th Bn.       | 15. Brig. Sig. Officer.      |
| 5. 7th A.M.G. Coy | 16. Capt. Gallasch,          |
| 6. 7th ALMBty     | 17. Area Commdt. Steenvoorde |
| 7. 7th Field Amb. | 18. Camp " Halifax Camp      |
| 8. 17th A.A.S.C.  | 19. File.                    |
| 9. 2nd Aust. Div. | 20/21 War Diary              |
| 10. " " "         | 22/24 Spare.                 |
| 11. G.O.C.        |                              |



7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MARCH TABLE to accompany Brigade Order No. 125.

Unit	Date	From	To	Route	Remarks.
27th Bn.	1917 Sept. 13th	STEENVOORDE Area	HALIFAX CAMP (H.14.c. Sheet 28, 1/40,000.	ABELLE-RENINGHELST OUDERDOM.	Pass Cross Roads in K.35.d. (Sheet 27 - Crossing of CASSEL-POPERINGHE and GODEWAERSVELDE-WATOU Roads) at 8.45 a.m.
28th Bn.	"	"	"	"	Pass above point at 8.57 a.m.
25th Bn.	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.9 a.m.
Bde H.Q. ) No.4.Sig.Sec )	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.21 a.m.
7th A.L.F.M.Bty ) 7th A.M.Gun.Coy )	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.24 a.m.
26th Bn.	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.35 a.m.
17th A.A.S.C.	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.47 a.m.
7th Field Amb.	"	"	"	"	" " " 9.55 a.m.

Appendix No. 5

*War Diary*

App 6

Copy No. 20.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Order No. 126.

Sept. 14th 1917.

Reference Maps - Sheets 28 N.W. & N.E. 1/20,000.  
Sheet HOOGE, 1/10,000.

1. 2nd Australian Division (less Artillery) is relieving the 47th Division in the Left sector of the line now held by that Division, between 16th and 18th September. The 6th A.I. Brigade is relieving the 141st Brigade, which is now holding this sector.

2. Boundaries of sector are as follows :-

On South (between 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions) J.8.d.5.5. - J.7.d.9.2. - North of HOOGE Crater to I.17.c.1.8. North of HALFWAY HOUSE - I.16.d.30.25 - South side of WARRINGTON Road to I.20.b.0.9. to SHRAPNEL Corner - along North side of road through I.19.d.3.3. to I.19.c.3.0. - I.19.c.0.0. - I.19.a.0.0. - thence along co-ordinate lines to H.23.a.0.0. - H.23.c.0.0. - H.21.c.0.0. - H.21.a.0.0. - along North side of road to H.26.a.00.85.

On North (between 2nd Australian Division and 9th Division) as shown on map WESTHOEK previously issued to units.

3. (a) The 25th and 27th Battalions are placed at the disposal of G.O.C. 6th A.I. Brigade, under whose orders they will be for and after the move.

(b) The O.C., 7th A.M.G. Coy will detail one section of 7th A.M.G. Coy to provide mobile guns for 6th A.I. Brigade. Section Commander of the above section will report to 6th A.I. Brigade H.Q. for instructions as soon as possible.

4. Consequent on the relief, moves of 7th A.I. Brigade units will take place as in the attached table.

5. Following distances will be maintained on the march during the move :-

500 yards between Battalions and other units.  
200 yards between transport of units.  
100 yards between Companies.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A.J. BOASE

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at *7 pm*

Copies to :

1. 25th Bn.	11. 2nd Aust. Div (G)
2. 26th Bn.	12. " " " (Q)
3. 27th Bn.	13. 6th A.I. Bde.
4. 28th Bn.	14. 5th A.I. Bde.
5. 7th M/G Coy	15. Camp Commdt. Halifax Camp.
6. 7th ALTMB.	16. B.T.O.
7. G.O.C.	17. File
8. B.M.	18 to 20 War Diary
9. S.C.	21 to 24 Spare.
10. Capt. GALLASCH.	

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY B RIGADE

MOVE TABLE to accompany Brigade Order No. 126.

Date	Unit	From	To	Route	Remarks
1917. 17th Sept.	27th Bn.	HALIFAX AREA	YPRES (Ramparts)	March via KRUISTRAAT and LILLE GATE.	Move under orders of G.O.C. 6th A.I.Bde.
"	Half 25th Bn.	"	"	YPRES (Espla- nade Saps)	ditto Not to arrive before 1.30 pm
Night 17/18 Sept.	Half 25th Bn.	"	"	BELLE-AARDE RIDGE	DITTO Move under orders of G.O.C. 6th A.I.Bde. Relief to be complete by 6 a.m.
18th Sept.	26th Bn.	"	"	CANAL & PIONEER Area (Take over 19th Bn. Camp)	ditto Not to arrive before 12 noon. Advance parties to be sent to 5th A.I.Bde H.Q. Chateau Belge, H.23.b. to take over by 9 a.m. 18th inst.

NOTE. 1 Section 7th A.M.G. Company to move according to instructions of 6th A.I. Brigade.

Appendix No. 6

APP 7

Copy No. 32

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

September 15th 1917.

## OPERATIONS - PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Reference Maps : HOOGE 1/10,000.  
Sheet 23, 1/40,000.

1. The 1st Anzac Corps in conjunction with the Corps on the North and South will advance their fronts on a date to be notified later.

On the 1st Anzac Corps front the attack will be carried out by the 1st Australian Division on the Right, and the 2nd Australian Division on the Left.

2. BOUNDARIES.

(a) Maps of Divisional and Brigade boundaries and objectives have already been issued to units.

(b) The Right Divisional boundary has since been amended as follows :-

From J.8.c.5.5. boundary now goes to J.7.d.9.2. thence along road to HOOGE, and then as before.

3. The 2nd Australian Division will attack on a two-Brigade frontage. The 7th A.I. Brigade on the Right, and the 5th A.I. Brigade on the Left. The 6th A.I. Brigade will be in reserve.

The 3rd A.I. Brigade is attacking on the Right of the 7th A.I. Brigade.

4. OBJECTIVES.

There will be three stages in the operation, each stage forming one objective, namely :-

(a) RED LINE OBJECTIVE - capture of the old gunpit positions in J.8.b. - North of NONNE BOSSCHEN - J.8.b.8.7. J.2.d.45.10 - Northward to J.2.central.

(b) BLUE LINE OBJECTIVE. - capture of the line J.9.a.68.00 to J.9.a.68.55 to J.3.c.53.00, East side of ALBERT and IRON CROSS REDOUBTS to J.3.c.42.84. to the East side of ANZAC HOUSE, to J.3.a.10.73.

(c) GREEN LINE OBJECTIVE. Road and edge of wood at J.9.b.2.6. to J.3.d.2.0. to J.3.d.0.6. to J.3.a.75.20 to J.3.a.5.5. to J.3.a.2.8.

(d) Battalions will be allotted to objectives within the limit of the Brigade boundaries as under :-

(i) RED LINE - 25th Battalion.

(ii) BLUE LINE - 27th Battalion.

(iii) GREEN LINE - 28th Battalion.

26th Battalion in close support of 28th Battalion.

- 2 -

(e) Troops will consolidate on the GREEN LINE under cover of the barrage. Subsequently barrage will be moved forward and outposts will be established.

5.

BARRAGE S.Artillery.

(1) Barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of the infantry jumping off line at ZERO. Infantry will move up close under barrage at ZERO, and barrage will not move forward until ZERO plus 3 minutes.

At ZERO plus 3 minutes the barrage will advance for 200 yards at the rate of 100 yards in 4 minutes.

(2) Thereafter and up to the RED LINE the barrage will advance at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes.

(3) The bar rage will halt in front of the RED LINE for three quarters of an hour.

(4) Thereafter and up to the BLUE LINE the barrage will move forward at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes.

(5) In front of the BLUE LINE the barrage will halt for 2 hours.

(6) From the BLUE LINE forward the barrage will move at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes.

(7) The final protective barrage will be put down 200 yards in advance of the GREEN LINE.

(8) The protective barrages on the RED, BLUE and GREEN LINES respectively will contain a proportion of smoke to indicate to the troops that the several objectives have been reached.

(9) S.O.S. lines for the 3rd objective will be approximately parallel to and 200 yards beyond the GREEN LINE.

Machine Gun.

Machine Gun barrages will be arranged to move forward in conjunction with the artillery barrages and beyond them, and also to form S.O.S. barrages.

7th A.M. Gun Coy will be mobile, and will be under the direct orders of the G.O.C., 7th A.I. Brigade.

Detailed machine gun instructions have been issued separately.

The section of 7th A.M. Gun Coy detailed to supply mobile guns for 6th A.I. Brigade will rejoin their Company on the 7th A.I. Brigade going into the line.

- 3 -

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR GUIDING TROOPS AND KEEPING DIRECTION.

(a) During the few days prior to the attack, Battalion, Company and Unit guides will be trained to the ground. All officers will reconnoitre the approaches as well as the front.

(b) Routes will be marked by signs, and if possible, arrangements will be made for lamps.

(c) It is suggested that on the afternoon previous to the attack, Battalions should send forward small parties along the tracks which will be used for moving on to the "jumping off" position, so that the ground is trodden down and an unmistakable "pad" formed.

(d) During the attack, direction will be maintained by special parties from each Battalion, each under an officer working by compass bearing.

(e) If sufficient tape is available a line will be laid by a party following the centre of each Battalion.

Routes will be the same for carriers and runners as far as possible, and will be marked by white sign boards.

(f) To avoid loss of touch with the units on the flanks, it has been arranged to meet special parties from the 3rd and 5th A.I. Brigades at the following places :-

(a) On the Right.

1. Strong Point at J.8.b.75.00.
2. Road Junction at J.9.a.55.30.
3. Road Junction at J.9.b.2.5.

(b) On the Left

1. J.8.b.4.9. (bend of road)
2. J.3.c.4.4. (on road East of IRON CROSS REDOUBT)
3. J.3.c.85.55 (North end of JACOBUS REDOUBT)

25th Battalion will arrange to provide parties in (a.1) and (b.1).

27th Battalion will arrange to provide parties in (a.2) and (b.2).

28th Battalion will arrange to provide parties in (a.3) and (b.3)

7. FORMATIONS.

25th, 27th, and 28th Battalions will attack their objectives on a four-company frontage, each company on a one-platoon frontage.

First wave will consist of leading platoons in normal formation for trench to trench attack, with 15 yards distance between lines.

Second wave - in line of section columns in single file, flank sections of each platoon being echeloned to rear.

Third wave (Moppers up) - normal formation for trench to trench attack.

- 4 -

Fourth wave (Carriers) - same formation as second wave.

Distance between waves 30 yards clear.

26th Battalion on a 4-company frontage, each company on a one-platoon frontage. Waves in lines of section columns in single file.

Battalions will at all times be prepared to form a defensive flank on either side, in case of the non-success of units on either right or left.

8.

#### JUMPING OFF POSITION.

It is proposed to assemble the 25th and 27th Battalions on their jumping off lines East of WESTHOEK RIDGE, and the 28th Battalion just West of Ridge. 26th Battalion just W.S.W. of BELLEWAARDE LAKE.

Battalion Commanders will reconnoitre proposed positions and submit report to G.O.C. as soon as possible.

When finally decided upon, each Battalion position will be taped and cross-taped so as to indicate direction of the advance.

Battalions will at once put in hand the matter of training guides to lead their Battalions to the jumping off position or place of assembly.

Battalions will also arrange to peg out routes leading to their positions of assembly.

Great care should be taken to do this as unostentatiously as possible, so as not to give the enemy a hint of what is to happen.

Each Battalion will be in position two hours before ZERO.

9.

#### HEADQUARTERS.

Divisional H.Q. will be at HORSESHOE CAMP G.28.a.

Advanced Divisional H.Q. will be at H.27.b. North of DICKIEBUSCH.

Brigade H.Q. for both 5th and 7th A.I. Brigades will be in dugouts at I.12.c.3.5. with overflow at I.11.d.4.5.

Advanced Brigade H.Q. will be approximately J.7.d.9.8. (CABLE HEAD)

H.Q. of 3rd A.I. Brigade immediately on our Right will be at I.18.b.2.6.

Battle H.Q. of Battalions will be in the vicinity of J.8.c.1.8. As objectives are gained, Battle H.Q. will be as follows :-

25th Battalion	J.8.b.70.30.
27th "	ALBERT REDOUBT.
26th "	J.3.c.85.40.
28th "	J.9.a.85.60.

- 5 -

10. COMMUNICATIONS.

Copy of Signal Communications Nos. 1 & 2 issued by General Staff of Division have already been forwarded to Battalions. Brigade Signal Instructions will be issued separately.

11. LIAISON.

Each Battalion will detail two officers for liaison duties - one with each of the cor responding Battalions on its flanks.

Captain A. LENNON, M.C., 25th Battalion, will be Brigade Liaison Officer with the 3rd A.I. Brigade on our Right.

Captain J. ROYDHOUSE, 28th Battalion will be Brigade Liaison Officer with 5th A.I. Brigade on our Left.

All liaison officers will report to units or formations to which they are attached, at least two hours before ZERO.

12. MOPPING UP.

(a) Battalions will be responsible for mopping up areas as under :-

25th Battalion between Jumping Off line and RED LINE within the Brigade boundaries.

27th Battalion between RED LINE and BLUE LINE within Brigade boundaries.

28th Battalion from BLUE LINE to GREEN LINE within Brigade boundaries.

(b) In addition to the general mopping up scheme, special parties are to be detailed to clean up special strong points or any other places which it is expected may prove difficult to clean up.

Special provision should be made to provide "mopping up" parties with prepared Stokes bombs, smoke bombs, or other equipment which may be required to deal with the special positions to be met with.

13. DUMPS. Brigade Main Dump will be at J.7.b.80.30. On gaining first objective it is proposed to establish a dump at J.8.b.80.40 and on gaining second objective, at J.9.a.60.90.14. MEDICAL.

Evacuation of wounded will be via the MENIN ROAD to Advanced Dressing Station near the School (I.9.c.)

Stretcher Bearers. Battalion quotas will be increased to 48 per Battalion.

15. S.O.S. Each Battalion on gaining its objective will establish an S.O.S. station so that when the final objective is gained, there will be a chain of these posts back from the front line, to repeat any S.O.S. Signals which might otherwise not be seen owing to fog or dust and smoke of barrage.



- 6 -

RED Ground Flares will be used for indicating the positions gained, to contact aeroplanes. These flares will be lighted when called for by KLAXON horn or Very light from the contact aeroplane or at certain fixed hours which may be laid down previously in orders.

It should be impressed on all ranks that it is most important that these flares be lit when called for, so that the exact position of units may be noted; otherwise, in case the operation is not fully successful, and counter-attacks materialize, our artillery may unwittingly put down a barrage on some of our own posts.

16. PRISONERS OF WAR.

Units will arrange to take every precaution to prevent officers or other ranks going into action with letters, documents, or maps which would be of value to the enemy if captured.

All ranks are to be warned that if any man has the misfortune to be taken prisoner, he should give only his number, rank, and name, and no other information.

17. RELIEFS.

The 25th Battalion will probably take over from the two companies of the 6th A.I. Brigade covering the front line in our sector, on the night before ZERO night, so that they may carry out active patrolling and make final arrangements for covering their forming up on the jumping off line.

A.J. BOASE, Major,  
Brigade Major, 7th Australian Inf. Brigade.

Appendix No. 7

Distribution :-

- Copy No. 1. 25th Bn.  
2. 26th Bn.  
3. 27th Bn.  
4. 28th Bn.  
5. 7th M. Gun Coy.  
6. 7th A.L.T.M. Btty.  
7/8 War Diary.  
9. File.  
10. G.O.C.  
11. Staff Capt.  
12. B.M.  
13. Bde. Sig. Officer.  
14. Bde. I.O.  
15. Bde. T.O.  
16. Bde. Bomb Officer.  
17. 17th A.A.S.C.  
18. (3rd A.I. Bde) → 11<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde.  
19. 5th A.I. Bde.  
20. 6th A.I. Bde.  
21. (Capt. LENNON, MC) → 9<sup>th</sup> A.I. Bde  
22. Capt. ROYDHOUSE, MC.  
23. C.R.A.  
24. G.P.E.  
25. A.D.M.S.  
26. 7th Field Coy A.E.  
27. 2nd. Aust. Div. "G"  
28. -do- "C"  
29/30. Spare. 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.  
30 - 35 Spare.

SECRET.App 8  
Copy No. 87th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.ORDER No. 127.

September 17th 1917.

Reference maps : WESTHOEK 1/10,000.  
Sheets 28 N.W. & N.E. 1/20,000.

1. The 1st Anzac Corps in conjunction with the Corps on the North and South will attack on a date to be notified later.  
On the 1st Anzac Corps front the attack will be carried out with the 1st Australian Division on the Right, and the 2nd Australian Division on the Left.  
The 4th and 5th Australian Divisions will be in Corps Reserve.
2. The 2nd Australian Division will attack on a two-Brigade frontage. The 7th Australian Infantry Brigade on the Right, and 5th Australian Infantry Brigade on the Left.  
The 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade is attacking on the Right of the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.
3. Boundaries as in Preliminary Instructions No.1.

4. OBJECTIVES.

Para 4 of Preliminary Instructions No.1. is cancelled, and the following substituted.

There will be three stages in the attack, each stage forming one objective viz.,

(a) RED LINE (First) OBJECTIVE which includes the capture of line of old gun positions in J.8.b. thence through J.8.b.6.7. along Eastern edge of HANEBEEK WOOD to J.2.b.20.15.

(b) BLUE LINE (Second) OBJECTIVE which includes the capture of Northern edge of POLYGOONEVELD at point J.9.a.7.3. Eastwards of ALBERT and IRON CROSS REDOUBTS to J.3.c.5.5 - J.3.c.40.85 - East side of ANZAC - J.3.a.10.75.

(c) GREEN LINE (Third) OBJECTIVE, which includes the capture of road junction at point J.9.b.20.55, J.3.d.2.0. - J.3.d.0.6 - J.3.a.75.20 - J.3.a.5.5. - J.3.a.2.8

5. METHOD OF ATTACK.

The attack will be carried out "leap frog" fashion. Battalions are allotted objectives within the limits of the Brigade flank boundaries as under:

- |                |   |   |                                  |
|----------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| (a) RED LINE   | - | - | 25th Battalion.                  |
| (b) BLUE LINE  | - | - | 27th "                           |
| (c) GREEN LINE | - | - | 28th "                           |
|                |   |   | 26th Battalion in close support. |

- 2 -

6. FORMATIONS FOR ATTACK as in para 7 of Preliminary Instructions No.1.

7. JUMPING OFF POSITIONS.  
Battalions will be formed up on their jumping off tapes at least one hour before ZERO as under :-

25th and 27th Battalions East of WESTHOEK RIDGE with 27th Battalion in rear.

+ 28th Battalion on Western slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE

26th Battalion N.S.W. of BELLEVAARDE LAKE.

(vide Preliminary Instructions No.1. para 8)

8. ACTION OF BATTALIONS.

(i) At ZERO, 25th Battalion will close up to barrage opening out to proper distance between waves during the advance. This Battalion will capture and consolidate RED LINE, and co-operate on its Right with 11th Battalion (3rd A.I. Brigade) by detailing a platoon to assist in the capture of enemy post at J.8.d.10.55.

(ii) The 27th Battalion will move up to position vacated by 25th Battalion at ZERO and jump off from this line at ZERO plus 50 minutes. 27th Battalion will then close up to the barrage, and on capture of RED LINE by 25th Battalion, pass through the latter Battalion, and capture and consolidate BLUE LINE.

(iii) 28th Battalion will keep touch with advance and will move forward at ZERO plus 150 minutes until close under the protective barrage beyond BLUE LINE. They will then advance, capture, and consolidate GREEN LINE.

(iv) The 26th Battalion will move off from its position of assembly at ZERO plus 140 minutes in close support of 28th Battalion, keeping a distance of 500 yards in rear if not otherwise required by the situation.

Each Battalion will maintain close liaison with flank Battalions of neighbouring Brigades and will be prepared to form a defensive flank or flanks if necessary.

9. TOUCH WITH FLANK BRIGADES.

Parties as laid down in para 6 (f) of Preliminary Instructions No.1. will establish connection with 3rd A.I. Brigade and 5th A.I. Brigade respectively as follows :-

(a) With 3rd A.I. Brigade

1. Strong Point J.8.b.75.00.
2. Road Junction J.9.a.55.30.
3. Road Junction J.9.b.2.5.

(b) With 5th A.I. Brigade

1. J.8.b.4.9 (bend of road)
2. J.3.c.4.4. (on road East of IRON CROSS REDOUBT)
3. J.3.c.85.55 (North end of JACOBUS TRENCH)

- 3 -

10.

BAR RAGES.

Artillery. (i) Creeping Field Artillery barrage as in Barrage Map issued to units, which will not be taken forward of BELLEWAARDE RIDGE.

(ii) In addition to the above, the following barrages are also being provided :-

(a) A creeping barrage beyond the Field Artillery barrage by heavy artillery, which will not only creep forward, but during the pauses will jump back.

(b) Certain standing barrages on known hostile concentration points and lines of approach.

Also vigorous counter-battery work.

The 5th Army F.A. Brigade is at the disposal of the Divisional Commander to engage any special targets. Battalion Commanders are to apply immediately through this office if they require any special targets engaging.

The final barrage will remain down until consolidation is completed, when it will cease and outposts will be established.

11.

THINNING OUT.

After capture and consolidation of the GREEN LINE, if the situation permits,

(a) The 25th Battalion will occupy the WESTHOEK RIDGE position,

(b) 27th Battalion will occupy the RED LINE

(c) 26th Battalion will dig a communication trench (plans of which will be furnished by the C.R.E.) and on completion will take up position in reserve WEST of BELLEWAARDE LAKE.

(d) 28th Battalion will be responsible for the GREEN and BLUE LINES, and the ground between.

The order for the above moves and action will be given by Brigade H.Q.

On completion of this re-arrangement, all rear Battalions must be prepared to move up at any moment.

Consolidation and improvement of the ground gained and the WESTHOEK RIDGE must be continued without cessation until relief.

12.

MACHINE GUNS.

(Vide para 5 Preliminary Instructions No.1)

The 6th, 22nd, and 5th Divisional A.M. Gun Coys will provide the machine gun barrages on the Divisional front.

The 7th A.M. Gun Coy (less <sup>4</sup> guns detailed for special targets) will support the attack and will detail the guns necessary for the consolidation of each objective.

13.

TRENCH MORTARS.

(i) O.C., 7th A.L.T.M. Battery will detail two guns and crews to each of the 25th, 27th, and 28th Battalions.

(ii) The two remaining guns will be held in Reserve, and will be emplaced at least two hours before ZERO in a position from which they can smother Strong Point at J.8.d.1.4. with smoke if the situation demands it.

- 4 ;

(iii) The section commanders of each of the sections attached to 25th, 27th, and 28th Battalions will report to their respective Battalion Commanders on the day before ZERO to receive instructions.

(iv) Each Battalion to which mortars are attached will detail a carrying party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men for each gun attached.

COMMUNICATIONS. Signal instructions are issued as an appendix.

15.

STRONG POINTS.

On capture of GREEN LINE a platoon Strong Point will be constructed at J.9.a.50.65 under Engineer supervision.

The working party and garrison of one platoon for this Strong Point will be supplied by 26th Battalion. C.O., 26th Battalion will arrange mutually with O.C., 7th Field Coy A.B. time and place for party to report.

16.

CONTACT PATROL.

RED ground flares will be lighted - several to every 50 yards if possible - by troops in our most advanced positions when called for by contact aeroplane (vide Preliminary Instructions No.1. para 15)

17.

S. O. S. Instructions for establishing S.O.S. Stations have been issued. Units will communicate S.O.S. by wire, rifle grenade, visual signal, or through aeroplane by panel.

18.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.

In case of attack by low flying hostile aircraft, the leading wave will not fire at, or allow their attention to be distracted by the aircraft. Supports will deal with the attack by rifle, Lewis gun, or machine gun fire.

19.

SUCCESS SIGNALS.

(i) The following success signals will be used :-

2 RED Very lights in quick succession on gaining RED LINE.  
1 RED and 1 WHITE Very light in quick succession on gaining BLUE LINE.  
2 GREEN Very lights in quick succession on gaining GREEN LINE.

(ii) All signals will be fired from each Company front from Right to Left across the front.

(iii) These signals will not be fired until consolidation is actually in progress on the objective, but a message to the effect that troops have "reached" 1st, 2nd or 3rd objective will be sent on reaching the RED, BLUE, or GREEN LINES respectively.

The success signals will be confirmed by message that the objective has been "captured and consolidation is in progress".

20.

BAYONETS.

Bayonets will not be fixed until ZERO hour, when the barrage opens.

95

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21.

SPECIAL MARKS.

Helmets of troops detailed for capture of objectives will be marked with a diamond between brim and crown in rear as under :-

25th Battalion	RED diamond.
27th "	BLUE "
28th "	GREEN "
26th "	GREEN "

22.

DRESS.

Fighting order with 48 hours' rations.

220 rounds S.A.A. per man

1 Mills No.5. Grenade per man.

1 S.O.S. Signal every fourth man.

1 RED ground flare every fourth man.

2 Sandbags per man.

Rifle grenades will be carried as ordered by C.O's of Battalions.

A proportion of RED, WHITE, and GREEN lights will be carried by each Battalion.

23.

TOOLS.

(i) Tools will be carried in the proportion of 1 pick to 4 shovels.

It is left to Battalion Commanders to decide on the number of tools they will require, but not less than 50 picks and 200 shovels per Battalion should be taken.

(ii) Special arrangements will be made by Engineers to provide extra tools for 26th Battalion for digging communication trench.

24.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Any prisoners of war will immediately be sent to Advanced Brigade H.Q., where the Divisional Intelligence Officer will select those he requires for interrogation, and send the remainder to the Advanced Corps Cage.

25.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(i) Times at which watches are to be synchronized with Brigade Signals will be notified later.

(ii) Arrangements for Liaison, Mopping up, position of H.Q. Dumps, have been issued in Preliminary Instructions No.1.

26.

Medical arrangements, Dumps, Supplies, Routes, Prisoners of War etc. will be dealt with in a separate Administrative Memorandum.

27.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*A. J. Boase*

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

NOTE: Unit Commanders will submit their plans by 9 a.m. 19th inst.

Issued to Signals at 7 PM

Distribution as for Preliminary Instructions NO. 1.

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

## Signal Arrangements to accompany Bde. Order No. 127.

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1. Advanced Brigade H.Q. will be at approx. J.7.d.9.9. (Cable Head).  
Position of Forward Station will be at ALBERT REDOUBT, which is also Command Post of 27th Bn.  
25th Battalion Command Post at approx. J.8.b.7.3.  
26th " " " " " " J.3.c.85.40.  
28th " " " " " " J.9.a.85.60.
  2. Earth induction set will be installed with up and down working from ALBERT REDOUBT to J.7.d.9.9. and thence to Brigade H.Q. at I.12.c.3.5.
  3. Communication will be maintained in all cases to the unit on the Right, although if the unit on the Left does not maintain touch, every endeavour should be made to reach them by runner or visual.
  4. (a) Secret Code Calls as issued to units will be taken into use as soon as units move from stations at which "Position Calls" are in use. (b) Station Calls for Forward Stations will be the same as Battalion Code Calls prefixed by letter "A".
  5. Aeroplane Signal Sheets will be taken forward. Care is to be taken to hide these from sight except when a plane is in position to receive a message. Sheets should not be set out on forward slopes.
  6. Pigeons are allotted as follows :-  
Brigade Forward Station 24 birds,  
26th & 28th Bns. 8 birds each.  
Brigade Forward Station will be refilling point for Battalions at a time which will be notified later.
  7. The main Brigade Visual Station will be at approx. J.7.d.9.8. and will receive D D - D D messages from the front. Forward Visual Stations will work with Daylight Lamps and folding shutters only.
  8. The Brigade Forward Station under 2/Lieut. RUSTON, 27th Battalion, will move forward with third wave of 25th Battalion and subsequently with 3rd wave of 27th Battalion as the latter Battalion moves through 25th Battalion.
  9. (a) On account of two circuits only being maintained between Advanced Brigade H.Q. and Forward Battalions, it is absolutely necessary that messages be curtailed both in length and number as far as possible.  
(b) Should it not be possible to obtain an acknowledgment for a message, the message should be sent in duplicate and by alternative methods or routes.
  10. Intelligence Officers of 26th and 28th Bns. each accompanied by 2 snipers or observers will accompany the Brigade Forward party Detachment "A". Their duties will be to keep in touch with the situation and keep their Battalions and Bde H.Q. fully informed through the Brigade Forward Station.  
This party will report to Brigade Signal Officer at Advanced Bde H.Q. (J.7.d.9.9) at least 2 hours before ZERO.  
Battalions will detail personnel as under to report to Bde Signal Officer at Bde H.Q. I.12.c.3.5. at 6 p.m. 18th inst.  
4 runners per Bn.  
27th Bn. 3 linesmen, 2 pigeoneers.  
25th Bn. 1 N.C.O. 6 Signallers (Visual)  
26th Bn. 1 N.C.O. 6 men (accumulator carrying party)



7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

September 17th 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM to accompany Brigade Order No. 127.

- 1. ROUTES. Attention is drawn to Divisional Administrative memo. No. 174.
- 2. SUPPLIES. Attention is drawn to the paragraph on Supplies in 2nd Aust. Division Administrative memo No. 174. Units will arrange carrying parties to take rations forward from BELLEAARDE RIDGE (J.7.c.2.8.) Dump until the route forward is ready for pack transport, or until the tram line is completed, when a dump will be established at head of line.  
The 500 emergency rations laid down in Administrative Memorandum No. 174 will be dug in at the Brigade Dump on WESTHOEK RIDGE in vicinity of J.7.d.9.9.
- 3. WATER. Extra water bottles will be issued to Battalions, which will be filled before going in. Five 100 gallon tanks will be dug in in vicinity of Ammunition Dump at WESTHOEK. These, with 500 petrol tins will form the Brigade Water Reserve. Units will send water forward each day with the rations, drawn at Water Point as per Divisional Administrative Memo. Four extra water carts are available, and will be used to augment Battalion supplies.
- 4. AMMUNITION. Ammunition to be carried on the man will be drawn at the Advanced Divisional Dump I.11.d.5.4. The Brigade Dump will be at WESTHOEK, dug in and distributed in vicinity of J.7.d.9.9. For approximate amounts in this dump, see Appendix A. All ammunition demands will be sent to the officer in charge, Lieut. BOYLE.  
On the capture of the 1st Objective, the Brigade Bomb Officer will arrange to establish a forward Dump at J.8.b.8.4.  
On the capture of the 2nd Objective, he will form a dump at J.9.a.6.9.  
Units will arrange to form Battalion dumps in suitable places.  
6th A.I. Brigade are detailing 100 men, and 26th Bn will detail 2 platoons complete, each of 30 men, as carrying parties, to report to the Brigade Bomb Officer at 11 p.m. on the day before ZERO. Carrying parties will be fully equipped with YUKON Packs.
- 5. R.E. STORES. R.E. Stores will be obtainable at WESTHOEK Dump. The approximate amount will be as in Appendix B. Tape, noticeboards etc. will be issued from BELLEAARDE Dump.

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6. PRISONERS OF WAR. Divisional cage - SHRAPNEL Corner I.20.a.6.7. Attention is drawn to instructions contained in Divisional Administrative Memorandum No. 174.
7. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. The forward area will be cleared by the 5th Australian Field Ambulance with the Bearer Divisions of 6th and 7th Field Ambulances.

The Medical dispositions will be as follows :-

R.A.P. Right Brigade J.7.d.9.9.  
 Advanced Collecting Station J.7.a.4.3.  
 Simons Relay Post I.12.c.6.7.  
 Chateau Wood Relay Post I.18.b.5.8.  
 Culvert Amb.Loading Post I.18.a.2.8.  
 BIRR Cross Roads loading Post I.17.b.2.8.  
 Corps Advanced Dressing Stn. MENIN Road.  
 H.Q. 5th Field Amb. Belgian Battery Corner  
 Divisional Rest Station G.15.c.2.9.

Dumps of stretchers, blankets and Dressings will be maintained at all stations.

R.M.O's will arrange to establish R.A.P's in vicinity of Battalion H.Q. as the advance progresses, notifying Brigade H.Q. and the Field Ambulance of the location.

Units will place notice boards indicating R.A.P's on the principal routes back. Signboards will be available at the Brigade Dump.

*G. Harrison*

Captain, Staff Captain,  
 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

APPENDIX "A"

S.A.A.	1,000,000 rounds.
Mills No.5.	5,000
" No.23	20,000
Blanks	25,000
Smoke Bombs	1,000
P. Bombs	250
Very Lights 1"	1,000
" " 1½"	500
Signal Flares RED	500
" " GREEN	500
S.O.S. Sets	300
Ground Flares	600
Stokes Ammunition	1,000
" Rings	2,000
Tracer Ammunition	1 box
Lachrymatory bombs	300
" "	300
	<del>37</del>
	<del>28</del>

APPENDIX "B"

The following A.S. Stores will be available in WESTHOLK Dump.

Barbed wire	150
Pickets	coils
"	350 long
French wire	700 short
Shovels G.S.	100 coils
Picks	500
Camouflage	200
Sandbags	20 rolls
Sign boards	20,000
Wire cutters	
Small S.A.A.	150 - 14"

*App. 9*

SECRET.

Copy No. *29*

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ORDER No. 128.

September 17th 17.

Reference Maps : Sheets 28 N.W. & N.E. 1/20,000.  
HOOGE 1/10,000.

1. 7th A.I. Brigade will relieve that portion of the 6th A.I. Brigade in the Right Sector of the Divisional front on the night 18/19th September in accordance with attached table of reliefs.
2. The boundary between Right and Left sectors is as under :-  
J.8.b.0.8. - J.8.a.00.25. - I.12.c.3.5.
3. All maps and documents concerning the sector, dumps etc. will be taken over and receipts given. Duplicates of receipts to be forwarded to this office within 24 hours of completion of relief.
4. On completion of the relief, the G.O.C. 7th A.I. Brigade will assume command of the Right Sector of 2nd Australian Division.
5. During the relief the following distances will be maintained :-  
500 yards between Battalions and other units.  
200 yards between transport of units and other units.  
100 yards between companies.
6. Completion of reliefs will be notified to this office by code wire.
7. Brigade H.Q. will close at H.19.b.2.2. at 8.30 a.m. and reopen at I.12.c.3.5. on arrival.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*A. J. Boase*

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Signals at \_\_\_\_\_  
Copies to.

1. 25th Bn.	11. S.C.	<del>20. C.R.A.</del>
2. 26th Bn.	12. B.M.	<del>21. C.R.E.</del>
3. 27th Bn.	13. Sig. Off.	22. A.D.M.S.
4. 28th Bn.	14. B.T.O.	23. 7th Field Coy
5. 7th M/G Coy	15. Bomb Off.	24. 2nd Aust. Div (G)
6. 7th ALTMB.	16. 17th A.S.C.	25. " " " (Q)
7/8. War Diary.	17. 3rd A.I. Bde.	26 to 30 Spare.
9. File	18. 5th "	
10. G.O.C.	19. 6th "	

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

RELIEF TABLE To accompany 7th A.I. Brigade Order No. 128.

Sept. 17/1917.

Date	Unit	From	To	Remarks.
1917. 18/19th Sept.	25th Bn.	YPRES (Esplanade Sap) and BELLEWAARDE RIDGE	LINE and BELLE- WAARDE RIDGE (Right Sector)	By march route. Details of relief to be arranged mutually by C.O's concerned. Relief to be completed by 6 a.m. 22nd Bn. is at present holding line.
18th Sept.	28th Bn.	HALIFAX AREA.	CANAL & PIONEER AREA.	By march route. Not to arrive before 6 p.m. Advance party to be sent to 5th A.I. Bde H.Q. BELGIAN CHATEAU by 2 p.m. to take over camp.
18th Sept.	7th A.M.G. Coy	HALIFAX AREA	YPRES (BARRACKS)	As arranged by O.C., 7th A.M.G. Coy who will notify Brigade H.Q. exact location of his new H.Q. on arrival there.
18th Sept.	7th A.L.T.M.B.	HALIFAX AREA	YPRES (BARRACKS)	As arranged by O.C., 7th A.L.T.M.Bty, who will notify Brigade H.Q. of exact location of his H.Q. on arrival.

Appendix No. 9

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App. 10

HEADQUARTERS	53
7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE	
No. 262/30	
Date	

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

September 25th 1917.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS - Period Night 19/20th to night  
21/22nd September 1917.

Reference Maps : WESTHOEK 1/10,000.  
Sheet 28 N.W., 1/20,000.

1. DISPOSITIONS.

(a) On the day previous to the attack (19/9 17),  
Dispositions of 7th A.I. Brigade were as under :-

Brigade H.Q. I.12.c.3.5.

Front Line - 25th Bn. H.Q. J.7.d.9.9.  
2 Coys in Line  
2 " in Support at  
BELLEAARDE RIDGE.  
1 Section (Special target  
guns) 7th A.M.G. Coy.  
2 Stokes Mortars.

YPRES (Ramparts), 27th Bn.

CANAL & PIONEER Area ), 26th Bn.  
) , 28th Bn.

ASYLUM at YPRES : ( 7th A.M.G. Coy (less 1 section)  
( 7th A.L.T.M. Bty (less 1 section).

(vide attached  
ed sketch), (b) On night of attack 19/20th September, units  
moved up into position as follows :-

Advanced Brigade H.Q. J.7.d.9.9.

25th Bn. (H.Q. J.7.d.9.9.) On taped line approx.  
J.8.c.9.7. - J.8.a.65.55.

27th Bn. On taped line in rear of 25th Bn. on  
forward slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE.

28th Bn. on taped line on rear slopes of  
WESTHOEK RIDGE.

26th Bn. W.S.W. of BELLEAARDE LAKE in I.12.c & d.

7th A.M.G. Coy in line. 4 guns (special target),  
approx. J.8.a.5.4.  
Remaining guns mobile - 4 detailed to  
cover the Battalion for each objective.

~~7th A.L.T.M. Bty~~ - 2 guns in position to deal with  
Strong Point in J.8.d.10.55. in 3rd  
A.I. Bde area. 2 guns to each 25th,  
27th and 28th Bns.

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3. BOUNDARIES & OBJECTIVES were as shown in attached map. Objectives were allotted to units as follows :-

RED LINE	-	25th Battalion	
BLUE LINE	&	27th	"
GREEN LINE		28th	" with 26th Bn. in close support.

3. FORMATIONS. Assaulting Battalions all moved forward from WESTHOEK RIDGE on four-company frontages, with each Company on a one-platoon frontage.

First wave consisting of leading platoon of each Company in normal formation for trench-to-trench attack, with 15 yards distance between lines.

Second wave (consisting of 2nd platoon in each Company) in line of section columns in single file - flank sections of each platoon being echeloned to the rear.

Third wave (Mopper's up - consisting of 3rd platoon of each Company) as for first wave.

Fourth wave (carriers - last platoon of each Company), as for 2nd wave.

4. UNITS were all in position on their jumping off lines by 4 a.m. No casualties were sustained by units on their jumping off lines before ZERO hour. This was no doubt due to the fact that great care had been taken to map out the usual Boche barrage lines on the days preceding the attack, and to select positions which did not come under his regular barrages.

5. ACTION OF BATTALIONS.

1st Phase. At 5.40 a.m. our artillery and machine gun barrages opened on the enemy.

The 25th and 27th Battalions immediately began to move forward under the barrage.

It was not until about 5.50 a.m. that the hostile barrage came down in any strength, and it then fell on the forward slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE about 100 yards down from the crest, and on the old front line.

By this time, the two leading Battalions were clear of it. Very little hostile machine gun fire could be heard, and what there was, was on the right of our sector.

The advance continued smoothly, and the 25th Bn. kept so close up under the barrage that they were able to rush the enemy posts in "Pill-boxes" etc. before the Boche had time to use his machine guns or rifles.

At 6.29 a.m. success signals indicating the capture and commencement of consolidation of the RED LINE were observed, and this was later confirmed by runner at 6.45 a.m.

During this advance, one platoon of the 25th Bn. co-operated with the 11th Bn. in the capture of Strong Post at J.8.d.10.55.

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At 6.35 a.m. the first batch of 30 prisoners arrived back at Advanced Brigade Headquarters, where they gave information freely.

One N.C.O. of 56th R.I.R. stated that a special counter-attack Division was stationed in the vicinity of MOORSLEDE, and WATER DAM HOEK, which would immediately be brought up by bus and probably attack within three hours from the high ground in J.3.d.

Unit Commanders were all informed of the situation, and 25th Bn. instructed to stand by to support 27th Bn. if the counter-attack developed, whilst the 27th Bn. kept their Right flank well into POLYGON WOOD and constructed a Strong Point to protect it.

Reports from Brigades on both flanks stated that their advance was proceeding satisfactorily, and in close touch with ours.

At 7.10 a.m. carrying parties were pushed forward from WESTHOEK RIDGE to form a forward dump about the centre of the RED LINE.

2nd Phase. At ZERO plus 80 (7 a.m.) the 27th Bn. passed through 25th Bn. and closed up to the barrage.

The advance followed the barrage without a hitch, and all hostile posts where they attempted to resist, were rushed and put out of action before they had time to realize that the barrage had lifted.

The BLUE LINE was reached without difficulty at about 7.50 a.m., but troops were slightly disorganized owing to bad ground, and loss of direction by small parties of other units.

At 8.15 a.m., 3rd A.I. Brigade reported capture of BLUE LINE, and in touch with our Right.

3rd Phase. At 8.10 a.m., 28th Bn. began to move forward from WESTHOEK RIDGE to take up a position under the barrage in front of BLUE LINE.

At 9.53 a.m. the advance on the GREEN LINE commenced. The 26th Bn. (who had moved forward from their position of assembly W.S.W. of BELLEWAARDE LAKE by 8.45 a.m., sent three Companies forward in close support of 28th Bn., whilst the remaining Company was detailed to rush forward barbed wire, pickets, and S.A.A. for the front line.

The capture of the GREEN LINE was effected without much difficulty at 10 a.m.

As soon as the situation was clear and consolidation well under way, the 26th Bn. began the construction of a Communication Trench from the GREEN LINE back to the RED LINE on the Right flank.

#### 6. CONSOLIDATION. (vide sketch attached).

(i), On the capture of its objective, each of the assaulting Battalions immediately commenced digging a continuous trench line on its objective, and at the same time constructing connected-up shell-hole posts.

This work proceeded very rapidly, and by 4 p.m. 20th inst. there were three continuous trench lines made, viz: the RED, BLUE, and GREEN LINES, and a line of wire had been put out in front of the final objective.



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was constructed  
 (ii) A Strong Point at J.9.a.50.65 by one platoon 26th Bn. working under engineer supervision, immediately after the capture of BLUE LINE.

(iii) 26th Bn. also constructed a Strong Post near ALBERT REDOUBT, and 100 yards length of Support Trench in rear of the GREEN LINE.

(iv) In addition, 26th Bn. dug a communication trench back from GREEN LINE to WESTHOEK RIDGE.

#### 7. ACTION OF MACHINE GUNS AND TRENCH MORTARS.

Four machine guns were detailed to cover the advance on, and consolidation of each objective.

These guns did not get many targets until the capture of the GREEN LINE, but in some cases were used against low flying aircraft.

Two Trench Mortars accompanied each of the 25th, 27th, and 28th Bns during the attack, but as no check occurred, their services were not utilized until the GREEN LINE had been consolidated, when six mortars were emplaced in rear, and were used with effect on hostile parties attempting to counter-attack.

#### 8. BRIGADE SNIPERS.

Brigade Snipers (8 per Battalion) moved forward independently with the first wave of 25th Bn., and established themselves in previously selected positions, from which they dealt with any machine guns located, and harassed the garrisons of the Strong Points.

At J.9.a.4.4. they were able by their fire to disable a hostile machine gun, and prevented it coming into action.

ALBERT REDOUBT and Strong Point at J.8.d.1.3. were each kept under fire by snipers from two different positions, until captured.

On consolidation of the GREEN LINE, snipers were pushed forward to take advantage of any targets which offered.

#### 9. COMMUNICATIONS.

Prior to the attack, the buried cable had been laid as far as Advanced Brigade H.Q., J.7.d.9.9.

The Brigade Forward Party "Detachment A" suffered severely when laying a line forward to the RED LINE. They were however re-organized, and pushed the line through to Brigade Forward Station in ALBERT REDOUBT by 10.45 a.m. This line was kept through and served 25th, 27th, and 28th Bns until the buried cable was completed and tested through at about 3.20 p.m. 21st inst.

Visual signalling was established between ALBERT REDOUBT and WESTHOEK RIDGE, but it was not found necessary to use it.

The earth induction set was finally installed at Brigade Forward Station ALBERT REDOUBT, but was not used.

Communication was also established by wire with Brigade Forward Stations of 5th and 3rd A.I. Brigades.

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Communication was satisfactorily maintained by wire throughout the operation, but messages sent by runner were rather slow in reaching their destination, owing possibly to the heavy going, and the barrages

#### 10. ENEMY ATTEMPTS AT COUNTER ATTACK.

During the afternoon of 20th September, the enemy was seen moving up in small parties to the locality of the Cemetery in J.4.c. and between 1.50 p.m. and 3 p.m., parties of enemy were seen massing on ZONNEBEKE ROAD in J.4.a.c.d., and in POLYGON WOOD (N.E. corner).

The counter-attack from N.E. corner of POLYGON WOOD and the direction of ANZAC showed signs of developing, and the S.O.S. Machine Gun battery were instructed to fire on their S.O.S. lines at 3 p.m., and special target guns to play on Cross Roads just South of W in ALBANIA WOODS. The attack broke down under the concentrated artillery, machine gun, Lewis gun and rifle fire.

At 6.2 p.m., S.O.S. was sent up by 5th A.I. Brigade, and at 6.7 p.m. was repeated on our front, and the barrage which followed was instrumental in stopping another attack from the direction of JUBILEE TRENCH North of POLYGON WOOD.

At 7 p.m. hostile barrage put down on our front line.

At 7.20 p.m. S.O.S. on 1st Divisional front, repeated on our front at 7.25 p.m., when enemy again attempted to advance from ALBANIA WOODS.

At 7 p.m. 21st September, S.O.S. sent up on our Right front on enemy debouching from N.E. corner of POLYGON WOOD.

#### 11. HOSTILE SHELLING.

Up till 11 a.m. 20th inst. there was practically no hostile barrage put down forward of our old front line. Most of enemy shelling up to this time fell on WESTHOEK RIDGE and the old front line (5.9 and 4.2 barrage), and on BELLEWAARDE RIDGE. These two ridges were barraged intermittently day and night during the period the Brigade was in the line.

In the afternoon of 20th, enemy began to shell the newly gained ground, and barraged the front line and supports from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., after which he was fairly quiet until 8 a.m. 21st inst.

During afternoon of 21st, our front and support lines, and new communication trench on our Right, were constantly shelled with 5.9", the shelling being particularly heavy at 6.45 p.m. This lasted until about 8 p.m., after which he was quiet.

Between 8 p.m. and 12 midnight, hostile aeroplanes were very active, and dropped large flares which illuminated the area for as long as ten minutes at a time.

#### 12. RELIEFS.

By 12.48 a.m. 22nd inst., the relief of 7th A.I. Bde (less 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty) by 6th A.I. Bde was completed.

The 7th A.M.G. Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Bty remained in the line until the relief of 6th A.I. Bde by 4th A.I. Bde.

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13. GENERAL,

(i). PRISONERS. 1 Officer and 102 o/ranks actually passed through Brigade H.Q., but a number were sent straight to dressing station, and in some cases direct to the Cage, so that no record was obtained of them.

(ii) Estimates of the German dead are as under :-  
Between our old front line and the RED LINE :

" RED LINE and BLUE LINE : 2 Officers 100 o/r  
" BLUE LINE and GREEN LINE: 80 to 100 all ranks.  
" " " " 40 to 50 " "

In addition, a very large proportion of dead and wounded were seen beyond the GREEN LINE, and German stretcher bearers were busy during the afternoon of 20th, and again on 21st September removing the wounded.

(iii) MATERIAL. 7 German machine guns were captured ( 1 was handed by 25th Bn. to 5rd A.M.G. Company),  
1 badly battered .77 mm gun was reported by 6th A.I. Bde at J.8.b.6.8.

(iv) Our barrages were excellent except as regards some of the heavy artillery. One or two guns of the heavy artillery were shooting short, and were responsible for a number of our casualties. Separate reports have already been rendered concerning this.

(v). In spite of the rain, the ground although heavy, did not cause men to drop behind the barrage.

A fairly thick mist came down after the rain, and greatly assisted the earlier stages of the attack, from the forming up, onward.

14. OUR CASUALTIES WERE :-

Unit	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Off.	o/r.	Off.	o/r.	Off.	o/r.
Bde H.Q.	-	1	-	1	-	-
Bde Signal Section	-	3	-	5	-	-
7th A.L.Mi.Bty	-	4	2	10	-	-
7th A.M.G.Coy	1	5	-	13	1	-
25th Battalion	2	26	4	98	-	5
26th "	2	16	4	102	-	5
27th "	-	27	5	113	-	8
28th "	4	47	6	183	-	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-129</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-525</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>- 27</b>

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15. LESSONS LEARNED.

(i) The value of previous careful reconnaissance.

(a) By Intelligence Officer carefully noting enemy barrage; this enabled jumping off places to be selected where our troops were practically immune from shell fire.

(b) By as many Officers and N.C.O's as practicable.

(ii) The value of communication such as corduroy roads, tramways, and duck walks as guides and means of approach to jumping off places.

(iii) The value of forming up as close to enemy as possible.

(iv) The possibility, with disciplined troops, of forming up close to enemy - Our front line was within 170 yards of enemy post.

(v) The value of every man knowing the plan, and his particular job. In some cases Privates took command of sections and carried on with great intelligence and initiative.

(vi) The great importance of closely following the barrage, and unhesitatingly rushing posts.

(vii) That it is possible to follow the barrage so closely as to give the enemy no time to use his weapons.

(viii) That the enemy was dazed for an appreciable time after the barrage had passed.

(ix) The importance of thinning out after capture of objectives.

(x) The great value of the proper use of machine guns.

(xi) The principle of consolidation in depth is not sufficiently understood.

(xii), There is a suspicion that the S.O.S. was used too soon, thereby not giving the enemy time to get near enough to more or less annihilate him.

(xiii), Reports again were not frequent enough, except in the case of the 28th Battalion, whose reports were excellent.

- 8 -

(xiv) Guides were sent without instructions.

(xv) The small report map was not fully used.

(xvi) When 'phone failed, units did not make use of alternative means of communication.

(xvii) The number of Runners will have to be increased. Messages took in many cases, a very long time, owing to runners waiting for enemy barrage to cease.

16. IN CONCLUSION, the conduct of Officers, N.C.O's , and men was admirable.

The keenest interest was taken in the whole operation, and the work was carried out with the utmost enthusiasm. The moral of the men was of the highest order, and the utmost fearlessness and coolness was shown throughout.

The Brigade is now re-organized, and barring a few items of equipment, is fit to go into the line again.

(sgd E. A. WISDOM,  
Brig. General,  
Commanding 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

7<sup>th</sup> Div Infantry Brigade APP 11  
Order No 1209 Copy 10

20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1944.  
Reference Map WESTHOEK 1/10,000

I Dispositions:-

28<sup>th</sup> Bn are consolidated in depth practically continuous front line trench from T 9 6 65 55 To T 3 C 9 8 and are in touch with 9<sup>th</sup> Bn on Right and 17<sup>th</sup> Bn on left.

27<sup>th</sup> Bn are consolidated BLUE LINE and in touch on Right with 12<sup>th</sup> Bn and on left with 18<sup>th</sup> Bn.

25<sup>th</sup> Bn is consolidated on RED LINE and are in touch on Right with 11<sup>th</sup> Bn and on left with 20<sup>th</sup> Bn.

26<sup>th</sup> Bn are in support on the WESTHOEK RIDGE

17<sup>th</sup> Bn Amf - 4 guns are disposed in rear of each of the GREEN BLUE + RED Lines and 2 guns on the WESTHOEK RIDGE. In addition to the above the front is covered by a battery of Special SOS Barrage guns.

2  
It is possible that an organized infantry attack with a prepared artillery barrage will take place early tomorrow morning 21<sup>st</sup> inst. The utmost vigilance must therefore be exercised and all attack listening posts are to be pushed out, unless the artillery SOS Barrage lines.

3  
Stand to will be from 4 am to 6 am during which all units will stand to arms ready to meet any attack which may develop.

4 Consolidation and improvement of positions must be carried on continuously.

5 In future casualties from RED BLUE + GREEN LINES positions will be evacuated under most arrangements as far as collecting station which will be formed at RRP approx at T 7 d 99 where they will be evacuated by ambulance relay carriers to the advanced

3

Dressing Stations

6 Rations There were  
to be delivered by ladders  
at Brigade Headquarters BELLE-  
WARD RIDGE at 7:30 pm  
daily until further notice.  
Units will send ration  
parties to meet ladders  
at above time and place  
to collect rations

A. Boase

- Major  
Pde Major  
1st Lt  
Capt
- |    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 1  | 25th         |
| 2  | 26th         |
| 3  | 27th         |
| 4  | 28th         |
| 5  | Mr Gueloy    |
| 6  | Mr [unclear] |
| 7  | Mr [unclear] |
| 8  | Staff Capt   |
| 9  | Mr [unclear] |
| 10 | Mr [unclear] |
| 11 | Mr [unclear] |

7<sup>th</sup> Div Infantry Brigade  
Order No 130. Copy  
21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1917.

Reference Map WEST NOEK  
1/10,000 Sheet 28 NW 1/20,000

- 1 7<sup>th</sup> A Bde less 7<sup>th</sup> AM/Gun Coy  
& 2/14/18 Bty will be relieved  
in the line by the 6<sup>th</sup> A Bde  
on the 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.
- 2 The 7<sup>th</sup> AM/Gun Coy & 7<sup>th</sup> ARQM  
Bty will come under the  
orders of the GOC 6<sup>th</sup> A Bde  
when GOC 6<sup>th</sup> A Bde takes  
over command of the sector.
- 3 7<sup>th</sup> A Bde (less AM/Gun & 2/14/18 Bty)  
will proceed on relief to the  
Caube Area
- 4 Advance parties as usual  
will meet Staff Capt at  
the MENIN GATE YPIRES at  
2 pm today
- 5 Details of relief will  
be arranged mutually  
between CO's concerned.
- 6 Relief will be completed  
by 3 am 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.
- 7 Specialists & 30% of officers  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> A Bde receiving

Units will go into line  
by day during 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.  
On completion of the  
relief command of the  
sector will pass to GOC  
6<sup>th</sup> A Bde whose Hdqrs  
will be established at  
the present Left Bde Advanced  
Hdqrs.

All Dumps Trench Sacs  
LOS Flares and Engineers  
material will be handed  
over and receipts obtained  
special care to be taken  
that all LOS flares are  
handed over in good con-  
dition. Duplicate copies  
of all receipts are to be  
forwarded to his office  
within 24 hours of completion  
of relief.

Bde Hdqrs will close at  
5 7 d 99 on completion of relief  
and will reopen at BELGIAN  
CHATEAU H 23 B at the  
same hour.

II Acknowledge

Copies 1 25<sup>th</sup> Div  
2 76 " 7<sup>th</sup> Div  
3 24 " 3<sup>rd</sup> Div  
4 24 " 4<sup>th</sup> Div  
5 24 " 5<sup>th</sup> Div  
6 24 " 6<sup>th</sup> Div

11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div  
11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div  
11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div  
11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div  
11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div  
11 2<sup>nd</sup> Div

Major  
Major  
H 2 Bde



SECRET

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Order No. 129.

Copy No. 2



September 2nd 1917.

Reference Maps : Sheets 27 & 28, 1/40,000.  
HAZLEBROUCK 5A.

1. On relief, the 2nd Australian Division will concentrate in the three Brigade Areas WIPPENHOLK, RENNINGHELST, and DOMINION. Divisional H.Q. will be at RENNINGHELST.
2. The 7th A.I. Brigade (less 7th Machine Gun Coy and 7th A.L.T.M. Battery will move to WIPPENHOLK AREA as per march table attached.
3. The 7th machine Gun Company and 7th A.L.T.M. Battery on relief, will rejoin the Brigade in the WIPPENHOLK AREA.
4. On the march the following distances will be maintained West of IPRES-COMINES Canal :-
  - 800 yards between Battalions and other units.
  - 400 yards between transport of units, horsed units, and other troops.
  - 200 yards between Companies.
5. The reinforcements and surplus personnel of the Brigade will rejoin their units in WIPPENHOLK AREA under Divisional arrangements.
6. Administrative instructions are being issued separately.
7. 7th A.I. Brigade Headquarters will close at WINNERS CAMP at 6.30 a.m. 23rd inst., and reopen at WIPPENHOLK AREA on arrival.
8. Reports in interim to rear of column.
9. Acknowledge.

A. J. Boase

Major, Brigade Major,  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Sigs at 1/2

Copies to :-

- |                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 25th Bn.       | 9. G.O.C.                         |
| 2. 26th Bn.       | 10. B.M.                          |
| 3. 27th Bn.       | 11. S.C.                          |
| 4. 28th Bn.       | 12. 2nd Aust. Div (G)             |
| 5. 7th M/G Coy,   | 13. " " " (G)                     |
| 6. 7th ALT.M.Bty. | 14. Area Commandt. (Halifax Area) |
| 7. 17th AASC      | 15. " " (Westhoek " )             |
| 8. 7th Field Amb. | 16. War Diary <i>W. H. H. H.</i>  |
|                   | 17. File                          |
|                   | 18 to 22 Spare.                   |
|                   | 23. B.T.O.                        |

PTO

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Reference Sheets 27 & 28, 1/40,000.

Date	Unit	From	To	Route	Route	Remarks.
1917. Sept. 23rd	25th Bn.	HALIFAX AREA	WIPPENHOEK AREA L. 34. Sheet 27, 1/40,000.	Via OUDERDOM- RENINGHELST to WIPPENHOEK.		Clear Brigade H.Q. H.19.b.2.2. by 5.30 a.m.
"	27th Bn.	"	"	"	"	" by 5.45 a.m.
"	28th Bn.	"	"	"	"	" by 6.00 a.m.
"	26th Bn.	"	"	"	"	" by 6.15 a.m.
"	Bde H.Q. No.4.Sig.Sec.	"	"	"	"	" by 6.30 a.m.

Appendix No. //

NOTE :- Units will halt for the last ten minutes of each clock half-hour, i.e. first halt will be from 6.20 a.m. to 6.30 a.m., second halt from 7.20 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. and so on.

Watches will be synchronized by units with Brigade Signals at 5 a.m. 23rd inst.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIG ADE

September 22nd 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS to accompany Brigade Order No. 129.

1. BILLETING PARTIES. Advanced parties will meet the Staff Captain at WIPPENHOEK at 4.30 p.m. today 22nd inst.
2. SUPPLIES. Supplies to be consumed on 24th inst. will be carried in supply waggons, and units will arrange to meet these tomorrow 23rd inst. and guide them to units' lines. at WIPPENHOEK
3. BAGGAGE. Baggage waggons will report to units today at HALIFAX CAMP.
4. TRANSPORT. Units will move out with first line transport with echelons complete.
5. AMBULANCE cars will accompany the Brigade on the march tomorrow proceeding in rear of the column. Men must have a certificate from R.M.O. before they will be allowed on the cars.

*L. Harrison*  
 Captain, Staff Captain,  
 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

App 13

S E C R E T.

Copy No 21

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Order No. 131.

29th September 1917.

Reference: BECELAERE. 1/10,000  
Sheet 28 N., 1/20,000.

1. 7th A.I.Bde. will on night of 1st/2nd October take over that portion of the line within the limits shown on tracing issued to units on 28th instant. from 9th A.I.Bde., who are at present holding the line.
2. The march to the Forward Area will be carried out in accordance with the attached march table.
3. (a) Subject to the terms of this Order details of the relief will be arranged mutually between C.O.'s. concerned.  
(b) A proportion of Specialists and 50% of the Officers of 28th Battalion will go into the line on 30th Sept/1st October.  
Guides will meet this party at junction of track and MENIN Road at I.9.a.O.l. at 7 p.m. on 30th instant. and lead them to 9th A.I.Bde. Headquarters where they will be provided with guides to the portions of the line which their units will take over.
4. (a) Relief to be completed by 3 a.m. on 2nd instant. On completion command of the Sector will pass to G.O.C., 7th A.I.Bde.  
(b) During the relief all troops of 2nd Aust. Div. East of YPRES-COMINES Canal will be available to meet tactical requirements of 3rd and 4th Aust. Divs., but will not be employed except for normal garrison duty without reference to Corps.
5. Advance parties from Units for Canal Area will meet Capt. CORNEY, at 8.30 a.m. on 30th instant at BELGIAN CHATEAU, H.23.b.
6. (a) Personnel to be left out of the line will remain in their present Camps; and on receipt of further notification will proceed to Div. Reinforcement Camp at CAESTRE.  
(b) Guards, loading parties for packs and blankets will be detailed from above parties.
7. Lorries for packs and blankets will report at Bde. H.Q., BELGIAN CHATEAU at 1 p.m. on 1st October. Guides from Units will be sent to Bde. H.Q. at that hour to guide lorries to Units.  
Lorries will be loaded and sent to STEENVOORDE where they will be unloaded and dumped under a Guard provided as in para 6 (b). *(contents)*

(2)

8. Units Transport Lines will be the same as they were when in HALIFAX Area.  
They will be taken over from Units of the 4th Australian Division.
9. (a) Bde. H.Q., will close at G.35.b. at 10 a.m. on 30th instant. and re-open at BELGIAN CHATEAU at same hour.
- (b) On 1st October Bde. H.Q., will close at BELGIAN CHATEAU and re-open at D.26.c.1.3. on completion of relief.
10. Acknowledge.

*A. Boase*

Major, Brigade Major.  
7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued to Sigs at 10.30 p.m.

Distribution :-

- No. 1. 25th Bn.
2. 26th Bn.
3. 27th Bn.
4. 28th Bn.
5. 7th M. Gun Coy.
6. 7th A.L.T.H. Btty.
7. G.O.C.
8. B.M.
9. S.C.
10. Capt. CORNEY, M.C.
11. Sig. Officer.
12. I.O.
13. B.T.O.
14. 2nd Aust. Div. "Q"
15. -do- "G"
16. 1st A.I. Bde.
17. Area Commandant REINGHELST.
18. Right Bde. -8th Bde.
19. Left Bde. -9th Bde.
- 20/21 War Diary.
22. File.
- 23/26 Spare.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Move table to accompany Bde. Order No. 151.

Date.	Unit.	Moving to.	Route.	Pass.	At.	Remarks.
30th Sep.	26th Bn.	Canal Area.	via OUDENDONK & DICKELBUSCH	RENINGHELST Church	8.50 a.m.	
	28th Bn) 7th T.M.By)	"	"	"	9.5 a.m.	T.M.Btty joins the column as soon as rear of 28th Bn passes Bde. H.Q. (G.35.b.)
	25th Bn.	"	"	"	9.20 a.m.	
	27th Bn.	Pioneer Area.	"	"	9.55 a.m.	
	Bde. H.Q.) Sig. Sec.)	Belgian Chateau.	"	Bde. H.Q. (G.35.b.)	10.00 a.m.	

ABOVE MOVES TO BE COMPLETED BY 12 NOON 30th inst.

1st/2nd Oct.	28th Bn.	Line	By track from L.9.a.0.1. to Duckboards at railway road thence to KIT KAT.			Relief to be completed by 3.00 a.m. 2nd October. Guides to be provided under Bn. arrangements from advance party which went forward on the 30th Sept.
	27th Bn.	2 Coys WESTHOEK RIDGE 2 Coys BELLEWAARDE RIDGE.	-do-			Advance parties will reconnoitre and select positions under Bn arrangements. Bn H.Q., KIT KAT.

Appendix No. 13

(2)

Date.	Unit.	Moving to.	Remarks.
1st/2nd Oct.	7th M.G. Coy.) 7th T.M. Bty.)	O.C., M.G. Coy & T.M. Bty. will arrange direct with their opposite numbers to relieve such Vickers guns and Trench mortars as are in the line in the Sector being taken over.	
	25th Bn.) 26th Bn.)	YPRAS & GORDON AREAS.	Details of Billetting in these Areas will be notified later.

Distances to be maintained between units on the march.

Between Battalions and other units.	-	800 yards
Between transport of units, horsed units, and other troops.	-	400 "
Between Companies	-	200 "

APP 14

## STATEMENT OF CASUALTIES. September 1917.

## 7th A.I. Brigade

Unit	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Off.	o/r	Off.	o/r	Off.	o/r.
Brigade H.Q.	-	1	-	1	-	-
7th A.L.T.M.Bty	-	4	2	10	-	-
Brigade Signal Section	-	3	-	5	-	-
25th Battalion	2	27	4	104	-	4
26th "	2	17	4	110	-	1
27th "	-	27	5	118	-	5
28th "	5	48	12	199	-	8
7th A.M.G.Coy	1	5	-	14	1	-
	10	132	27	561	1	18

APP 15

## APPENDIX 15

## 7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

## STATEMENT OF REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED during SEPTEMBER 1917.

25th Battalion	1 Officer	54 o/ranks.
26th "	1 "	1 "
27th "	2 "	44 "
28th "	1 "	1 "
7th A.M.G.Coy	1 "	32 "

6 Officers 132 o/ranks.