

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/15/13 PART 1

Title: 15th Infantry Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-23/15/13PART1

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Headquarters

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|-----------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| S. 12667 | March 1st | | <p>Fine day with good observation. Enemy activity was marked. On one occasion our front line heavily shelled but ceased when our counter batteries opened. A few gas shells fell on our side of Advanced Battalion H.Q. but no damage was done. An enemy patrol tried to approach our line but was driven off. One of our patrols of 7 was captured by the enemy party (party strength 40 strong). The German patrol lost direction and blundered into the 2nd Brigade front line on our left. Our men called out and threw several bombs amongst the Germans and they escaped in the confusion. The Germans, apparently lost, took cover and later 20 of them were captured by the 6th Battalion. Our patrol suffered no casualties. The night fog made patrol work very confusing.</p> <p>Reinforcements - Nil. Casualties - 1 O.R. K 1 P.F. & 8 O.R. W</p> | |
| do- | 2 nd | | <p>Very foggy in the morning but clearer later. It is getting colder again. Enemy's rifle fire during the day was very consistent but his shelling was apparent below normal. A 6" Howitzer was fired from a new position near our Brigade H.Q. last night and as a result today we were treated to several 5.9" shells, which however did no damage.</p> <p>The Div. Commander visited Bde H.Q. at 11 am. Under instructions from Div. H.Q. we are to withdraw our advanced posts - 2 tonight and the remainder tomorrow night - owing to the danger of having them overwhelmed by hostile fighting patrols.</p> <p>Very little enemy activity other Machine Gun during night.</p> <p>Reinforcements - Nil. Casualties - 8 O.R. W</p> | |

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|---------|-----------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| S 12667 | 3 rd | | <p>Fine day. Very foggy in morning. It is fairly cold and the ground surface is slightly frozen. Summary of operations for week ending 2/3/19 is attached (Appendix 116). The enemy was active with his Artillery and Machine Guns. The 59th Bn was relieved by the 60th Bn and moved back to the Intermediate Line. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 O.R. W</p> | Appendix 116 |
| do- | 4 th | | <p>Fine day with good observation. It is again very cold. A provisional Defence Scheme was issued (Appendix 117). Brigade Order No 88 issued (Appendix 118). The 57th Bn moved from MARNETZ to PERTH Camp, arriving 5.30pm. The 59th Bn was relieved by the 58th Battalion and moved back to TOWNSVILLE Camp. 5pm Brigade Staff were called to a Conference with the Div. Commander at 8th Bde H.Q. The policy to be followed in our new area was explained.</p> | Appendix 117 do- 118 |
| | | 5pm | <p>5th Div. Order No 122 received (Appendix 119). Sketch showing our present dispositions in the front line is attached (Sketch 11). Day generally quiet. Last night we reversed a lot of the German wire on the recently captured line. At 6pm we captured one man of the 93rd R.I.R. who had been a member of a storming party. We captured one GRAYATEN WERFER (No 9470) in the new trench and sent it on to Division H.Q. It was in good working order.</p> | Appendix 119 Sketch 11. |
| | | | <p>Reinforcements - 2 O.R. Casualties - 2 O.R. K</p> | AW |

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|-------|------|-------|---|---|
| S 126 | 6.7 | 5th | <p>There was a fall of snow, 3 inches deep, and it is again very cold. A Periodical Summary of the diary of 15th A.L.I. B. is attached (Appendix 120) Brigade Order N^o 89 issued (Appendix 119b) The day was very quiet. The 58th Bn took over the area from the 8th Bn and the new area came under our control at 10 pm. The 57th Bn moved forward into the Intermediate Line (one Company acted as reserve to the 58th Bn for the night only). We allotted the ^{5th} Pioneers a special dug-out in GRASS LAKE so that they may be nearer their works in the Front Line System. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 3 O.R. W</p> | <p>Appendix 120 do- 119b</p> |
| do- | 6th | 11 am | <p>Fine day with sunshine. Excellent observation. Hostile 5.9 guns heavily shelled our right flank. Counter batteries were effective. Report to 5th March 1917 is attached (Appendix 121) The enemy was not very active. The 59th Bn moved up into the new area so that our redistribution is once more completed. Prot. Defence Scheme amended. (Appendix 117a) Brigade H.Q. was shelled at 6 pm - evidently passing parties drew this fire. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 off & 6 O.R. W 2 O.R. K</p> | <p>Appendix 121 Appendix 117a Aid</p> |

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|----------------------------|------|------|---|--|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|----------------------|--|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|----|--|--|
| S 12 to 6.7 | 7th | | <p>Cloudy and very cold - visibility fair. During the day everything was quiet. Sick wastage return for February is attached (Appendix 122) The 60th Bn was successfully relieved by the 57th Bn at 11 pm and retired to the Intermediate Line. The Div. Commanders visited our Area. The night was quiet. Our Brigade H.Q. was shelled several times. Reinforcements - 79 O.R. Casualties - 3 O.R. W</p> | Appendix 122 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| do- | 8th | | <p>Very cold, with alternating sunshine and snow showers. Visibility generally was very good and our parties were shelled with shrapnel. The high wind quickly blew the mist away. At present our normal Brigade H.Q. Officers are quite insufficient & many are attached for duty. For instance the undermentioned comprise our total -</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1. G.O.C.</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>2. Brigade Major</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>3. Staff Captain</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>4. Bde Major Learner</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>5. Bde Sig. Officer</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>6. Interpreter (French)</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>7. Army H.Q. Liaison</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>8. Bombing Officer</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>9. Brigade Liaison Officer</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>10. Artillery Liaison</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>11. Bde Dist. Officer</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">11</td></tr> </table> <p>With the exception of 4, 6 & 7 all these are indispensable and it seems that Brigade War Establishments might well include these rather than try to make it appear that a Brigade can be administered with the old Establishment. It would be better to be honest about it.</p> | 1. G.O.C. | | 2. Brigade Major | | 3. Staff Captain | | 4. Bde Major Learner | | 5. Bde Sig. Officer | | 6. Interpreter (French) | | 7. Army H.Q. Liaison | | 8. Bombing Officer | | 9. Brigade Liaison Officer | | 10. Artillery Liaison | | 11. Bde Dist. Officer | | 11 | | |
| 1. G.O.C. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Brigade Major | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Staff Captain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Bde Major Learner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Bde Sig. Officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Interpreter (French) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Army H.Q. Liaison | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Bombing Officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. Brigade Liaison Officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Artillery Liaison | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Bde Dist. Officer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <p>Words Policy attached (Appendix 123) Standing Orders for Dig-outs attached (Appendix 124)</p> | <p>Appendix 123 do- 124 AW</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|--------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| S 12.6.7 | 8th Cont. | | <p>The 57th Bn captured Sledge Mounting Maxim M.G. N° 3154 - this has been sent on to 5th Div. HQ. and claimed as a trophy. Copy of Operation Summary, N° 2 attached (Appendix 125) The hostile shelling was heavy at intervals but no great damage was done anywhere. We are taking great care in our precautions against gas for it is suspected that the enemy intends shortly to make a gas attack. Reinforcements - 24 O.R. Casualties - 1 O.R. K 7 O.R. W</p> | Appendix 125 |
| do- | 9th | | <p>Very cold, with occasional falls of snow. The enemy opened a bombardment at 3 pm but stopped when our guns commenced their shoot at 3.12 pm 5th Div Order N° 123 received. (Appendix 123) Today we nominated 16 Officers and 14 N.C.Os for the new Victorian Battalions being formed for the 6th Aust. Division. The 58th Bn was relieved by the 59th Bn and returned to Reserve Area. Relief complete by 10.30 pm. The 24 hours was fairly quiet. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 3 O.R. K 10 O.R. W</p> | Appendix 123 7126 |
| do- | 10th | | <p>Cloudy to drizzle. Fairly cold. All snow has disappeared. Enemy not very active except with his machine guns. The night mist prevented good patrolling. We are actively engaged connected up with a good trench the posts which had been to a large extent very isolated. The line is now practically continuous.</p> | Cuz |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
| S 12 6 6.7 | 10th Cont. | | Strength Return for 10th March is attached (Appendix 127) The redistribution of four S.O.S and Strombus Stations was completed during the night. A listening post has been established in our front line but so far has not obtained anything of value. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 1 O.R. K | Appendix 127 |
| do- | 11th | | Dine in Messing but dull later. Our guns carried out a bombardment of the enemy's front line at noon to which the hostile reply was a marked activity on the whole of our area - particularly on points further to the rear where the working parties became congested. At 5 pm it became necessary to retaliate to his fire on BULLS ROAD. | |
| | | 3 pm | 5th Div. Order N ^o 124 received (Appendix 128) Brigade Order 90 issued (Appendix 128a) Enemy fire quietened after 4 pm. During the night both sides were unusually quiet. During the night some fairly heavy showers fell and the ground is now in a bad state especially in the much shelled areas. | Appendix 128 " 128a |
| do- | 12th | 9:30 pm | The 57th Bn was relieved by the 60th Battalion without incident. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 O.R. K 1 P 17 O.R. W Day generally fine with occasional drizzle. Visibility fair. Two Companies of the 57th Bn moved back to PERTH Camp for 24 hours for a general clean up. We have instituted a system of sending Companies back for cleaning up purposes. See Appendix 129. We established a Lewis Gun School at PERTH Camp see Appendix 130. | Appendix 129 " 130 |

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15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| S 12.6.67 | 12th Oct. | | <p>Lieut. WOOD, 58th Bn, is selected as Brigade Musketry Officer. NCOs are appointed in each Battalion for musketry purposes. The day was much quieter than yesterday. During the night a drizzle set in and conditions are not comfortable. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 O.R. K 2 O.R. W</p> | |
| do. | 13th. | | <p>Cloudy - mist and drizzle. Visibility poor. General Elliott returned from sick leave to the Brigade. Col Stewart returned from temporary command of the Brigade to the 5th Battalion. News of the capture of GREVILLERS by the 2nd Aust. Div. was received and rumours of the ^{imminent} evacuation of TILL Trench by the enemy are current. Arrangements are being made to hasten this movement. Enemy shelled duckboard tracks near BULLS ROAD and the vicinity heavily during the day. Front line shelling was not very heavy. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties 1 O.R. K. 2 O.R. W. The 58th Bn relieved the 59th Bn in the left sector. Relief reported complete by 1 am. Operation Instruction No 3. (Appendix 131.) issued</p> | Appendix 131 |
| do. | 14th | | <p>Morning wet and drizzly. Visibility poor - The 806 1st ANZAC visited the Brigade H.Q. today. The 806 Division in the afternoon called a conference of Brigades at the 14th Bde H.Q. to discuss the advisability & method of making a forward movement the decisions arrived at being subsequently embodied in Divisional Order 125 (Appendix 132a). Brigade Operation Instruction No 4 was issued (Appendix 132b) During the day the Div. artillery and the Heavies carried out a programme against the enemy's front system including wire cutting. The artillery</p> | Appendix 132a App. 132b |

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Headquarters

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-------|------|--|---|
| S12b 6.7. | 14th | | <p>Continued — action was deliberate and provoked little retaliation but the enemy during the day frequently shelled our back areas with 5.9's. It is noticeable that he is using very little 77" presumably because the lighter stuff is being moved back.</p> <p>We heard today that the ST PIERRE VAASST WD. had been vacuated by the enemy and occupied by us.</p> <p>Reinforcements NIL. Casualties 4 O.R. wounded.</p> | |
| do- | 15th. | | <p>Cloudy but fine - visibility good. Only one of our patrols was able to enter enemy's trench which was found to be strongly held - our patrols had a very trying time crossing the muddy ground.</p> <p>A Divisional Conference was held at 14th Bde H.Q. and it was decided to repeat patrol operations tonight but with Artillery cooperation.</p> <p>Reinforcements - 121 O.R. Casualties - 3 O.R. K 12 O.R. W</p> | |
| do- | 16th. | | <p>General Staff Memo. N^o 98 received (Appendix 133) Operation Instruction N^o 5 issued (Appendix 133 a). 5th Div Order N^o 176 received (Appendix 133 b)</p> <p>A Lewis Gun School was opened - (see Appendix 130).</p> <p>Our Gas arrangements are shown in Appendix 134 as also are S.O.S Stations.</p> <p>Quell. Very foggy in early morning and much colder. - later the weather cleared.</p> <p>Our efforts to force enemy's line were not successful. Our patrols were very persistent and made determined efforts to break through. Hostile posts were close together and M.G.s were numerous; all attempts to pass the wire were promptly met by a heavy fire. The wire proved a difficult obstacle. Our casualties among patrols were eleven of whom 11 was killed.</p> <p>A Divisional Conference was held and it was decided to continue our efforts on similar lines and in addition to push out posts to within 400 yards of enemy wire. We are equipping and preparing reserve Battalions ready for following up the enemy if he withdraws</p> | <p>Appendix 133 do-133a - 133b 130 - 134</p> <p>α</p> <p>Ad</p> |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | 16th March | 6.30 pm | Information was received from D.H.Q. that our aeroplanes have flown along TILL Trench without drawing fire. Battalions were instructed to test situation by means of patrols forthwith. | |
| | " | 3.15 pm | Action as in Message B.M. 1/570 (Copy attached - appendix 135 a) suspended. | Appendix 135 a |
| | | | 5th Aust. Div. Order N ^o 127 received. (Appendix 135) Summary of Operations for week ending 16th March is attached (Appendix 136) The left Battalion found the wire uncut, so at 10 pm the D Group Artillery fired 120 rounds into N 9 a 5.4. Our patrols were unable to enter TILL Trench so "POSTS" were established as laid down in Bm 1/570. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 3 O.R. K 16 O.R. W | do-135 do-136 |
| S 12 B 6.7 | 17th | 5.15 am | Cloudy but fine with fair visibility. | |
| | | 6.0 am | The left Battalion (58th) reports signs of evacuation on its front | |
| | | 6.45 am | The left Battalion (58th) reported having entered TILL Trench at N 9 a 5-4 and at 6.40 am had increased this force to 2 platoons. | |
| | | 7.35 am | The Right Battalion (57th Bn) reported that it had entered TILL Trench in two places without opposition. | |
| | | 8.0 am | In accordance with Message B.M. 1/602 and previous verbal instruction patrols are being pushed on. | |
| | | 8.20 am | Right Battalion reports patrols have now passed through FIRE TRENCH and are still advancing. | |
| | | 8.30 am | Our line established on the BAPAUME-BEULENCOURT Road. Enemy shelling the road with 5.9" | |
| | | 12.14 pm | Touch obtained with enemy at N 5 Central. | |
| | | | Message G. S. 77 received from D.H.Q. (Appendix 137) | |
| | | | Sketch 12 showing our position on 16/3/17 is attached | Appendix 137 |

Appendix 137
Sketch 12
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|------------|--------------|---------------------|--|---|
| S 12667 | 17th Cont | 5 pm 9.35 pm | <p>Message G. S. 89 received (Appendix 138) and action taken.</p> <p>15th Brigade Order N° 91 issued (Appendix 138a)</p> <p>5th Aust. Division Order N° 128 received (Appendix 137a). Advanced Guard operation Order issued N° 1 issued (Appendix 137b)</p> <p>Reinforcements - Nil</p> <p>Casualties - 3 O.R. W 1 O.R. M</p> | <p>Appendix 138</p> <p>" 138a</p> <p>" 137a</p> <p>" 137b</p> |
| FREMICOURT | 18th | | <p>The column moved as per order. The transport and guns became bogged in the road to LUISENHOF FARM and ultimately the column of wagons was reversed and directed back via BAZENTIN LE PETIT, MARTINPUICH, BAPAUME but there was great delay. The men were very keen during the advance but the weight of the pack added to want of condition made the pace very slow and some Germans who might have been caught got away. We captured 3 Germans and killed one Officer and 3 men - all were off of the 98th Division. Our advance was also hindered by the slow advance of the 15th Divisions on our flanks. We took BANCOURT, FREMICOURT, HAPLIN COURT, WILLERS-AU-FLOS and BEUGNY.</p> <p>The 57th Bn and 58th Bn were relieved by units of the 8th Bde and went into Div. Reserve (Stewart's Force it was called) - and the 15th A.I.T. M.B. also went to MORTAUBERT.</p> <p>The Staff Captain remained there with the Reserve.</p> <p>Our Brigade H.Q. went without rations owing to the wagons not arriving.</p> <p>The weather was fine but at night there was a slight drizzle and it was cold.</p> <p>Brigade Order N° 2 issued (Appendix 137c)</p> <p>Reinforcements - 44 O.R.</p> <p>Casualties - $\frac{1}{2}$ O.R. K 7 O.R. W + 1 O.R. M</p> | <p>Appendix 137b</p> <p>10</p> <p>Aug</p> |

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|------------|------|------|--|---|
| FREMICOURT | 19th | | <p>Raining intermittently. 15th Aust Inf Bde Order Advanced Guard Order No. 3 issued (Appendix 139) Our advance was carried out by the 60th Bn in the van Guard but the 4th Battery was available. The enemy was stubborn and it took some time to shift them. We had a very interesting time. We captured LEBUCQUIERE, VELU and BERTINCOURT (which we handed over to the 20th Division). Advanced Guard Operation Order No. 4 issued (Appendix 139 b) 5th Div Order No. 129 issued (Appendix 140) Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 10 R. 30 R. K. 12 O. R. W</p> | <p>Appendix 139 a do - 140</p> |
| Do - | 20th | | <p>Raining very cold. Men tired out. The 60th Bn assisted by the 59th Bn carried out the advance as laid down in Message No. BM 1/670 (Appendix 140 a). At 4 pm the 29th Battalion came up and eventually relieved the 60th Bn. The men of the 60th Bn were very done up and required a rest. The G.O.C. Division visited the area & Bde H.Q. During the day we captured MORCHIES but could not take BEAUMETZ. The balance of the 15th M. G. Company joined up. We ordered the rest of Brigade H.Q. to join us from BULLS ROAD. The 55th Battery came up and joined the advanced guard. Advanced Guard Order No. 5 issued (Appendix 141) Reinforcements - Nil Nil Casualties 10 R. K. 10 O. R. W</p> | <p>Appendix 140 b Appendix 141</p> |

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| FREMICOURT | 21st | | <p>Rainy at first but fine later. Cold. Our only activity was the taking of BEAUMETZ. The 57th Battery and HQ. 14th Bde A.F.A. reported. The 30th Battalion and 1/2 Coy Cyclists reported for duty, and relieved the 59th Bn in the outpost line. The 59th Bn went to billets in FREMICOURT. One German wounded on the 30th was picked up and sent to Hospital. One German wandering near our lines at about 10 pm was shot dead. Both belonged to the 64th R. I. R.</p> | |
| | | | <p>At night snow began to fall. 5th Div Order N^o 130 received. (Appendix 142) Adv. Guard Order N^o 6 issued (Appendix 143) Strengths Return for 17th March received (Appendix 144) Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 O.R.W.</p> | <p>Appendix 142 -do-143 -do-144</p> |
| do- | 22nd | | <p>Slight Snow Showers - very cold. The Corps Commander visited Bde HQ and position of the Arpa. The day was fairly quiet. Hostile shelling did little harm. Advanced Guard Order N^o 8 issued (Appendix 145) The 57th Bn and 58th Battalion reported for duty - also the 15th A.L.T.M.B. - all our transport is not yet up. About 400 details were left in the old area and the staff captain has gone back to bring these on. The enemy used some gas shells. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 1 Off + 3 O.R.K. 11 O.R.W.</p> | <p>Appendix 145</p> |

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|------------|------------------|------|---|--|
| FREMICOURT | 23 rd | | <p>Fine day but very cold. At 4.30 am. the enemy opened a bombardment on BEAUMETZ and at 4.45 pm. attacked our positions. The enemy was driven off with heavy loss - see weekly summary. At noon when we were advancing to carry out the attack detailed in Order 17 (Appendix 145) the 59th Bn sustained 15 casualties and the 15 Machine Gun section 17 = 22. Advanced Guard Order The order of Battalions was changed from that detailed in Appendix 144 - the 58th Bn went in on the right and the 57th Bn on the left. We are busy sending forward S.A. and grenades to the front line. Reinforcements - nil Casualties - 4 O.R. K 1 Off 23 O.R. W</p> <p>Operations Summary for week ending 23/3/17 attached (Appendix 147) The Messages dealing with our intended attack on DOTG/RES are attached to Appendix 145. The attack was entirely abandoned. The early part of the night was very quiet.</p> | <p>Appendix 145</p> |
| do- | 24 th | | <p>Day fine but cold. At 4 am we were attacked at BEAUMETZ but easily drove the enemy away. At 4 pm the 59th Bn carried out an attack on enemy line on our right - this attack was highly successful. At 9 pm we captured (57th Bn) the Post at Farm T8 c 6-4 - this also was successful. At 1 am a bombing counter-attack was driven off and some enemy killed. Three wounded enemy brought in. The Corps Commander called during the day. Reinforcements - 1 Officer 34 O.R. Casualties - 8 O.R. K 3 Officers 60 O.R. W 1 O.R.M</p> | <p>Appendix 150</p> |
| do- | 25 th | | <p>Fine day. The 60th Bn relieved the 59th Bn in the Right Flank Guard position. Div. Order no 131 received (Appendix 148) 15th Bn Order Advanced Guard Order no 9 issued (Appendix 148a) Order for relief of 57th Battalion (Appendix 149)</p> | <p>Appendix 148 do- 148a do- 149</p> |

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

Headquarters

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

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------|------|---|--|
| FREMICOURT | 25th | | <p>The night passed fairly quietly. Capt. R. G. LEGGE returned to duty at 5th New H.Q. 1 unwounded and 3 wounded prisoners were brought in. 3 of our aeroplanes fell in flames within our area. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 1 OR. K 12 OR. W</p> | |
| do- | 26th | | <p>Raining in the morning but fine later. Cold at night. All our men had a heavy day and were quite fagged out. The 58th Bn carried out the advance; the 59th Bn carried out two counter-attacks and the 60th Bn was reserve to the attack. The 31st Bn sent up to help did not proceed beyond FREMICOURT as they were not required. Our flank attacks were very effective. The 58th Bn took 8 prisoners and Maxim Machine Gun No 2765 (complete) At 11 pm the 57th Bn was forced out of the farm at J8C with loss but the place was retaken by the 59th Bn a little later. Reinforcements - 3 OR Casualties - 1 Officer & 1 OR K 4 OR 82 OR. W & 7 OR. M</p> | |
| do- | 27th | | <p>Showery weather - snow occasionally. The 5th Army Commander and Corps Commander visited Brigade H.Q. The Army Commander was very congratulatory. 5th Aust. Division Order No 132 received (Appendix 151) Adv. Guard Order No 10 issued (Appendix 151a) 5th Aust. Division Order No 133 received (Appendix 152) The 30th & 31st Battalions came up early in the afternoon. The 31st relieved the 57th Bn by 8 pm but owing to the minor operation by 58th Bn their relief by 30th Bn was delayed. The 28th Battalion carried out an attack on an area held by a few German</p> | <p>Appendix 151 151a 152</p> |

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

129



Headquarters

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

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| FREMICOURT | 27th | | <p>Posts. At first there was no opposition and the enemy tried to cause us confusion by calling out "Retire". Our Queen however charged and captured machine gun nr 10129 M.G. mounting's nr 05 nr 07 and two search lights. These were forwarded to Div. Hdq. One unbound prisoner brought in.</p> | |
| do- | 28th | | <p>Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 4 O.R. K 42 O.R. W Fine in the morning but raining later. There was little activity on either side. The 13 Battalions of the 14th Brigade relieved our during the day.</p> | |
| BEAULEMCOURT | 29th | | <p>Brigade Order nr 92 issued (Appendix 152 a) At 10 pm we pushed out a strong point to give us better observation of DOIGNIES. Raining very heavily at night. 1 wounded & 1 unbound prisoner captured. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - * O.R. K 42 O.R. W 2 O.R. M</p> | Appendix 152a |
| do- | 30th | | <p>Raining heavily. At 8.30 am we handed over command of the Advanced Guard to the 14th Brigade and moved to the Sugar Factory LE TRANSLOY. The situation as it existed when we handed over is shown in Sketch 13. The Battalions are hard pressed to find accommodation for their men owing to the ruined state of the villages, but headway is being made - some old German dug-out are habitable.</p> | Sketch 13 |
| do- | 30th | | <p>Summary of operations for night ending 30/3/17 is attached (Appendix 153) The 15th mfts. Coy are having their long-standing deficiency in horses made good. Reinforcements - Nil Casualties - 2 O.R. W</p> | Appendix 153 |
| do- | 30th | | <p>A German map (Sketch 14) is attached to show the distribution of the enemy rear guard opposing our advance. Showery but generally a more cheerful day. The 59th Pw was engaged on road making.</p> | 15 |
| do- | 30th | | <p>Brigade order nr 93 issued (Appendix 154). Position of the new position was marked out and work started on the front line.</p> | Appendix 154 Adj |

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

130



Headquarters

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| BEAULENCOURT | 30th Oct | 2pm | <p>Our Men are now comfortably housed. <u>Reinforcements</u> - nil <u>Casualties</u> - nil</p> <p>Slight squalls & cold but generally an improvement. The Intermediate Line was marked out. The 59th Bn again at work on roads. Units are commencing a course of training for their specialists. A staff officer was instructed by G. C. A. I. that one of our Battalions would be required to hold the front line (right sector) so that the 14th Bde would be free to attack the line LOUVERAL - DOIGRIES. - The 57th Battalion was detailed for the duty and the C.O. reports to G. C. 14th Bde at 9 am. 31/10/17.</p> | |
| | | 4pm | <p>57th Div. Order N^o 134 received (Appendix 154). The 60th & 58th Bns are at work digging the new defensive lines. <u>Reinforcements</u> - <u>Casualties</u> -</p> <p><u>General</u> - The men thoroughly appreciate the changed conditions. Our casualties for the 10 days average about 31 daily and sick wastage was 24 daily. The 59th & 60th Bns had a very rough experience and their unusual sick wastage figures were due to the continued strain of duty i.e. advanced Guard & Outpost Duty continuously for 3 days. The weather too was not all that could be desired. The men were soft & fed out of condition for this class of warfare. The difficulties of supply were great. Rations required about 6 loadings after being drawn from the base at QUARRY. The last stage per mule was unreliable. Nevertheless, after the first day, rations came up on time and our Q.M. arrangements were good. When the</p> | Appendix 154 |

16
 [Signature]

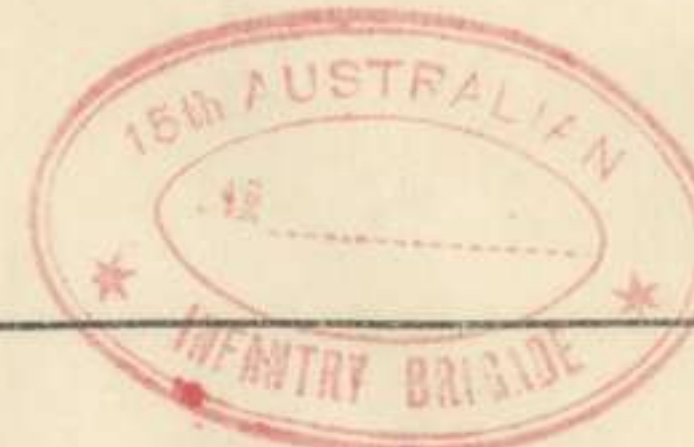
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Headquarters

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------|------|------|---|---|
| 31st Cairns | | | <p>transport managed to get through we sent the Cookers right up to the front line. The first day's advance proved how inexperienced our Officers were in open warfare. Loss of direction was common and towards evening all Companies had converged on one point - this took over an hour to rectify. The conduct of the men was excellent and many who were sick tried to stay on and "see it through".</p> <p>The experiment of leaving the administrative portion of Brigade H.Q. behind when we advanced was a failure and matters did not run smoothly until it was brought up.</p> <p>The history of the 15th A.I. B. for month of March is attached (Appendix 155). State for 24/3/17 is attached (Appendix 156). State for 31/3/17 is attached (Appendix 157).</p> <p>31/3/17</p> <p>Col. J. Wright MAJOR BDE. MAJOR 15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE</p> | <p>Appendix 155 - 156 - 157</p> |

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Summary of Operations for week ending 2nd March 1917.
-----***-----GENERAL SITUATION.

1. The enemy has fallen back steadily from advanced trench elements to TILL trench. He avoided engagements with our fighting patrols and is now holding TILL trench firmly with an unusually large proportion of Machine Guns. Hostile patrols have not been encountered in front of his wire. Hostile Artillery has been active but indications suggest that the fire is confined to only a few batteries. Our back areas are rarely shelled.

OPERATIONS.

2. BRITISH.-
NIGHT 25th/26th Feb.- A fighting patrol moved to the left along BACON trench and found it unoccupied from N.21.D.7-7. to N.20.B.50-95. The trench was at once occupied and consolidated.
NIGHT 26th/27th Feb.- Two strong fighting patrols (approx. 50 all ranks) reconnoitred BARLEY trench which was found to be occupied. Posts were established at N.15.C.2-7 and N.15.D.30-65.
NIGHT 27th/28th Feb.- Two fighting patrols entered BARLEY trench at 5.30 p.m. They worked to the flanks and the enemy withdrew. By 6 a.m. the trench was occupied and consolidated from N.15.A.9.9 to N.15.D.6-9 and linked up with our front line along MILKY WAY.

ENEMY -

The enemy has consistently withdrawn in the face of our advance but has been on the watch for movement which invariably attracts his fire.

PATROLS.

3. BRITISH -
NIGHT 25th/26th Feb.- Patrol of 6 crossed enemy trench at N.14.B.6-1 and encountered a hostile patrol. One man of latter (PRUSSIAN LANDWEHR) was killed and 3 others wounded - these were not captured.
NIGHT 27th/28th Feb.- Patrol of 7 reconnoitred TILL trench at N.9.C.9-9. The enemy was very alert and used a large number of flares. Three Machine Guns opened fire on the patrol and it returned with one casualty.
DAY 28th Feb.- Patrol of 3 reached N.16.A.10-05. 40 Germans were unexpectedly met and refused to accept friendly advances on part of patrol. Patrol had to retire.
NIGHT 28th Feb./1st March- Patrol of 6 reached enemy wire at N.16.A.2-0 and threw bombs into the trench. Enemy opened fire with Machine Guns and patrol retired.

ENEMY-

No enemy patrols were seen in advance of his wire.

TRENCH MORTAR.

4. BRITISH - Our STOKES Mortars have had only one opportunity for action. During night 28th Feb./1st March the strong point at N.16.A.3-0 was engaged. This is the only point within reach of our line.
ENEMY - No hostile Trench Mortar fired reached our Sector during the week.

ARTILLERY.

6. BRITISH - Our Artillery fire has been directed on trenches believed to be held. No organised task was carried out. During the week all batteries were moved forward and are now engaged in registering.
ENEMY - The hostile Artillery has kept up a continuous but not heavy fire. The whole of our front line system received attention but very little shelling was directed on the Intermediate Line.

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A very large proportion of Field Gun Shrapnel is used, usually fired in SALVOES. The general impression is that the enemy has only a few batteries which he is using very freely.

MACHINE GUNS. 4. BRITISH - Our Vickers Guns have been moved forward to BACON trench and then to BARLEY trench. The policy followed was to engage hostile machine guns which became active and to bring fire to bear on areas through which evacuating transport might be expected to pass. A deal of indirect firing was done from the Reserve Line.

ENEMY - Enemy Machine Guns activity has been very marked and a larger number of guns appears to be present. Any movement on our part is sure to draw the fire of one or more machine guns. At times during the night bursts of exceptional activity last for periods of about an hour. Our patrols find great difficulty in moving across the open. There is no evidence of the use of indirect fire.

CHANGES IN FRONT. 7. On 28th February our frontage was altered. It now runs as shown hereunder:-

RIGHT - N.21.D.6-7.
LEFT - N.14.B.3-5.

Our Front Line runs from N.21.D.6-7 along SUNKEN ROAD to N.15.D.6-9, thence along BARLEY trench to N.14.B.3-5. We have established "POSTS" at N.16.A.0-0, N.15.B.55-15, N.15.B.0-3, N.15.A.6-7 and N.14.B.9-7.

CASUALTIES. 8.

| | DATE | KILLED | | WOUNDED | | MISSING | | TOTAL. | |
|------|-------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--------|------|
| | | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. |
| Feb. | 25th. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| " | 26th. | - | 2 | - | 7 | - | - | - | 9 |
| " | 27th. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| " | 28th. | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 4 |
| Mar. | 1st. | - | 1 | - | 8 | - | - | - | 9 |
| " | 2nd. | - | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | 8 |

Sgt. J.C. Stewart

Lieut-Colonel.
Temp. Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 117

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Provisional Defence Scheme.

1. Our Front Line has been temporarily extended to permit of offensive operations on the Corps left.
The front held by the Brigade extends from N.21.D.6-7 along MILKY WAY and BARLEY TRENCH to N.8.C.25-30 with certain advanced posts.
2. The front will be held by 2 Battalions, each with two Companies in the front line and two in support, and 6 Vickers Machine Guns.
Inter-Battalion boundary is at N.15.A.0-0.
One Battalion and 4 Vickers Guns will hold the Intermediate System on the line POSSUM RESERVE with supports in BULL'S ROAD.
One Battalion will be in Reserve at TOWNSVILLE Camp.
3. The enemy is expected to make determined attacks on our posts with fighting patrols up to 50 strong. Bombardment may not accompany or precede the attack but may be used as a diversion.
4. All posts must be vigilant and resist to the last. Listening Post and patrols should be able to give timely warning of hostile approaches. If a post is overpowered flanking attacks along the trench should be made at once.
Battalion Commanders will organise immediate counter-attacks from their support line but will consult Brigade H.Q. before moving, to ensure co-operation.
Battalion Commanders must be prepared to form defensive flanks or to assist neighbouring Battalions by flank attacks and therefore all Battalions in the front line system must keep in the closest touch with their neighbours.
5. In the event of more extensive action on our part, the Battalion in the Intermediate System will be organised for attack in POSSUM RESERVE and the Reserve Battalion will be brought forward to SWITCH trench under orders from Brigade H.Q.
6. Battalion Commanders are responsible for the establishment of STROMBUS HORN and S.O.S. Signal Stations in their areas and that sentries with clear and definite orders are posted thereon.
In the Intermediate System a STROMBUS HORN and S.O.S. Station will be established in POSSUM RESERVE.
7. Units in the front line system will render reports every even clock hour. Care must be taken not to disclose important information when using the telephone for this purpose.

4th March 1917.

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 117a
Secret.

Appendix No. 117 a

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Provisional Defence Scheme.

1. Our Front Line has been temporarily extended to permit of preparations for offensive operations elsewhere.
The front held by the Brigade extends from N.22.C.1-9 along MILKY WAY and BARLEY TRENCH to N.8.A.6-0 with certain advanced posts.
2. The front will be held by 2 Battalions, each with two Companies in the front line and two in support, and 8 Vickers Machine Guns.
Inter-Battalion boundary is at N.15.A.5-0.
Two Battalions and 8 Vickers Guns will hold the Intermediate System on the line POSSUM RESERVE and HAY RESERVE with supports in BULL'S ROAD.
3. The enemy is expected to make determined attacks on our posts with fighting patrols up to 50 strong. Bombardment may not accompany or precede the attack but may be used as a diversion.
4. All posts must be vigilant and resist to the last. Listening Posts and patrols should be able to give timely warning of hostile approaches. If a post is overpowered flanking attacks along the trench should be made at once.
Battalion Commanders will organise immediate counter-attacks from their support line but will consult Brigade H.Q. before moving, to ensure co-operation.
Battalion Commanders must be prepared to form defensive flanks or to assist neighbouring Battalions by flank attacks and therefore all Battalions in the front line system must keep in the closest touch with their neighbours.
5. In the event of more extensive action on our part, the Battalions in the Intermediate System will be organised for attack in POSSUM RESERVE - HAY RESERVE under orders from Brigade H.Q.
6. Battalion Commanders are responsible for the establishment of STROMBUS HORN and S.O.S. Signal Stations in their areas and that sentries with clear and definite orders are posted thereon.
In the Intermediate System a STROMBUS HORN and S.O.S. Stations will be established at Battalion H.Q. in CHEESE ROAD and POSSUM RESERVE.
7. Units in the front line system will render reports ^{on events without delay} every even clock hour. Care must be taken not to disclose important information when using the telephone for this purpose.

7th March 1917.

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

282

SECRET.

Appendix 118

Appendix No. 118

Copy No. 8.....

22

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 88.

Reference -57 C.S.W.
LE BARQUE 1/20000.



4th March 1917.

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

| DATE March. | FRONT LINE | | INTERMEDIATE SYSTEM | TOWNSVILLE CAMP. |
|----------------|------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | R | L | | |
| 5th. | 60th Bn. | 58th Bn. | 57th Bn. | 59th Bn. |
| 6th. | 60th Bn. | 58th Bn. | 57th Bn. | 59th Bn. |
| 7th. | 57th Bn. | 58th Bn. | 60th Bn. | 59th Bn. |
| 8th. | 57th Bn. | 58th Bn. | 59th Bn. | 60th Bn. |
| 9th. | 57th Bn. | 59th Bn. | 58th Bn. | 60th Bn. |
| 10th. | 57th Bn. | 59th Bn. | 60th Bn. | 58th Bn. |
| 11th. | 60th Bn. | 59th Bn. | 57th Bn. | 58th Bn. |

9. Both Front Line Battalions will forward a rough sketch of their detailed positions by 8 a.m. on 7th instant.

Geo. J. Wright

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 1 p.m.

- No.1. 57th Battalion.
2. 58th Battalion.
3. 59th Battalion.
4. 60th Battalion.
5. 15th M.G. Coy.
6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
7. 2nd Brigade.
8. War Diary.
- 9.) Brigade H.Q.
- 10)

Appendix 119

SECRET.

5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 122.

Headquarters,
4th. March 1917.

1. The front held by the 5th. Australian Division will be extended to the left, up to a forward boundary defined by a line from LUSENHOF FARM through CATAPULT Road (exclusive)
2. A redistribution of Troops on the whole Divisional front will be effected. Two Infantry Brigades will be in line and one Infantry Brigade in reserve. Four Brigades of Field Artillery will come under the orders of the C.R.A. and these will be distributed to cover the new front.
3. Boundaries of the new Brigade areas will be as shown on the attached map. Quartering within those areas will be arranged by the Brigadiers concerned, subject to any modifications notified specially.
4. The 15th. Infantry Brigade will take over the front from their present left in N.14.b. to their new left about N.8.a.7.0, from the 2nd. Brigade of the 1st. Australian Division, on the night 5/6th. March. Details of the relief will be arranged between Brigadiers concerned. Command of the new front will pass on completion of the relief. The hour of taking over will be wired to Divisional Headquarters.
5. On the night of the 6/7th. March the 14th. Infantry Brigade will take over the front held by the 8th. Infantry Brigade, as far west as N.22.c.1.9. Details of this relief will be arranged between the Brigadiers concerned. The relief will be conducted by G.O.C. 8th. Brigade. Command will pass at 10.a.m. on 7th. March, when the G.O.C. 14th. Brigade will establish his Headquarters in the Headquarters of 8th. Brigade in S.12.b. On the same night -6/7th the 15th. Bde will extend to their right to N.22.c.1.9.
6. 14th. and 15th. Infantry Brigades in line will distribute their Infantry so as to have two Battalions in front system, and two Battalions in intermediate and second lines. The Battalions in front system will each find two outpost companies, which will hold the front line as defined in Divisional Order No. 121, with a series of posts, with necessary listening posts in front. Special Patrols should be found from the support companies of the front system Battalions. Reliefs will be arranged under Battalion and Brigade arrangements.
7. The 8th. Infantry Brigade will be withdrawn into reserve. It will be accommodated in TRONES WOOD - MONTEAUBAN - and TOWNSVILLE Camps, except for one Battalion working on roads, which will be accommodated by the C.R.E.
8. The 14th. A.F.A. Brigade is being ordered up to relieve the 11th. A.F.A. Brigade. The 3rd. and 13th. A.F.A. Brigades are already in line. The 6th. A.F.A. Brigade now in line on our left will come under the orders of the C.R.A. at 5 p.m. on 5th. March.
9. C.R.E. will distribute the work of field companies and Pioneers on the following lines:--
 - Right Brigade Sector. 15th. Field Coy. and two companies of Pioneers.
 - Left Brigade Sector. 14th. Field Coy. and one company of Pioneers
 - Back areas and special work. 8th. Field Coy. and one Company Pioneers.

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- 2 -

10. A.D.M.S. will make the necessary redistribution of medical personnel, under the orders of D.D.M.S. and by arrangement with A.D.M.S. 1st. Australian Division.
11. Details of quartering and Administrative arrangements will be notified by "C" Branch of the Division.
12. Headquarters right Brigade will make all preparations to move forward to CO. TRENCH T.3.a.1.9. Headquarters left Brigade will be prepared to move forward to BULLS ROAD N.31.b.2.1. Headquarters Reserve Brigade will be established in huts near Quarry S.22.d.

Divisional Headquarters remain at BERNAFAY WOOD.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Cumwagstaff

Lieut.-Colonel
General Staff,
5th. Australian Division.

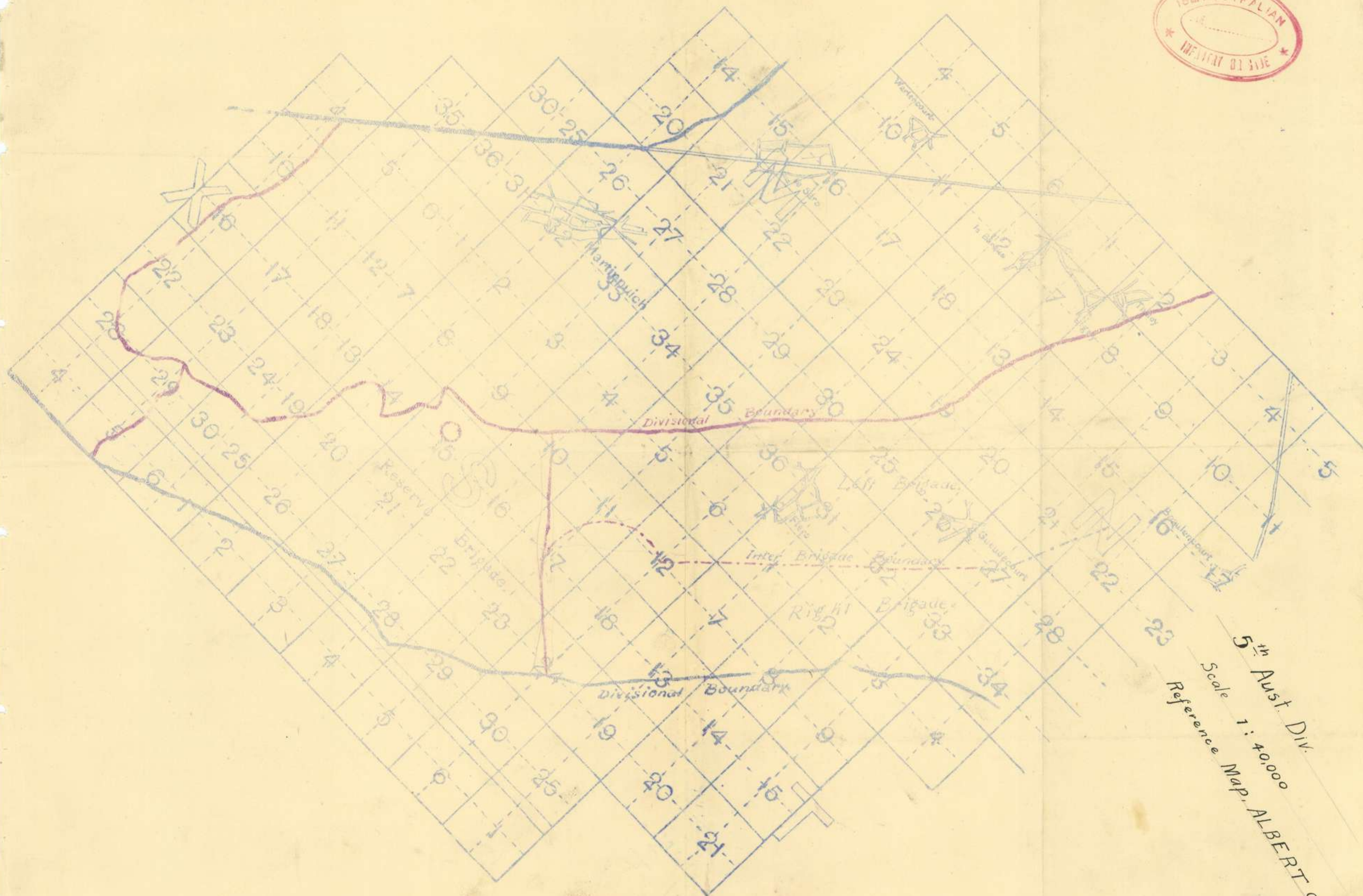
Issued at 1 p.m. to:-

Copy No.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 8th. Infantry Brigade | 1. |
| 14th do. | 2. |
| 15th do. | 3. |
| C.R.A. | 4. |
| C.R.E. | 5. |
| A.D.M.S. | 6. |
| A.D.V.S. | 7. |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion | 8. |
| Div. Sig. Coy | 9. |
| Div. Train | 10. |
| S.S.O. | 11. |
| A.P.M. | 12. |
| D.A.D.O.S. | 13. |

Copies to:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1st. Anzac | 14. |
| 20th. Division | 15. |
| 1st. Aust. Division | 16. |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 17. |
| "C" File | 18. |
| "C" File | 19. |
| War Diary. | 20. |



5th Aust. Div.
 Scale 1:40,000
 Reference Map ALBERT Combined.

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SECRET.

Copy No. 10
5/3/17

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

A.A.M.C. ORDER No. 18 by COLONEL W.W. HEARNE.

A.D.M.S. 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Map Reference Albert Combined 1/40,000.



1. On the withdrawal of the 1st Australian Division into reserve, and the partitioning of the Corps front between the 5th & 2nd Australian Divisions, the following re-arrangement of medical personnel will take place.
2. R.A.P. at N 13 d. 7.8 will be taken over from 1st Australian Division on the night of 5/6th March by R.M.O. of the Battalion taking over left sector of the Divisional Front Line.
3. C.O. 15th Australian Field Ambulance will station three (3) squads of Bearers at this R.A.P. and a similar number at N 25 b 3.6 which will cease to be a R.A.P. and become a Bearer Relay Post. Move to be complete by 9 p.m., on 5th March.
4. Evacuation of casualties from left Battalion R.A.P. will be by hand carriage by relay of Field Ambulance Bearers, to relay Post at N 31 b 3.1 thence by Decauville to Left Advanced Dressing Station at S 12 b 7.8.
5. Receipts in duplicate for stores taken over will be forwarded to this office within 24 hours of completion of move.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE. *ackd*

W.W. Hearne

COLONEL.

A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division.

Copies issued to:-

1. Headquarters "G"
2. " " "A" & "Q"
3. D.D.M.S.
4. D.M.S.
5. 8th Australian Field Ambulance.
6. 14th " " "
7. 15th " " "
8. 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade.
9. 14th " " "
10. 15th " " "
11. A.D.M.S. 1st Australian ^{DIVISION} ~~Field Ambulance~~.
12. " 2nd " " "
13. " 4th " " "
- 14/15 War Diary
16. File.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 89. 27

Reference -57 C.S.W.
LE BARQUE 1/20000.

5th March 1917.



1. Owing to altered circumstances a re-distribution of the Divisional area has been ordered. There will now be two Brigades in the line and one in Reserve.
2. The Brigade front has been extended and the boundaries of our sector now are :-
RIGHT Boundary - N.22.C.1-9, N.27.B.1-2, N.32.Central, S.12 Central
S.17 Central.
LEFT Boundary - N.8.A.6-0, N.13.D.6-7 along the road to N.19.D.2-9,
N.19.C.6-2, M.36.A.0-0 to S.10.A.0-5.
3. (a) The front will be held by two Battalions in front of CHEESE ROAD.
The inter-battalion boundary is N.15.A.5-0, N.20.B.7-0. SEVEN DIALS.
RIGHT Battalion H.Q. is at N.26.A.2-9.
LEFT Battalion H.Q. is at N.13.D.8.9.
(b) Two Battalions will be held in Reserve on the line POSSUM RESERVE -
HAY RESERVE.
The boundary between the Reserve Battalion Areas is SEVEN DIALS,
GRASS LANE (inclusive to Left Battalion) N.31.A.35-20, FLERS ROAD to
M.12.A.4-3.
(c) Eight Vickers Machine Guns are allotted to the Front Line System and
will be placed in carefully selected positions so that the whole front
is covered by fire.
Eight Vickers M.Guns will be placed in Corps positions in the
Reserve area.
(d) Two Stokes Mortars are allotted to the Right Battalion.
Six Stokes Mortars will be held in Reserve.
4. The adjustment of the new frontage in the front line will be carried
out on the night 5th/6th March.
Units concerned will mutually arrange details.
5. The 57th Battalion will move into position in the Right Reserve
Battalion area on 5th March. The 59th Battalion will move into
position in the Left Reserve Battalion area on 6th March.
6. Reliefs of the front line Battalions will take place in the Right
sector on 7th March and in the Left sector on 9th March and in each
case every fourth day.
Battalions will not move back to hutments as heretofore.
7. Battalions on coming out of the front line system will make their own
arrangements regarding the drying of gum boots.
8. The necessity for the improvement of all trenches and quarters in areas
is emphasised.
9. Brigade H.Q. will shortly be moved to BULL'S ROAD (N.31.B.2-1)

Geo. Z. Wreck Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.
Issued at 9 a.m.

- No.1. 57th Battalion
2. 58th Battalion
3. 59th Battalion
4. 60th Battalion.
5. 15th M.G. Coy.
6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
7. 14th Brigade
8. 2nd Brigade
10. Brigade Q.M.
- 11.) Brigade H.Q.
- 12.)

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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.



Sheet 77

15³ A.L.T.M.B.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| In the field | 18.1.17 | | <p>Battery marched to C. Camp & rejoined Brigade, which is in the line. The outgoing Battery had moved before our arrival, thus we were unable to obtain any information from them regarding the line, work in hand, etc. Capt. Leamy returned from hospital & Lieut. Greenaway rejoined from English leave.</p> <p>Preparations to establish detachments in front line & middle trench, also making arrangements for construction of dumps.</p> <p>One officer & one detachment are stationed in front line, and one officer and two detachments in middle trench. There are no emplacements on dumps in front line, as has been the case in each of our previous lines of duty in this neighbourhood, there is a great deal of pioneering work to be done. A start has been made in constructing emplacements and dumps in advantageous positions in the line, and these will be pushed on as rapidly as possible.</p> | <p>Why?</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Why?</p> |

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Appendix No 120

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Reg. Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. The pages will be prepared in manuscript.

15th A.L.T.M.B

Sheet 85

(Cross heading not required)

Summary of Events and Information

Place Date Hour

Remarks and References to Appendices

Continued

In The Field 14.2.17. out onto each flank putting a block in trench until the operation was over. Total number of rounds fired 530. The raiding party from 57 Bn. Decounted 12 dead in the trench after our preliminary bombardment. operation was an absolute success. 28 Germans killed, 7 taken prisoner, and much information gained, at very slight loss to ourselves. D.H.Q. and B.H.Q. complimented us on our work.

15.2.17 During the afternoon we were relieved by the 8th A.L.T.M.B. During our term in the line, a great deal of work was done, and many successful minor operations carried out. and we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are leaving the sector in a great deal better shape than we found it. We fired in this sector a total of 7,994 rounds.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

15. A.I.T. M.B.

Sheet 78

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| In the field | 23.1.17. | | artillery active on both sides, an ammunition dump has been constructed in front monsoon trench just left of the junction of Eternal alley. Two emplacements were constructed in front line during the night. Owing to the shallowness of the trench, very little can be done during the day. | Ref. |
| " | 24.1.17. | | St. Morris temporarily attached, reported for duty. During the night, two emplacements were constructed at N.22.E.4.6 + N.22.E.5.7. at 10 pm, one detachment took up position at the latter emplacement, and fired 30 rounds at enemy M.G. which was harassing movement in our line. M.G. kept quiet for remainder of night. | Ref. |
| No | 25.1.17 | | During the day we thoroughly reconnected our section, and got in touch with the flanking Brigades. at 9.30 pm one Detachment took up position in front line at N.22.E.4.6 and fired 20 rounds at troublesome sniper in enemy | Ref. |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 79.

15th A.L.T.M.B.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 nd Th. Field | 25.1.17 | continued | line - Sniper did not fire again during the night. | W.H.F. |
| do. | 26.1.17 | | During the day we constructed an emplacement in front line, on left of section, and quietened a sniper with five rounds, at same time registering on enemy trench at N. 21 D. 9 1/2 S. at 9 pm one detachment took up emplacement in new position, and bombarded enemy trench on registered position, trench was very badly damaged, 50 rounds were fired. | W.H.F. |
| do | 27.1.17 | | Artillery below, normal, aerial activity on both sides, one of our planes was brought down by a direct hit from enemy anti aircraft gun. During the day, we carried on with construction of ammunition dumps in trench & front trenches, at 11.30 pm. Detachment took up position in left emplacement and fired 30 rounds at enemy trench between | |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 80

15th A.L.T.M.B.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| In the Field | 27.1.17. | | N 21. D. 9 1/2. 5 + N. 21. D. 6 1/2. 6 1/2. badly damaging trench. | Wmf. |
| do. | 28.1.17. | | Sufficient emplacements have now been constructed to the whole of the enemy line in our sector. At 12 noon, one detachment fired 10 rounds quietening enemy snipers at N. 22. C. 4 1/2. 7. Our activity has quietened enemy snipers and M.G.'s considerably. | Wmf. |
| do | 29.1.17. | | at 3 pm, one detachment registered on enemy line, between N. 22. C. 6. 6. + N 22. C. 1. 6. Shoot was very successful, as a great percentage of shells landed in enemy trench. 30 rounds fired - shells bounce on frozen ground, resulting in a very effective air burst. | Wmf. |
| do | 30.1.17. | | at 4 pm two detachments took up positions in front line on the left, and opened fire in conjunction with the | Wmf. |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 81.

5th A.L.I.M. B.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2nd Field 30.1.17. | Continued | | Medium mortars on enemy line and mine between N. 22. E. 1/2. 7 1/2 and N. 22. E. 5 7/2. - Enemy wire was gapped in many places and trench was very badly damaged, 200 rounds were fired, retaliation was light consisting of a few 77 m. m. | Why. |
| do. | 31.1.17. | | Throughout the day we fired on all M.G. emplacements in enemy line all objectives were hit, 50 rounds expended. During the night we constructed an ammunition dump capable of holding 250 rounds. | Why. |
| do. | 1.2.17. | | During the day registrations were carried out on enemy trench on left flank on area, to be assaulted by 4 th Div. at 7pm, we arrived the 4 th Div. operation, by maintaining a slow bombardment on enemy trenches between N. 22. E. 3 1/2 & N. 22. E. 6. 6 1/2 for 30 minutes. Twice | |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

13th A.L.T.M.B.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 82.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|---------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Lit. Field | 1.2.17. | ^{cond.} | during the night, we bombarded the same area, in response to S.O.S. signals. | whf. |
| do | 2.2.17. | | Carried on with construction of emplacements and buying of ammunition. | whf. |
| do | 3.2.17. | | During the night we fired 60 rounds on runway trench with good effect. | whf. |
| do | 4.2.17. | | at 10 pm, we again co-operated with 4 th Div. firing a similar programme as on the 1 st inst. We stood by until daylight, in readiness to place a barrage over captured trench, in case of a counter attack. | whf. |
| do | 5.2.17. | | Two detachments stood by in front line during the night, but were not called upon to fire. | whf. |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet 83

6th A.L.T.M.B.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 nd The Suda | 6.2.17 | | Special precautions were taken during the night, in the event of a Gas attack, but nothing unusual happened. | Wbf |
| do | 7.2.17 | | a start was made on clearing out old German dug-out which we discovered in the rear of Mousrow trench. this will be engaged to hold a detachment. at 11.p.m. in response to request from H.T. Dio. we successfully bombarded Sunning trench on the night of the position occupied on 4.2.17. we fired 85 rounds. | Wbf Wbf |
| do | 8.2.17 | | we carried on with engagement of dugout. | Wbf |
| do | 9.2.17 | | Artillery active we fired 20 rounds on snipers position at N.22 E. 8.6. quietening same. During the night, we fired on and silenced an enemy M.G. at N 22. D. 1/2 6 1/2. | Wbf |
| do | 10.2.17 | | we fired 40 rounds on enemy trenches and mine at N.22 E. 5 1/2. 7. with very good effect. Two Germans who were observed lounging at this spot were blown up. | Wbf Wbf |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

16th ALT. M. B.

Sheet 54

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| In the field | 11.2.17 | | We fired 30 rounds on enemy wire at N 22 c. 5.7, 20 rounds at N. 22. c. 8.6½ and 10 rounds at N. 22. c. 4.7½, with good effect, a few rounds were also fired on position from which enemy was firing flares, a box of flares was set on fire. | Whf |
| do. | 12.2.17 | | We blew an enemy sniper out of trench, at N. 22. c. 5.7. He is still lying on the parapet. 20 rounds were fired on enemy wire at N. 22. c. 4.8 and 40 rounds at N. 22. c. 6.8½. | Whf. |
| do | 13.2.17 | | We bombarded Sunday trench and wire with good effect during the day, bursts were fired at intervals during night. | Whf. |
| do | 14.2.17 | | We fired on enemy wire throughout the day successfully cutting it in several places, trench also received a little attention. By 6 pm, 8 emplacements and dumps containing 100 rounds each were completed and registered from, on enemy trench between N. 22. c. 6½.6½ and N. 22. c. 1½.8. in readiness for a raid operation, at zero - 9 pm - 8 guns opened fire on this area, firing 208 rounds, at zero 1½. four guns switched | 36 |

2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S. Forms/C. 2118.

(continued on back of sheet 77.)

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Appendix No 121

Appendix 121

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

WORKS REPORT - "A"

Summary of Work done since 24th February 1917.

5th March 1917.

1. Wire Entanglements -
 - (a) Front Line - Nil.
 - (b) Support Line- Nil.
 - (c) Reserve Line- Nil.

2. Fire Trenches and Strong Points.
 - (a) Front Line - BARLEY Trench when taken was found to be knee deep in mud. At all Posts this mud has been cleaned out and duckboards taken from damaged dug-outs placed in position as "standings".
In seven dug-outs in the front line the entrances had been filled in. Parties have been engaged clearing the earth away.
 - (b) Support Line- PORK Trench was also found to be knee deep in mud and slush. All available garrison has been employed clearing up the trench. Duckboards recovered from the old front and support trenches are being sent up in small quantities but supplies are not sufficient.

3. Communication Trenches -

MILKY WAY has been dug and improved.
A new communication trench (EGG Trench) to run from N.20.B.8-8 to N.14.D.8-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ has been dug to an average depth of 5 feet for a distance of 550 yards.
A new C.T. has been started from N.21.A.8-6 $\frac{1}{2}$. This trench has been dug 100 yards to a depth of 4 ft 6 in.

4. Overland Routes -

1200 yards of 3 ft duckboard track re-wirenetted.

5. Dug-outs -

60 men employed on extension of dug-outs at CHALK Pits N.27.A.8-3. This is continuous work, 20 men working at a time on 8 hour shifts.

6. Miscellaneous -

WATER SUPPLY -
No.3 well at GUEUDE COURT N.26.B.7-1 cleared and top being repaired.

RAILWAYS -
Decauville Tracks -
Left Branch - 150 yards of salvaged track roughly laid on sleepers. Railhead N.31.B.6-2.
Right ~~Left~~ Branch - 760 yards of salvaged track laid on duckboards on trestles. Railhead N.27.C.99-80.
5 - 30 ft Sidings put in.
Line repaired and maintained.
20 men daily employed on salvaging duckboards and timber.

ROADS -
100 men on 27th/28th ult. worked from LONGUEVAL to S.6.B.8-2 on drainage and general repairs.
100 men on 27th/28th ult. worked from S.6.B.8-2 to T.1.A.3-6 on grading new 18 ft road.
200 men from 1st inst. working nightly on grading new 18 ft road from N.31.D.4-9 to GUEUDE COURT.
1 Culvert put in.
1 Trench bridged.

R.A.P. - Duckboards have been laid and wired and entrance improved at R.A.P. Brigade H.Q.

Drying Shed - A 16ft x 8ft drying shed for gum boots has been completed at Brigade H.Q.

Geo. F. Weeks MAJOR
BDE. MAJOR
15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

Appendix 122

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Return of Sick Wastage for Month of *February* 1917.



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| UNIT. | DATE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | REMARKS. | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|-------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 15th Bde. H.Q. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Total |
| 15th M.G.Coy. | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16 | |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | |
| 57th Battalion. | * | 1 | - | 5 | - | - | 8 | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 9 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 3 | - | - | - | 116 | | |
| 58th Battalion. | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 4 | - | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 22 | 2 | - | 1 | 4 | 3 | - | - | - | 134 | | |
| 59th Battalion. | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | - | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 4 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 109 | | |
| 60th Battalion. | 6 | - | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | 5 | - | - | - | 94 | | |
| TOTAL. | 13 | 4 | 8 | 19 | 8 | 7 | 23 | 12 | 15 | 21 | 15 | 17 | 22 | 13 | 13 | 6 | 25 | 22 | 29 | 26 | 26 | 32 | 35 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 12 | - | - | - | 481 | | |

* Days spent in advance of Brigade Headquarters.
 M.G.C. 60% in advance of Brigade Headquarters. *except between 13th & 23rd.*
 A.L.T.M.B. 30% in advance of Brigade Headquarters. *do-*

Geo. J. Wickett
 Major,
 Brigade Major, 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix No 122



H

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

WORKS POLICY

-----***-----

Front Line System.

1. The front line will be made continuous for purposes of communication. Posts held will be fire-stepped, drained, duckboarded and wired. The parapet must not prevent firers from seeing the whole of the ground to their front. If the Posts are not sufficiently close to afford mutual support new connecting posts are to be constructed at once.

Working parties from the garrison will be employed mainly on digging in the trench.

Wiring parties will be drawn from either the support or reserve Company and the work pushed on with.

Intermediate System.

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

In order to give effect to the policy outlined in 1 above Battalions in the front line will detail an officer to supervise the work and ensure that correct tasks are gone on with. These officers will submit a daily report of work done; this will be transmitted to Brigade H.Q.

Before going into the line Battalions will send their Works Officer ahead to confer with the outgoing Works Officer as to tasks in hand and projected.

7th March 1917.

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix 124

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Standing Orders for dug-outs.

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

7th March 1917.

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Operations for week ending 9th March 1917.

-----***-----

GENERAL SITUATION.

1. The enemy has held firmly to his TILL trench line. He resists all attempts made by our patrols to penetrate his line, but is not aggressive. Hostile fire appears to be chiefly retaliatory.

OPERATIONS.

2. BRITISH - We have been engaged in consolidating the line gained during the period covered by the last report, and also improving and consolidating the front taken over from the 1st Australian Division.
NIGHT 1st/2nd March - Our working party of 7 returning from strengthening a forward post at N.14.B.6-9 became confused in the fog and lost its way. Apparently the party wandered in the direction of the German lines for a M. Gun forced the men to take shelter; a party of 40 Germans forced them to surrender and took them with them. The Germans, as afterwards transpired, were a fighting patrol on its way to attack one of our posts. The hostile patrol lost its way in the dense fog and passing between posts in the British front line reached our support line where they were challenged. The 7 men, fortunately were in possession of 2 bombs each which they threw amongst the Germans and wounded several whereupon the others scattered only to be captured later.
ENEMY - No enemy enterprise other than that already described was attempted.

PATROLS.

3. BRITISH - The object of our patrols was to ascertain extent of enemy activity and to determine if any change in his garrison strength had taken place.
NIGHT 1st/2nd March - Three patrols sent out to inspect enemy's wire at different points drew M.G. and rifle fire and were bombed.
NIGHT 2nd/3rd March - Two patrols sent out to feel enemy's line came under fire when close to his wire.
NIGHT 3rd/4th March - Our patrols heard considerable talking in enemy's trench. They were not fired on.
NIGHT 4th/5th March - Hostile Machine Gun fire stopped one patrol, but one patrol reached enemy's wire and saw 25 Germans without being themselves detected.
NIGHT 5th/6th March - Patrols were not fired on but enemy was occupying trench in strength.
NIGHT 6th/7th March - Seven patrols were out. Enemy was seen in TILL trench. Patrol was not fired on.
NIGHT 7th/8th March - Patrols were again fired on when close to enemy line.
ENEMY - On two occasions only were hostile patrols seen - these were not close to our line.

MACHINE GUNS.

4. BRITISH - Our Vickers Guns have been used for covering with fire all areas suspected or known to be ^{areas} of hostile activity, and also to neutralise any machine gun in action.
ENEMY - Sweeping our front line parapet by day and night appears to be his only object and this activity has been steadily decreasing.

TRENCH MORTARS.

5. BRITISH - Our Stokes guns fired on two occasions when patrols reported their only possible objective to be occupied. Usually the enemy evacuates this part of his line.
ENEMY - Hostile L.T. Mortars have intermittently shelled our local salient but no damage has been done. His pineapple bombs cannot reach our line.

(2)

ARTILLERY.

6. BRITISH - Our Artillery has been very active against portions of hostile line reported to be held. Hostile batteries have also been engaged.
- ENEMY - Hostile Artillery fire of all calibres up to 8" has been heavy on certain definite areas where apparently he has detected good targets; the gun positions in FLERS received special attention. The improved visibility has caused the duckboard tracks to come in for much attention. 4.2" shells have been fired in salvos of 4, 77 m.m. in salvos of 5, and 5.9" in salvos of 3. Shrapnel has been used very freely.

CHANGES OF FRONT.

7. Our frontage was increased as follows :-
- (a) On the night 5th/6th March we took over from the 2nd Brigade, the front from our left to N.8.A.7-0.
- (b) On the night 6th/7th March we extended our right to N.22.C.1-9, thus taking over some of the front previously held by the 8th Brigade.

CASUALTIES.

| DATE March. | KILLED | | WOUNDED | | MISSING | | TOTAL | |
|----------------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|-------|------|
| | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. |
| 3rd | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| 4th | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| 5th | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |
| 6th | - | 2 | 2 | 6 | - | - | 2 | 8 |
| 7th | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | 3 |
| 8th | - | 1 | - | 7 | - | - | - | 8 |
| 9th | - | 3 | - | 10 | - | - | 8 | 13 |

(Sgd) J.C. Stewart

Lieut-Colonel.
Temp. Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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SECRET.



5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. ORDER NO. 123.

Headquarters,
9th. February, 1917.

1. In conjunction with other Divisions, the Divisional Artillery will bombard the enemy's front line system for twenty minutes to-day from 3.12 p.m. to 3.32 p.m.
2. C. R. A. will act according to instructions received from G.O.C., R.A. 1st. Anzac.
3. The front bombarded will be from CEMETERY CIRCLE along HEAVEN TRENCH to N.29.a.4.9. Thence along ATOM TRENCH and TILL TRENCH to N.2.b.7.4.
4. No trenches need be cleared, but Sector Commanders will thin out trenches on which retaliation is to be expected.
5. Machine guns in position should be on the look out for any targets presented during and after the bombardment.

C. W. G. Staff.

Lieut. Colonel.
Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

| Issued at 11.30 a.m. | Copy No. |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 14th. Infantry Brigade. | 1. |
| 15th. Infantry Brigade. | 2. |
| C. R. A. | 3. |
| C. R. E. | 4. |

Copies to:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1st. Anzac Corps. | 5. |
| 20th. Division. | 6. |
| 2nd. Australian Division. | 7. |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 8. |
| "C" File. | 9. |
| Div. Signal Co. | 10. |
| war Diary. | 11. |

g60

15 Aust Inf Bde.

Daily Strength Returns

10th March 1917

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Remarks.

| Unit. | ACTUALLY WITH UNIT | | | IN HPL | | | DETACHED | | | TOTAL EFFECTIVE STRENGTH | | | Remarks. |
|----------------|--------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|--------------------------|------|------|--|
| | OH | OR | JM | OH | OR | JM | OH | OR | JM | OH | OR | JM | |
| 15. B.H.Q. | 6 | 19 | 25 | . | . | . | 1 | . | 1 | 7 | 19 | 26 | |
| 15. A.L.I.M.B. | 3 | 34 | 37 | . | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 43 | 47 | |
| 15 M.G. Coy. | 7 | 146 | 153 | 3 | 10 | 13 | . | 5 | 5 | 10 | 161 | 171 | Excludes 2. OR. AMG. attached |
| 57 Bn | 32 | 776 | 808 | 2 | 64 | 66 | 6 | 81 | 87 | 40 | 921 | 961 | Excludes 5. OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 58 Bn | 27 | 809 | 836 | 5 | 41 | 46 | 7 | 54 | 61 | 39 | 904 | 943 | Excludes 5. OR. AMO attached |
| 59 Bn | 30 | 799 | 829 | 1 | 53 | 54 | 5 | 31 | 36 | 36 | 883 | 919 | Excludes 5. OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 60 Bn | 38 | 830 | 868 | 2 | 66 | 68 | 5 | 29 | 34 | 45 | 925 | 970 | Excludes 6. OR. AMO attached. |
| Total | 143 | 3413 | 3556 | 13 | 240 | 253 | 25 | 203 | 228 | 181 | 3856 | 4037 | |

Appendix 127

Appendix 127

Appendix No. 127

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Details of Detached.

| 15 M.G. Coy | | 57th Bn | | 58th Bn | | 59th Bn | | 60th Bn | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| O | OR | O | OR | O | OR | O | OR | O | OR |
| M.G. school | 2 | A.G.'s office | 1 | D.F.C. | 4 | 5 Div Inf Bde | 3 | 29. A.S.G. | 2 |
| 29. A.S.G. | 1 | D.F.C. | 2 | Div Ordnance store | 1 | LT. A.J. BECK | | Div Salvage Coy | 2 |
| Shooting Course | 1 | Div school | 4 | A.G.'s office | 1 | T. MITCHELL | | Rly Construction | 3 |
| Batman Lt. Pickett | 1 | { Capt. LINTON. LT. DAVIS 2/Lt. HEDGECOCK MUNTZ } | 7 | 29. A.S.G. | 2 | 2/Lt. E.G. ALEXAND | | Traffic Control | 1 |
| | | Instk L.I. school | 1 | A.P.M. 5 Div (LT. W.J. CRAZE) | 1 | Decaturville Rly | 7 | Camp wardens | 2 |
| Total | 5 | 29 A.S.G. | 2 | Lewis Gun school | 1 | 5 Div Concert Party | 1 | 5th A.D.B.D. (MAJ. TRICKEY, F.V.) | 1 |
| | | Div Draughtsman | 1 | Leave | 3 | 5 Div Police | 1 | A.G.'s office | 1 |
| | | Leave | 9 | Div Bomb Dumps | 1 | 4th Army Inf school | 1 | A.W.L. | 1 |
| <u>15 A.L.I.M.B.</u> | | Cinema | 4 | Cofes Baths | 7 | 29. A.S.G. | 2 | Detention A.P.M. | 1 |
| 5th Army school (LT. E.K. KEYS) | 1 | Water wardens | 8 | A.W.L. | 2 | A.G.'s office | 1 | Gas school | 1 |
| A.W.L. | 1 | Sig school | 2 | Div School of Inst. { 2/Lt. W. MORRISON R.V. MOON } | 2 | Camp Commandant (LT. D.G. TOOHEY) | 1 | School of Inst { 2/Lt. STILLMAN, L.R. LESLIE, G.A. } | 2 |
| 1st Anzac School | 1 | Bootmaker D.A.D.S. | 1 | Rly fitters | 2 | On leave | 1 | Sig School | 2 |
| Instk | | Armourer | 1 | Anzac Light Rlys. | 6 | 1st Anzac Trench Mort school | 3 | Leave | 1 |
| | | Fatigue Maults (LT. MORROW) | 1 | 8th Inf Bde | 1 | 5th Army Inf School | 1 | 5th Army School { Capt. WRIGLEY, H. LT. BAIRIE, J.G. } | 2 |
| Total | 1 | 4th Army school | 1 | Army school of Inst { LT. R.B. FORSYTH Capt. N.M. FREEMAN } | 2 | 5th A.D.B.D. | 1 | Intelligence school | 1 |
| | | 5th .. | 3 | Detention 5th Div | 4 | 4th Army Teleradio school (LT. D.W. FAIR) | 1 | Trench Mortars | 4 |
| <u>15. B.H.Q.</u> | | J.M. school | 4 | Cinema theatre | 1 | | | | |
| On leave (BRIG-GEN. H.E. ELLIOTT) | 1 | Div Sig Coy | 3 | Sanitary section | 2 | | | | |
| | | L.I. school | 1 | 1st Anzac Workshops | 2 | | | | |
| | | School Aldershot (MTR. MARSHALL) | 1 | 5 A.D.B.D. (Capt. F.D. JOHNSTONE) | 1 | | | | |
| | | Musteky school | 1 | Sniper's school (LT. S.J. TOPP) | 1 | | | | |
| | | 1st Anzac school | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | A.P.M. | 1 | | | | | | |
| Total | 1 | Total | 6 | Total | 7 | Total | 5 | Total | 5 |
| | | | 21 | | 54 | | 31 | | 29 |

Appendix No. 122

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SECRET

Appendix 178

Appendix No.

Copy No. 46

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 124.

Headquarters,
11th March 1917.

1. The front held by the 5th Australian Division will be extended temporarily to the left, as far as RED CUT in N.1.a. The 8th Infantry Brigade less 32nd Battalion and details now on Corps works, will take over the new front from N.8.a.7.0 through N.2.d.3.4 to RED CUT in N. 1.a, from 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Australian Division.
2. The boundary between the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions will be as follows:-
RED CUT and BLUE CUT southwards to point M.13.c.0.3 thence southwards along co-ordinate line to the present boundary at M.36.a.0.0. From this point the divisional boundary remains as at present.
3. The relief will commence on the night 11th/12th March and will be completed on the night 12th/13th March. G.O.C. 8th Brigade will take over command of the sector as soon as he is satisfied that the relief of the front line is complete. G.O.C. 5th Brigade is being instructed to remain in command until the G.O.C. 8th Brigade is so satisfied. Time of taking over will be wired to 2nd and 5th Divisional Headquarters. Control of the front will pass to G.O.C. 5th Australian Division at 8 a.m. 13th March.
4. Details of the relief will be arranged between the Brigadiers concerned.
5. Stokes Mortars in position and all ammunition dumps will be taken over by the 8th Light Trench Mortar Battery on the night of 12th/13th March. An equal number of guns to those taken over will be handed over to the 5th Light Trench Mortar Battery at S.18.central on 13th March.
6. The 8th Machine Gun Company will take over the Vickers Machine Gun positions in the front system and intermediate line of the new sector on the night of 12th/13th March.
2 sections 5th Machine Gun Company (8 guns) will take over 8 gun positions (viz. Nos. 16, 15, 14, 13a, 10, 9, 9b, and 8) in the intermediate line of the old Divisional front on the night 12th/13th March.
14th, 15th, and 8th Brigades will arrange to man all Machine Gun positions in the second (S.ITCH) line with Lewis guns from rear battalions in their respective sectors.
7. The 2nd A.F.A. Brigade at present covering the front of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade will remain in position and will come under the orders of the C.R.A. for tactical purposes at 8 a.m. on March 13th.
8. 2 sections of the 8th Field Company will be detailed for work in the new sector under arrangements to be made by the C.R.E.
9. The A.D.M.S. will make the necessary redistribution of medical personnel under the orders of D.D.M.S., and by arrangement with A.D.M.S. 2nd Australian Division.
10. The 8th Infantry Brigade will take over all works, quarterings, and communications at the disposal of the A, B, and C battalions of the 5th Infantry Brigade. The works will be carried on, and continuity of policy will be observed.

- 11. The 32nd Battalion (Lieut-Colonel Beardsmore D.S.O.) will be in Divisional Reserve, but will remain employed on road work under C.R.E. Its rendezvous will be DELVILLE WOOD, Camp S.18.c. The 3rd Infantry Brigade (less 1 battalion) 1st Australian Division is being held at the call of 5th Australian Division as an additional reserve.
- 12. Administrative instructions will be issued by "Q" Branch.
- 13. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

W. H. King Major Gen

Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued at 1.30 p.m. to:

Copy No.

- 8th Infantry Brigade
- Divisional Artillery
- Divisional Engineers
- Divisional Train
- A.D.M.S.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Copies to:

- 2nd Australian Division
- 1st Australian Division
- 3rd Infantry Brigade
- 5th Machine Gun Company
- 14th Infantry Brigade
- 15th Infantry Brigade
- 1st Anzac Corps
- A.P.M.
- A.D.V.S.
- D.A.D.C.S.
- "G"
- "Q"
- A.D.C. to G.O.C.
- War Diary
- Div. Signal Co.

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16 - 17
- 18 - 19
- 20
- 21.
- 22.

SECRET.

SECRET.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM TO

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER No.124.



Headquarters,
11th March 1917.

1. SUPPLIES.

Supplies will continue to be drawn from Quarry Siding. Brigades will make arrangements with O.C., Anzac Light Railways for railway transport from Quarry Siding to FACTORY CORNER.

Push trucks may be used from FACTORY CORNER to approx. N.13.c.6.4.

2. AMMUNITION BOMBS ETC..

Dumps of S.A.A., Bombs, Grenades, Very's Lights etc., are situated as follows:-

- N.7.d.9.2.
- N.13.d.5.9.
- N.13.d.4 $\frac{1}{2}$.3.
- N.19.b.4.4.
- M.30.b.8.5.

8th Aust. Infantry Brigade will detail personnel to take over these dumps.

Any ammunition supplies urgently required must be wired for to "Q" Division, and guide sent to accompany truck or trucks to destination. All grenades and bombs will be sent forward detonated.

3. WATER.

Good water may be obtained at -

- N.19.c.7.5.
- N.7.b.5.6.

4. TRANSPORT.

In this sector, tractor trains run from BAZENTIN via HIGH WOOD to FACTORY CORNER and a track for pushing is built to about N.13.c.6.4.

Hand pushing is not allowed west of MARTINPUICH or FACTORY CORNER. from QUARRY

Applications for transport will be made to O.C., A.N.Z.A.C. Light Railways, QUARRY and from BAZENTIN to O I/C, Light Railways, BAZENTIN.

G. Smith Capt
Colonel.

A.A. & Q.M.G., 5th Aust. Div..

gbd

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Appendix 128

Appendix No. 128(a) 7
Copy No.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 90.



Reference - 57 C.S.W.
LE BARQUE 1/20000.

1. The front of the 5th Australian Division has been temporarily extended to the left.
The 8th Infantry Brigade less 32nd Battalion and details has been ordered to take over the new front from N.8.A.7-0 to RED CUT in N.1.A from the 5th Infantry Brigade.
2. The relief will be completed during the night 12th/13th March.
3. The 8th Machine Gun Company will occupy the following gun positions in the Intermediate Line viz :-

- Nos. 16. (N.31.A.1-9)
- 15. (N.31.A.8-6)
- 14. (N.31.B.3-4)
- 13a.
- 10. (N.32.A.5-8)
- 9. (N.32.B.1-8)
- 9b. (N.32.A.9-4)

Remaining positions in the Intermediate Line will be occupied by the 15th Machine Gun Company.

4. The Machine Gun positions in the second (SWITCH) Line will be occupied by Lewis Guns of the Reserve Battalions as under :-

- Right Reserve Battalion -
- Nos. 6. (T.1.C.6-6)
- 5. (T.1.C.1-4)
- Left Reserve Battalion -
- Nos. 4. (S.6.C.9-7)
- 3. (S.5.D.9-5)
- 2. (S.5.D.1-6)
- 1. (S.5.C.6-9)

Range charts will be compiled for these positions, these must be handed over by detachments on relief. Occupation to be completed as soon as possible. When Battalion reliefs are taking place in the front line detachments will leave one man behind to hand over. Each occupied position will hold a reserve of 10,000 rounds S.A.A.

11th March 1917.

Geo. F. Wicks

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

- Issued to No.1. 57th Battalion
- 2. 58th Battalion
- 3. 59th Battalion
- 4. 60th Battalion
- 5. 15th M.G. Coy.
- 6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
- Copies 7. War Diary
- 8.)
- 9.) Brigade H.Q.
- 10.)



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

In view of the necessity for enabling men to clean themselves up it has been decided that Reserve Battalions will send one Company daily to PERTH Camp. On the night of relief in the front line the reserve Company will be sent straight back to PERTH Camp; on each successive evening a fresh Company will be sent to the Camp and the previous Company will return to the Reserve Area.

Accommodation for one Company of each Reserve Battalion will be set apart in PERTH Camp. Battalions will make their own ration and cooking arrangements.

The object of the arrangement is to allow the men an opportunity for having a bath, time for shaving, and change of under-clothing therefore a certain amount of careful Battalion organisation is necessary.

The foot bath will also be carried out during the time spent at PERTH Camp. Battalions will send sufficient of their A.A.M.C. personnel with Companies to supervise this. A hut is set aside and contains 2 troughs, i.e. one for each Battalion, and if the A.A.M.C. personnel hand over equipment and duties it will be possible to preserve complete continuity for which the Company Commanders will be held responsible.

11th March 1917.

Geo. Street

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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Appendix 130

Appendix No 130

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.11th March 1917.

A Lewis Gun School will be established at PERTH Camp.

The course of Instruction will be of 8 days duration and is designed to give men a good working knowledge of the gun.

Battalions (except 57th Battalion) will detail one man from each Platoon for each of the 8 day periods and will also detail two N.C.O's with two guns (complete) to give the necessary instruction.

Working hours will be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily so that a minimum of 56 hours instruction is given to each class.

The Brigade Musketry Officer (2/Lieut.G. WOOD, 58th Battalion) will be in charge of the School.

The first party will report at 4 p.m. on 13th inst. and succeeding parties at intervals of 9 days. Rations will be sent by Units to PERTH Camp. The necessary cooking utensils must also be provided. Each Unit will send with their party one man who will be available to give assistance with cooking or any other work required.- these men may be permanent if desired.

Lists of men selected will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters at least 48 hours before the commencement of each class.

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Proposed Syllabus for Lewis Gun Course.



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| | 1st Hour | 2nd Hour | 3rd Hour | 4th Hour | 5th Hour | 6th Hour | 7th Hour | 8th Hour |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st Day | General description main parts | do- and smaller parts | Stripping & re-assembling main parts | General description | Loading Magazines | General description | General description | General description |
| 2nd Day | General description | General description | Stripping & re-assembling main parts | Mechanism | Mechanism | Loading Magazines | Cleaning | Cleaning |
| 3rd Day | Stripping & re-assembling main and small parts | Aiming | Drill Elementary | Drill Elementary & M.G. Signals | Loading Magazines | General description | Mechanism | Mechanism |
| 4th Day | Mechanism | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Stripping & re-assembling | Aiming & M.G. Signals | Mechanism | Cleaning | Cleaning |
| 5th Day | Mechanism | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Compiling range charts | Loading Magazines & M.G. Signals | Stripping & General description | Loading Magazines & Cleaning Gun | Loading Magazines & Cleaning Gun |
| 6th Day | Lecture:- General points to be observed in the line | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Stoppages (Dummy Amt) | Test in General description and stripping & re-assembling | Test in General description and stripping & re-assembling | Compiling range charts | Loading Magazines & Cleaning Gun | Loading Magazines & Cleaning Gun. |
| 7th Day | Points or range firing & preparing Gun for firing | Test in Mechanism and stoppages | Test in Mechanism and stoppages | Firing | Firing | Firing | Cleaning Gun after firing | Cleaning Gun after firing |
| 8th Day | Firing and stoppages with live ammunition | | | | | | Cleaning Gun after firing. | |

Appendix No 130

MAJOR
 BDE. MAJOR
 15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

SECRET.15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Operation Instruction No.3.Reference -57 C.S.W.13th March 1917.

1. The 2nd Australian Division has now occupied GREVILLERS and the 8th Infantry Brigade is conforming to the forward move by swinging forward its line of posts to the line N.2.D.1-9 through Brickfields to H.34.D.4-4.
2. The next aim now is to hasten the enemy's retirement from TILL, ATOM and HEAVEN trenches. With this object a systematic bombardment by heavy and field artillery between the limits N.29.A.5-6 and N.16.A.0-9 will be commenced on, or as soon after the 14th March as possible. Wire cutting on this front will also be carried out.
3. Battalions in the front line will arrange forthwith for patrols to keep constantly in close touch with the enemy (operating within the limits defined below) who must be prepared to occupy the enemy's trenches when evidence of a withdrawal is apparent.
4. The Brigade Right Boundary has been defined forward as a line from N.22.C.1-9 north eastwards through N.17.B.1-9. The inter-battalion boundary will be a line from N.15.A.0-4⁵ to the road at N.9.D.8-6 thence to N.4.Central. At present the Left Boundary remains as before.

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

Issued to No.1. 57th Battalion
 2. 58th Battalion
 3. 59th Battalion
 4. 60th Battalion
 5. 15th M.G. Coy.
 6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.

Copies to 7. War Diary
 8. 14th Brigade H.Q.
 9. 8th Brigade H.Q.
 10.) Brigade H.Q.
 11.)

5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 125.



Headquarters,
14th March 1917.

1. There are indications that the enemy will vacate the TILL Trench - HEAVEN Trench line very shortly. During to-day our Artillery has been bombarding and wire-cutting on this line.
2. At a time to be fixed by the G.O.C. 8th Brigade, the 8th Brigade will push out Patrols and establish posts about H.32.d. Central. The Northern end of TILL Trench will also be examined and TILL Trench and support will be occupied within the Brigade limits if found empty.
3. At 12 midnight 14th/15th March Patrols of 14th and 15th Brigades will examine the enemy's front line along the whole Divisional front. If Patrols can penetrate supports will be pushed in to seize and occupy the enemy's front line system.
4. Right Boundaries of Brigades for forward movement will be.
 - 14th. Brigade. A line from N.35.c.6.6, West of CEMETERY CIRCLE and LE. TRANSLOY, South-East of the SUGAR FACTORY thence to O.20.a.0.7.
 - 15th. Brigade. A line drawn N.E. (true) from N.22.c.1.9
 - 8th. Brigade. A line drawn N.E. (true) from N.8 Central.

The left Divisional boundary is the main ALBERT - BAPAUME road (exclusive).
5. C.R.A. will arrange for bursts of Field Artillery fire on the enemy front system between N.29.a.8.3 and N.9.d.7.3 till 11 p.m. to-night (14th.) There will be no firing after 12 midnight till the situation is defined.
6. Patrols will carry flares. A contact Aeroplane will pass over the Divisional front about 7.30 a.m. on 15th. All advanced troops will burn flares on the contact Aeroplane sounding its Klaxon Horn or firing verrey lights.
7. Brigades will wire reports to Divisional Headquarters on the situation at every even clock hour after midnight, and immediately when any information is obtained.

.H.Q. remains at BERNAFAY WOOD.

ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

C. C. W. Tabb
Lieut-Colonel
General Staff
5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

(P.T.O.).

Issued at 7.15 p.m. to:-

Copy No.

- 8th. Infantry Brigade 1
- 14th. Infantry Brigade 2
- 15th. Infantry Brigade 3
- 5th. Pioneer Battalion 4
- Divisional Artillery 5
- Divisional Engineers 6
- Divisional Signal Company 7
- A.D.M.S. 8
- "G" 9
- "C" 10
- A.D.C. to G.O.C. 11
- War Diary 12

Copies to:-

- 20th. Division 13
- 2nd. Australian Division 14
- 1st. Anzac Corps 15
- 3rd. Squadron, R.F.C. 16
- 1st. Anzac Heavy Artillery 17
- 3rd. Infantry Brigade. 18

General Staff
 Australian Division
 G.O.C.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Operation Instruction No. 4.

14th March 1917.

Revised 57th SW

1. It is expected that TILL trench is only lightly held by the enemy at present and it is probable that it may be evacuated at any time, very possibly to-night.
2. An investigation and if possible occupation of TILL trench on the whole Divisional front is to be attempted on the night 14th/15th March at a synchronised time.
3. The 15th Infantry Brigade movement will be made within the following boundaries. On the right a line from N.22.C.1-9 to N.17.C.1-9. On the left a line from N.8 Central to N.3 Central.
The boundary between the two Battalions will be a line from N.15.A.0-5 to N.9.D.7-6 thence to N.5.A.0-0.
4. The movement is to be carried out on the following lines :-
Each Battalion will utilise not more than 120 all ranks.
These will be divided and organised into "bombing" and fighting patrols.
The bombing patrols must be in position as close as possible to the objective so that they may move into the trench at ZERO. They will if possible carry and lay out tapes or wires to guide the fighting patrols which follow in rear. These bombing patrols will enter and establish themselves in the trench and will then be followed by the fighting patrols.
The fighting patrols will ^{at ZERO} take up a position not closer than 400 yards from the objective and hold themselves in readiness to move forward into the trench when the bombing patrols have effected a lodgement. When this has been done they will move forward, enter and consolidate their position in the captured trench.
The allotment of personnel between the patrols and the numbers of patrols required will be fixed by Battalions concerned.
5. If it is found that TILL trench has already been evacuated a strong post from each Battalion must be pushed forward to about the line N.11.D.0-0 - N.5.C.0-0 - N.3.B.7-4 if considered practicable by the O.C.'s of the attack.
6. Battalions will arrange mutually for liaison between themselves and between Brigades on the right and left.
7. The artillery bombardment at present being carried on against TILL trench and the positions in rear is to cease before the ZERO hour at a time to be notified later.
8. Battalions must ensure that their patrols carry ground flares for communication with aircraft as contact patrols will be in the air and will probably call for the attack to show its position.
9. The ZERO hour will be 12 midnight.
10. Watches will be synchronised with Brigade H.Q. at 8 p.m.
11. As a new S.O.S. Line has not been arranged and the occupation is to be attempted without artillery support the S.O.S. call will not be used to assist in the holding of the captured trench.
12. The 15th M.G. Coy. and 15th A.L.T.M.B. will arrange to co-operate.
13. Frequent reports to be submitted to Brigade H.Q. containing positive or negative information.

R. G. ...
15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

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Appendix 133

Appendix No. 133



57

SECRET.

5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

GENERAL STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 98.

1. Last night the 2nd Australian Division occupied WARLENCOURT TRENCH and GREVILLERS, and have orders to make good a line running from H.31.d.5.5 through G.30.d.8.0 to their boundary about G.30.a.5.5.
2. 8th Infantry Brigade will conform by swinging up its left. A line of posts should be established from present front line at N.2.d.1.9 through Brickfields to H.31.d.4.4. The object of this will be to gain the top of the ridge, and obtain good observation on the enemy's line, TILL TRENCH S.W. of the Old Factory H.32.d.
3. The next step taken will be to hasten the enemy's retirement from the line of TILL TRENCH, ATOM TRENCH, HEAVEN TRENCH. With this object a systematic bombardment by heavy and field artillery of these trenches, between the limits N.29.a.5.6 and N.16.a.0.9, will be commenced on 14th February, or as soon after as possible. Wire cutting on this front will also be carried out.
4. 14th and 15th Infantry Brigades will be prepared to send patrols in to occupy the enemy's trenches within the above limits, as soon as signs of his withdrawal are apparent.
5. When patrols can penetrate, they should take up a line on the BEAULENCOURT Spur, so as to establish a footing thereon, and to compel the retirement of the enemy from TILL and SUN TRENCHES. The dividing line between 14th and 15th Brigades will be a line from N.22.c.1.9 north eastwards through N.17.b.1.9. The necessary reconnaissances should be commenced at once.
6. The C.R.A. will arrange the artillery bombardments and wire cutting. The following A.F.A. Brigades are at his disposal:- 3rd, 13th, 14th, 6th, and 2nd.

C. Curragh
 Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

13th March 1917.

- Issued to:
 8th Infantry Brigade,
 14th Infantry Brigade,
 15th Infantry Brigade,
 C.R.A.
- Copies to:
 1st Anzac Corps
 C.R.E.
 20th Division
 2nd Aust. Division
 A.D.C. to G.O.C.
 File
 "C"
 War Diary.

282

Appendix 133a

Appendix N. 133 a



58

S E C R E T.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Operation Instruction No.5.

Reference -LE BARQUE 1/20000.

15th March 1917.

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

Geo. F. Wreck

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

Issued at 4.25 pm



S E C R E T.

Copy No. 3

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 126.

Headquarters,
15th March 1917.

1. Our patrols last night found the line HEAVEN, ATOM, and TILL Trenches strongly held along our front and could not get a footing except at H.32.d.2.7, where the 8th Brigade are established, holding the trench from H.32.d.2.7 westwards to H.32.a.C.C.
2. The indications of the enemy withdrawal are increasing. From captured orders it appears that he is likely to substitute a weak rearguard for his present normal garrison in the front system before withdrawing altogether.
3. The front will be reconnoitred again tonight as was done last night. Any footing gained will be retained. In the event of the enemy having completely retired, and of an advance by patrols being possible, the line to be aimed at is the main road from LE TRANSLOY to BAPAUME, beyond which patrols should not go without orders from Divisional Headquarters.
4. Operations within Brigade Sectors, as defined in Division Order No. 125, para. 4, will be under the G.O's.C. 14th, 15th, and 8th Brigades.
5. C.R.A. will arrange for bursts of field artillery fire on the enemy front system up to 11 p.m. At 1.0 a.m. the patrols of 14th and 15th Brigades will reconnoitre the enemy's front. Artillery fire after that hour will be arranged by G.O's.C. Infantry Brigades direct with Group Commanders.
 - A and B Groups are allotted to the 14th Brigade,
 - C and D Groups are allotted to the 15th Brigade,
 - E Group is allotted to the 8th Brigade.
 G.O.C. 8th Brigade will select his own hours for his operations within the left sector.
6. Situation reports will be rendered by Brigadiers and C.R.A. from 6 p.m. on 15th instant onwards at every even clock hour, and oftener when necessary.
7. Headquarters 8th Brigade has moved to YARRA BANK in M.24.b.4.4. Headquarters of 14th and 15th Brigades remain at S.12.b. C.R.A. and Divisional Headquarters remain at BERNAFAY WOOD.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Cunwags Taff
 Lieut-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

P.T.O.

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Issued to:

Copy No.

- 8th Infantry Brigade, 1
- 14th Infantry Brigade 2
- 15th Infantry Brigade 3
- 5th Pioneer Battalion 4
- Divisional Artillery 5
- Divisional Engineers 6
- Divisional Signal Company 7
- A.D.M.S. 8
- "G" 9
- "C" 10
- A.D.C. to G.O.C. 11
- War Diary 12

Copies to:

- 20th Division 13
- 2nd Australian Division 14
- 1st ANZAC Corps 15
- 3rd Squadron R.F.C. 16
- 1st Anzac Heavy Artillery 17
- 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade 18.

General Staff
 20th Australian Division
 G.O.C.



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Inspection of Anti-Gas equipment.

-----***-----

1. A Brigade Gas Officer has been appointed to assist in the important duty of ensuring that all anti-gas stores and equipment are in thorough order and that all ranks understand the use of same.
2. All box respirators and gas helmets on issue will be inspected by the gas N.C.O. under the Brigade Gas Officers supervision, after every tour of duty in the Front Line System. C.O's Battalion will notify the Brigade Gas Officer when and where these inspections are to be held.
3. The Brigade Gas Officer will draw the attention of the Battalion Commander concerned to any defect, carelessness or want of supervision in connection with anti-gas appliances or any precautionary orders issued, and will report these cases to the Brigade Major.
4. The Brigade Gas Officer will personally inspect every Strombus Horn and gas-protected dug-out in the Brigade area at least once per week and will keep records showing the condition at each inspection.
5. A gas N.C.O. will be detailed in each Company and he will not perform any other duty. If a gas N.C.O. for any reason becomes a casualty he will at once be replaced. Gas N.C.O's will act on all instructions given to them personally by the Brigade Gas Officer without waiting for confirmation from Battalion Headquarters, but the Brigade Gas Officer will inform Battalion Headquarters on instructions given by him.

10th March 1917.

Geo. J. Wicks

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Re-distribution of STROMBUS HORNS.

-----***-----

The following positions have been selected as sites for STROMBUS HORNS viz :-

FRONT LINE SYSTEM -

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| RIGHT Battalion | - | N.15.C.8-9. N.15.D.7-2. N.21.A.7-8. N.27.A.8-2. |
| LEFT Battalion | - | N.14.B.25-40. N.8.C.8-8. N.13.D.7-9. N.20.A.1-1. |

RESERVE SYSTEM -

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| RIGHT Battalion | - | N.26.C.9-0. N.31.B.4-1. |
| LEFT Battalion | - | N.25.B.6-4. N.31.C.2-8. |
| Brigade H.Q. | - | S.12.B.6-7. |

These changes will be made not later than 6 a.m. on 9th inst. The C.O. of the Battalion is responsible that the Horns are shifted complete with all cylinders, tools, etc.

Any Horns surplus to the above requirements in any area will be sent complete to the Right Battalion Headquarters at CHEESE ROAD by 10 p.m. to-night so that shortages may be made up in other areas.

A complete list giving the number of the HORN and of all cylinders will be kept up to date at the post and a copy will also be sent to Brigade Headquarters.

All gas appliances in any area will be taken over by the unit gas N.C.O. who will be responsible for its condition.

All Strombus Horns must be protected from the weather.

All empty or under pressure cylinders must be returned to Brigade Headquarters.

8th March 1917.

Geo. J. Wright
Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Re-distribution of S.O.S. Stations.

The following positions have been selected as sites for S.O.S. Stations viz :-

FRONT LINE SYSTEM -

H.15.C.8-9. ✓
 H.15.D.7-8. ✓
 N.21.B.5-2.
 N.27.A.3-2.
 H.14.B.25-40.
 N. 8.C.8-8. ✓
 H.13.D.7-2.

RESERVE SYSTEM -

N.26.C.3-0.
 H.25.B.6-4.

Any changes required will be made as soon as possible and no S.O.S. will be changed afterwards without an order from Brigade Headquarters.

A total of 6 S.O.S. Grenades will be maintained at each Station and expenditure replacement will be made by Brigade Headquarters on application.

C.O's Battalions will re-distribute grenades to meet above requirements and any surplus will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. A certificate will be rendered by C.O's by 9 a.m. 11th instant that the above instructions have been fully complied with.

9th March 1917.

Geo. F. Wreck

Major.
 Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

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Appendix 135

Appendix No. 135

SECRET.



5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 127.

Headquarters,
16th March 1917.

1. Our Patrols last night found the enemy trenches held in strength and the enemy alert.
Hostile Artillery fire has considerably decreased.
2. Patrols from Infantry brigades will attempt to enter the enemy front system again to-night.
Arrangements within Brigade Sectors will be made by the Brigadiers.
3. C.R.A. will arrange for wire cutting as required commencing to quicken up at 10.30 p.m.
After 1 a.m. the control of Artillery fire will be arranged direct between Infantry Brigadiers and F.A. Group Commanders.
4. 8th, 14th and 15th. Brigades will each hold one Battalion in readiness to push forward and exploit any success gained.
5. C.R.A. will hold one Battery of each of the 13th, 14th and 2nd F.A. Brigades ready to push forward and work with advanced guards of 14th, 15th and 8th. Infantry Brigades respectively.
6. Reports will be sent as previously ordered to Divisional Headquarters at BERNAFAY WOOD.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

S.M. King Major for
Lieut-Colonel
General Staff
5TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued at 2.30 p.m. to:-

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 8th. Infantry Brigade | 1 |
| 14th. Infantry Brigade | 2 |
| 15th. Infantry Brigade | 3 |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion | 4 |
| Divisional Artillery | 5 |
| Divisional Engineers | 6 |
| Divisional Signal Company | 7 |
| A.D.M.S. | 8 |
| "G" | 9 |
| "C" | 10 |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 11 |
| War Diary | 12 |

Copies to:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 20th. Division | 13 |
| 2nd. Australian Division | 14 |
| 1st. Anzac Corps | 15 |
| 3rd. Squadron, R.F.C. | 16 |
| 1st. Anzac Heavy Artillery | 17 |
| 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade | 18. |

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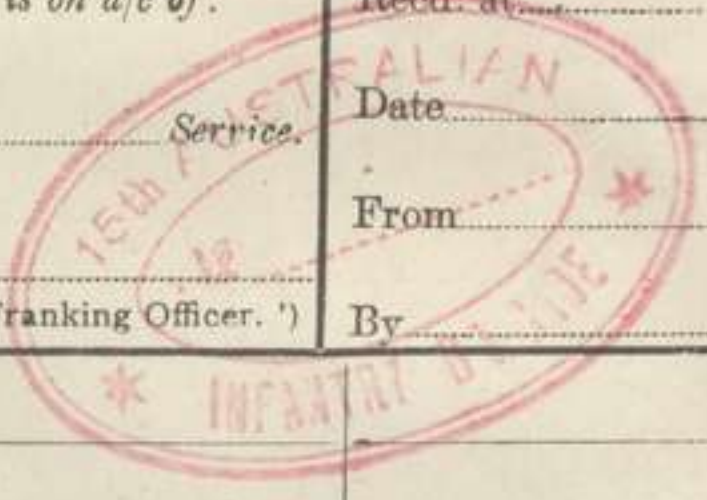
Appendix "A" Form 135 a

Army Form O. 712

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

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



TO BILLET BINDER

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. | Day of Month | In reply to Number | AAA |
| * 921/570 | 16th | | |

Provided the wire can be cut today patrol action as laid down in Code Inst: 17-5 will be repeated. Advise the G. C. C. Areas you to establish posts, properly dug in within 400 yards of the German trench. Advise suggested points for the posts are -

57k Pn - vicinity of 115 B 5-5 and 119 d 15-05
 58k Pn - vicinity of 119 c 5-6 and 118 B 9-0

Advise the object of these posts is to facilitate observation of enemy's movement and as an emplacement for STOKES mortars in the event of a bombardment of the enemy's line being necessary. Advise the action is to be marked by the closest observation of the enemy and by frequent touch rather than by hard pushing to determine his strength and actions. Advise the posts detailed above will be occupied continuously. Berg will be wired for

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| From | Patrol action is to be repeated. Please report when wire has been cut. | |
| Place | 2.15 Pm. | |
| Time | | |

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

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

* This line should be erased if not required. (4198) Wt. W14042-M44. 300000 Pads. 12/15. Sir J. C. & S.

Appendix 136

S E C R E T.15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Operations for week ending 16th March 1917.

-----***-----

GENERAL SITUATION.

1. During the seven days the general situation remains unchanged. We have undisputed possession of NO MAN'S LAND but our patrols have not been able to enter the hostile position.

OPERATIONS.

2. BRITISH - A close watch has been kept to ascertain any variations from the normal enemy garrison and fighting patrols have been sent out to test this.

NIGHT 14th/15th March -

No.1 Patrol of 62 passed through a gap in enemy's wire and entered ATOM trench at N.16.C.7-2. This trench was waist deep in mud and slush. On a front of 300 yards hostile posts were seen every 60 yards and one Machine Gun was in action. Patrol withdrew without loss.

No.2 Patrol of 62 found the enemy's wire from N.16.A.0-9 to the right for 150 yards and to the left for 200 yards to be deep, strong and in good condition. TILL trench was held by a chain of posts and voices heard indicated a strong garrison. Hostile M.G.'s were too active to permit the patrol to cross the wire. After great difficulty in crossing the heavy ground the patrol returned without loss.

No.3 Patrol of 62 took up a central position in SUNKEN ROAD in N.9.C and sent out smaller patrols to investigate N.9.B. and D. The wire was found to be intact and the approaches covered by persistent M.G. fire. This patrol sustained no casualties.

No.4 Patrol of 62 took up a central position at N.8.B.9-1. Small patrols found the wire in N.9.A covered by flanking M.G. fire and could not cut their way through.

The wire was very strong and built in three belts.

ENEMY - Hostile action has been purely defensive.

PATROLS.

3. BRITISH - The object of our patrols was to ascertain the earliest indication of any enemy withdrawal.

NIGHT 9th/10th March - Enemy was found to be working on his wire.

NIGHT 10th/11th March - Patrols encountered M.G. and rifle fire but few flares were seen.

NIGHT 11th/12th March - Only a few rifle shots were fired at the patrols.

NIGHT 12th/13th March - Enemy in strength heard in his lines. M.G. fire below normal but sniping fairly heavy.

NIGHT 13th/14th March - Enemy trench found to be held strongly by a chain of Posts. Patrols were sniped at and bombed, Machine Guns not very active.

NIGHT 14th/15th March - Only fighting patrols were out.

NIGHT 15th/16th March - *Only fighting patrols were out.*

ENEMY - One hostile patrol was observed but it was dispersed before its object could be ascertained.

MACHINE GUNS.

4. BRITISH - Our Vickers Guns got very few good targets. At night approaches were kept under fire.

ENEMY - Hostile M.G. activity has generally decreased. It is thought that fire is being reserved for covering approaches to his wire.

TRENCH MORTARS.

5. BRITISH - Few opportunities for action.

ENEMY - Hostile L.T.M. activity increased during the week but no damage was done.

Reports of night 15th/16th attached.

ARTILLERY.

6. BRITISH - Our Artillery has been very active against hostile front and support lines and his wire. The trenches appeared to be appreciably damaged and in places good lanes were cut in the wire. Counter-battery work when asked for was always effective.

ENEMY - Hostile artillery action has steadily decreased although on two days he was exceptionally active against positions no doubt suspected to be occupied by our artillery. After one of our bombardments he retaliated rather heavily although similar bombardment on later dates incurred less reply.

CHANGES IN FRONT.

7. No change of front has taken place during the period.

CASUALTIES.

8.

| DATE | KILLED | | WOUNDED | | MISSING | | TOTAL | |
|-------|-----------|---|-----------|----|-----------|---|-----------|----|
| March | Off. O.R. | | Off. O.R. | | Off. O.R. | | Off. O.R. | |
| 10th | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| 11th | - | 2 | 1 | 17 | - | - | 1 | 19 |
| 12th | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 4 |
| 13th | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 |
| 14th | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | 4 |
| 15th | - | 3 | - | 12 | - | - | - | 15 |
| 16th | - | 3 | - | 16 | - | - | - | 19 |

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Brig-General.
Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

57th Bn.

The fighting patrols which left our trenches at K15D2-8 & K21B6-8 for the purpose of capturing and establishing posts on the enemy line between K22A9-7 & K9D6-3 were unable to obtain a lodgment as the wire in front of ABOM TRENCH was about 20 ft thick and no gaps could be found in it.

Strong opposition was met with by machine guns and rifle fire especially at K16E3-9.

One patrol was forced to withdraw.

Cannister 7

5-4592
16/3/17

R. M. Johnson D. G. W.

Left 12.35 mid-night

Returned 3.45 am.

No 4 & 5 Patrons advanced from N 15 D 3.8 to enemy trench at N 9 D 7.3. Bombing party patrolled the wire entanglements & found some unbroken & approximately 50 feet in depth. Machine-gun & rifle fire was very active. Flares were used continuously by the enemy - one single red flare was sent up after a few bombs had been thrown, but nothing occurred. The red flare appeared to be signalled back as five similar flares were sent up from the rear.

Machine-guns were very numerous, likewise riflemen & bombers.

I got in touch with No 3 Platoon on my right - I sent out flares to endeavour to get in touch with left patrol, but was unsuccessful.

The patrol was bombed by enemy causing two casualties - we retaliated, but could not get into close touch with them owing to the wire & their heavy rifle & machine gun fire.

A considerable amount of traffic was heard on the Paparua Rd., also the sound of an engine some distance away.

P. Stowell Lt
5th Battalion

Report on
Operations against ATOM TRENCH
in accordance with
Operation Instruction NO 4
15/16 March 1917. by A Coy 51st Bn

Disposition - Four fighting
patrols each supported by
its bombing patrol.

No 1 to enter ATOM TRENCH
at N.16.85.0. to block to the
right while connecting with
NO 2 in ATOM TRENCH

No 2 to enter ATOM TRENCH
at N.16.C.6.7. and occupy the
junction of - the continuation of
BARLEY TRENCH and ATOM TRENCH

No 3 to enter ATOM TRENCH
at N.16.A.2.3. to support NO 2
and later to work to the left
in ATOM TRENCH connecting
with NO 4

No 4 to enter ATOM TRENCH
at N.9.D.9.1 and block to the
left while connecting with
NO 3

Communication with flank
Battalions to be established
before leaving ATOM TRENCH

The Fighting Patrols and
Bombing Patrols were in
position at ZERO.

Each Bombing Patrol found
the wire uncut and worked
to right and left for an
entrance but found none.

A strong attempt was then
made by No 3 Bombing
Patrol to effect an entrance
to ATOM TRENCH by working
along the sap in continuation
of BARLEY TRENCH. This
sap was strongly held by a
post in the sap in the
entanglement. The Enemy
post was supported by a
M.G. at N 16 A 32 and one at
N 16 C 68. We could not effect
an entrance.

The Enemy line was held
strongly throughout by
Machine Guns and rifles which
were very active causing us
seven casualties.

Our four patrols remained active on the front - bombing and Rifle Grenade work being indulged in by the four patrols.

Our patrols were withdrawn at 5am. The enemy fire showing no signs of weakening up till the time of our withdrawal.

Flares were used extensively and consistently along our front.

16/3/17

L. McDonald Capt
D.C. A Coy.

Report of No 1 Patrol. A Coy

16/3/17

This patrol consisting of

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Bombers | 9 |
| Lewis Machine G. Team | 7 |
| Riflemen | 9 |
| Officer | 1 |

left our trench and moved forward towards Atom trench at ~~5 minutes past~~ 12:45 a.m. The bombers went ahead to the enemy wire while the patrol was about 250 yards to the rear.

The bombers reached a point about 100 yards from the wire and were then seen by the enemy who machine gun fire. The team then crept a little forward in shell holes and by the light of the flares tried to find gaps in the wire when any movement took place fire was at once opened on the team. The fighting patrol moved forward

and reached a point about 60 yards from the enemy wire a little to the right of the bombers. In the light of the flares the trench was well guarded by wire put up in two rows each being as high as I could judge 12 feet in width. The patrol was seen and fire was opened by the enemy and one man was slightly wounded in the head.

The patrol then moved back about 100 yards where the fire of the enemy could not take effect owing to the slope of the ground. Sergeant Davis reported to me there and I then sent him forward again to examine the wire to the right of his first position. He got to a point about 30 yards from the wire when a machine gun opened on his right.

The team took cover and after waiting for a few minutes tried to push on but was unable to do so. One man was wounded in the leg and while being brought back was shot in the

side and was killed. The bombers then reported back and the patrol returned to our own trench which was reached about 5 am.

On the way back one man was reported missing. He was seen when the patrol was ready to move off but no one is sure of seeing him afterwards. I am of the opinion that the trench was fairly strongly held with three machine guns in a length of 150 yards

| | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| casualties. | McGrath J. | Killed |
| | Moodie LW | Wounded |
| | Burden BH | Missing. |

A H Miller Lieut

Q.6. M.1. Patrol

Report of No 2 Patrol A Coy
16/3/17

At ~~12.45 am.~~ ~~12.45 am.~~ this
morning a patrol consisting
of Bombers 9
Riflemen 17
Bombing team 7
S. Bps 2
Officer 1

left our trench at N 15d 86
and proceeded ahead
towards the enemy trench
at N 16c 78. After going a distance
of approximately 300 yards
the main patrol halted
while the bombing team
continued on towards their
objective, but keeping
communication with the main
body of patrol.

At 1.20 am while the bombing
team were endeavouring to

(2)
found an opening in the wire they were seen by the enemy and were bombed as well as sniped at. When things had quietened the bombers moved slowly down the wire looking for an opening and in doing this were again seen and bombed by the enemy who advanced ^{post} close up to his own wire. In this post was a machine gun, at least two snipers, a least one bomber and from it flares were sent up. In the main trench on either side were machine guns which played consistently around the bombers and prevented their passing his wire. The wire it is reported was cut about

③

a good deal, but still was a sufficient obstacle to have ~~the~~ pass through under machine gun fire. At 2.20 am Cpl. Saltan reported being unable to get through and reported the trench too strongly held. I ordered him to have another try. He tried, but it was useless. The machine guns gave him no opportunity. After some time, at Captain McDonald's order, I brought the patrol on. It was while the bombers were returning that Cpl Saltan was killed by a rifle bullet through the head.

I am of the opinion that ATOM is strongly held by M.G.'s. The bombers report 3 guns on front not exceeding 70 yards.

Warrant Officer Comdr. A. G. [Signature]
16/3/17.

D3/58

15th Inf. Bde.

58th Div.
16.3.17

Report on minor operation 15/16 March.

In accordance with instructions received from brigade Op. Instruction No. 5 I issued ~~the~~ Op. Instr. No. 7 and made the arrangements as detailed therein. Parties were in position at midnight and 3 patrols went out to reconnoitre the wire whilst a patrol went out from each flank to get touch with neighbouring units. Touch was not obtained with 57th although more than one patrol went out for the purpose, but I was in touch with both 57th and 31st by phone. from my advanced P.M.H.Q. in Trench 2 throughout the night.

Altogether 12 different patrols examined the wire closely over the whole front allotted to us, and found things exactly as

2.

they were last night except that sniping was brisker. Machine guns were in the same position as before described. (vide my report of yesterday) The artillery fire had been directed mainly on the sector on our left, those shells that were directed on our sector had gone beyond the trench. The enemy put up red flares opposite THUY which his artillery immediately shelled. A pineapple mortar which is located about Ng a 2-8 fired a number of bombs which fell in the vicinity of THUY. We suffered 4 casualties from M.G. fire which some assert came from our own guns. This ~~open~~ assertion appears to have some foundation, for the bullets were even pattering on the enemy wire.

Our guns not firing

It is however possible that air people were noticed in the [DEAULENCOURT ROAD] and fired upon from about N. 16 a.

I took steps to notify all M.G.'s in the Red. sector.

After conferring with the unit on both flanks I decided that it was useless to expect to accomplish our object until three or four lanes had

been cut through the wire.

Two Stokes Mortars were in readiness to assist if required.

Under the circumstances I could not utilize them. Had we gained an entrance I might have called on them to assist us in clearing it.

But to use them for smashing an entrance would simply have meant committing the whole of them to an attack for which we were not prepared. I have since given

to the Special F.O.O. positions of m.g.s ~~as follows~~ and of the probable map reference of the T.M. position. I have also indicated just where we want lanes cut through the belts of wire.

Unless this is done we are merely wasting much time and energy. I withdrew my parties at 3.30 am notifying my flanks and Pryall and leaving an O.P. till daylight.


Thos. A. Duce by Lt. Col.

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"C" Form.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message 37

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Prefix | Code | Words 229 | Received. | Sent, or sent out. | Office Stamp. |
| | | £ s. d. | From | At | m. |
| Charges to collect | | | By | To | By |
| Service Instructions. 11.36 am | | |  | | |
| Handed in at | | | | | |

Office m. Received 12.14 m.

TO 15th Inf Bde

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number 77 | Day of Month 17 | In reply to Number 3 | AAA |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----|

Orders received to establish Divl front on line LUBDA COPSE REINCOURT BAPAUME and Infantry will take up this line within brigade sectors as in outposts line and BLOCK will maintain touch on the right with left Brigade of TRUMPET and will only occupy LUBDA COPSE with an advanced post until TRUMPET swings up and support line will be the line of the SETRAN BAPAUME Road and Reserves will occupy the line of our old front line FINCH TREAS BARLEY trench. TACK trench THALLO

FROM

PLACE & TIME 383

* This line should be erased if not required.
(6334). Wt. W7496/M857. 500,000 Fads. 10/16. D. D. & L. (E489). Forms C/2123/3.

282

"C" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

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

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

TO

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

alpha Headquarters 14th and 15th
 Bdes will move to MILLERS
 SON alpha 8th Bde hedggs
 will move to LEBARQUE alpha
 one squadron light horse is
 moving to LUSIENH DE FARINA alpha
 Patrols of light horse are
 being ordered to FREMICOURT
 and HAPINCOURT alpha CRA
 will move forward one battery
 of each of 14th and
 second brigade to work with
 infantry brigades alpha there
 alpha brigade will be moved
 forward battery by battery
 to positions previously
 selected on Lark hill to

FROM

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.
 (B 8070) Wt. w. 7496—M857 250,000 Pads. 10/16 H&S (E436.) Forms/C.2123/3.

Appendix 137



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

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

Handed in at Office m. Received m.

TO

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

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Cover | adv | adv | adv | CR& |
| will | push | forward | a | decamp |
| towards | BEAULLEN | COURT | and | will |
| bridge | cross | line | through | the |
| main | trench | systems | one | |
| in | each | brigade | sector | adv |
| addressed | 8 th | 14 th | 15 th | Bdes |
| CR& | CR& | repto | 1 st | ansac |
| 2 nd | Aust | Div | 20 th | Div |
| and | "Q" | adv | acknowledge | |

FROM

PLACE & TIME

5 Aust Div
11 5 am

* This line should be erased if not required.

(6334). Wt. W7496/M857. 500,000 Pads. 10/16. D. D. & L. (E 489). Forms C/2123/3.

Appendix 137 a

SECRET.



5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 128

Headquarters,
17th March 1917.

1. The enemy retired beyond the line VILLERS AU FLOS - RIENCOURT - BAPAUME. Parties have been seen in ROCQUIGNY - BANCOURT and N.22.c at 4 p.m. this evening.
2. Our troops have occupied RIENCOURT and BAPAUME, and our patrols have traversed LE TRANSLOY and VILLERS AU FLOS. LE TRANSLOY has been occupied by the 20th Division. On our left our troops hold BIEFVILLERS, BIHUCOURT, and ACHIET-le-GRAND.
3. The 5th Australian Division will occupy a line from the eastern end of VILLERS AU FLOS (N.14.central) through RIENCOURT - RESERVOIR in N.34.c.

4. An advanced guard as shown will take over the duty of obtaining and maintaining contact with the enemy. The advanced guard will

| |
|------------------------------|
| Commander |
| Brig-Gen H.Elliott C.M.G. |
| Troops: |
| H.Q. 15th A.I. Bde |
| "C" Sq. 13th L.H. |
| 54th Batt. A.F.A. |
| 1/2 Co. 14th F.Co. |
| 59th Battalion |
| 60th Battalion |
| 15th M.G.Co. (less 2 Sects). |
| 1 tent subdiv.) 15th F. |
| 1 bearer subdiv.) Amb. |
| 1/2 Bde Sect. S.A.A. Col., |
| D.A.C. |

commence this duty at 9 a.m. on 18th ~~April~~ MARCH. Touch will be maintained with the advanced guards of divisions on our flanks. A strong post will be established at BANCOURT.

5. The Divisional forward boundaries will be:-
Right. N.21.central. O.14 Central. O.5. central.
Left. H.27.central (inclusive) I.4.central.
6. The Divisional front from VILLERS AU FLOS to BAPAUME will be held in two brigade sectors. The interbrigade boundary will be at a point N.6.a.C.O. 14th Brigade will extend to its left, and 8th Brigade to its right to take up the new arrangement at 10 a.m. 18th March 1917.
7. When the 57th and 58th Battalions are relieved at 10 a.m. they will withdraw to reserve. The Divisional Reserve consisting of 57th and 58th Battalions, 1/2 15th Machine Gun Co. and 15th L.T.M. Battery will occupy the line of COV - NEEDLE - POSSUM - HAY Trenches. Lieut-Colonel Stewart D.S.O. 57th Battalion will command; Headquarters will be at BULLS ROAD N.31.b.3.2.
8. Divisional Artillery (less 54th battery) will be disposed in positions about the line of the LARK HILL SPUR to cover the front VILLERS AU FLOS - BAPAUME.

-2-

- 86
9. C.R.E. will push on work on the road LONGUEVAL - FLERS - GUEDECOURT, and the Decauville via GUEDECOURT to BEAULENCOURT. Troops available for this are:
 Divisional Engineers (less $\frac{1}{2}$ Co. 14th Field Company)
 5th Pioneer Battalion
 32nd Battalion.
10. A.D.M.S. will move forward R.A.P's and Relay Posts to meet the new dispositions.
11. Headquarters 14th Infantry Brigade are at MILLERS DAUGHTER N.34.a.5.8. Headquarters 8th Infantry Brigade are at N.1.c.6.2. Headquarters advanced guard will be notified by G.O.C. advanced guard to all concerned. Divisional Headquarters and C.R.A. remain at BERNAFAY WOOD.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

*Chewyagstuh*Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff,

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Issued at 8.45 p.m. to: | Copy No. |
| "C" Squadron, 13th Light Horse, | 1 |
| 8th Infantry Brigade, | 2 |
| 14th Infantry Brigade | 3 |
| 15th Infantry Brigade | 4 |
| 5th Pioneer Battalion | 5 |
| Divisional Artillery | 6 |
| Divisional Engineers | 7 |
| Divisional Signal Co. | 8 |
| Divisional Train | 9 |
| A.D.M.S. | 10 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Copies to: | |
| 2nd Australian Division | 11 |
| 20th Division | 12 |
| 1st ANZAC Corps | 13 |
| 1st ANZAC Heavy Artillery | 14 |
| 3rd Sq. R.F.C. | 15 |
| "G" File | 16 |
| "Q" Branch | 17 |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 18 |
| War Diary | 19 |

INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL H.E. ELLIOTT,
COMMANDING ADVANCE GUARD.



With reference to Division Order No. 128, the following further instructions are issued to you by the Divisional Commander.

2. From information received it is deduced that the next position to be taken up by the enemy will be a line running from YTRES to BEUGNY ^{and} SAPIGNIES. The defence of this line has probably been taken over by a fresh Division on our front and the enemy rearguard, beaten to-day, has retired through it. The Division holding the YTRES-BEUGNY line will probably have advanced posts thrown forward. To-night at 4 p.m. parties of the enemy were seen in BANCOURT and in N.22.e.
3. You will take over the duty of keeping touch with the enemy now in front of our line and will push back any small parties/holding localities and gain touch with the enemy on the line on which he intends to resist.
4. You will keep close touch by Signal or mounted men with advanced guards of the Divisions on our flanks, who, it is understood, are pushing forward also. You will maintain touch from your Headquarters back to Divisional Headquarters by any signal stations of the front line which you find convenient. You should use visual if possible to your advanced mounted troops. O.C. "C" Squadron, 13th. Light Horse has been issued with Pigeons and more will be sent up on demand.

C. Waystaff

Lieut-Colonel
General Staff
5th. Australian Division.

17/3/17.



I

9/5 Missing
Wounded

Divisional Order No. 129, the

instructions are issued to you in the

Divisional Order.

From information received it is deduced that the

Divisional Order No. 129, the

instructions are issued to you in the

Divisional Order.

The Divisional Order

has been received and the instructions

are being put into effect.

Very truly yours,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Title]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Address]

282

Appendix No 137 a

SECRET.

Headquarters,
17th March 1917.

Copy 144.

G.S. 76.



88

G.O.C.,
Squadron,
Light Horse.

1. At daylight this morning our patrols entered the enemy's front line system and succeeded in forcing his rearguard back beyond the line LE TRANSLOY - BEAULINCOURT - BAPAUME.

The 5th Australian Division is now established on the line LE TRANSLOY - RESERVOIR (N.4.b.) - CROSS ROADS H.28.a.2.5.

The 20th Division on our right are moving forward to the line SAILLY SAILLISEL - LE TRANSLOY but have not yet reached this objective.

The 2nd Australian Division on our left hold the line CROSS ROADS H.28.a.2.5 - BIEFVILLERS - and thence northwest to the outskirts of BIHUCOURT which is in flames.

Reliable information indicates the retirement of the enemy to a defensive line YRES east of HAPLINCOURT just west of BEUGNY thence northwest of BEHAGNIES and ACHIET-le-GRANDE.

2. The 5th Australian Division is to advance its right flank to the LUBDA COPSE - REINCOURT Line at such time as the 20th Division reaches the line SAILLY SAILLISEL - LE TRANSLOY.

A further advance will not take place until the situation is cleared up.

3. You will send small officers' patrols to HAPLINCOURT and PREMICOURT to reconnoitre the line taken up by the main enemy force and at the same time locate any rearguard detachments which have not as yet withdrawn.

You should, as far as possible, avoid the roads and paths as reliable information indicates that they have been mined in a number of places.

4. The squadron will rendezvous at LONGUEVAL S.11.d.6.4. Patrols can move forward via FLERS - FACTORY CORNER and LUISENHOF FARM.

The squadron Headquarters will move to LUISENHOF FARM when transport can get through, reporting the move to Divisional Headquarters.

5. An officer detailed by the G.O.C. 8th Infantry Brigade will meet you at LUISENHOF FARM and indicate the best route towards the BAPAUME - LE TRANSLOY Road.

6. One day's forage for horses and one day's rations for the men will be carried.

7. Reports to Divisional Headquarters at BERNAFAY WOOD through Advanced Battalion Report Centres on the LE TRANSLOY - BAPAUME Road.

Carrington

Lieut-Colonel,

General Staff, 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Issued at 11 a.m.

Copies to: 8th, 14th, 15th Inf. Brigades,

- C.R.A.
- S.S.C.
- A.D.C. to G.O.C.
- "G" File
- "Q" Branch
- War Diary.

OPERATION ORDER No.1.
By Brig-General H.E. ELLIOTT, C.M.G.
Commanding 5th Aust. Division Advanced Guard.

-----***-----

Reference -57 C.S.W.
57 C.N.W.
57 C.

m.g. Coy. 13th M.G. Coy.
59th Battalion
60th Battalion
54th Battery A.F.A.

17th March 1917.



1. The enemy has retired in a NORTH EASTERLY direction towards positions believed to be prepared on the line BEUGNY - YTRES. Our outposts are established on the line BAPAUME - RIENCOURT - TRANSLOY.

2. A Divisional Advanced Guard has been formed consisting of the following Units viz :-

- 15th Brigade H.Q.
- 1 Squadron Light Horse
- 1 Battery A.F.A.
- 2 Sections Field Engineers
- 2 Battalions Infantry
- 1/2 Machine Company
- Details D.A.C.
- 2 Sections A.A.M.C.

On the 18th March this Advanced Guard will move forward and ascertain the disposition of the enemy's forces in his new position and to maintain touch, slight opposition must be vigorously brushed aside and the enemy forced back on his main position.

3. The boundaries of the zone in which the Advanced Guard will operate are:-
Right Boundary - N.21.Central - O.14 Central - O.5.Central.
Left Boundary - H.27 Central - T.4 Central.

The route to be followed will be LIGNY THILLOY (N.7.B.95-40) - N.9.D.7-2. - RIENCOURT - BANCOURT - FREMICOURT.

4. The O.C. Light Horse Squadron will form a protective screen in advance of the Infantry portion of the Advanced Guard and will clear BANCOURT by 9 a.m.

5. The Van Guard will pass the starting point, the cross-roads at N.9.C.95-05, at 8 a.m. An interval of 1000 yards will be maintained between the Van Guard and Main Guard.

Order of March

Mounted Screen - "C" Squadron, 13th L.H.

Van Guard

O.C. - Lieut.Col. H.T.C. LAYH, D.S.O. 59th Battalion
59th Battalion
2 Sections 15th M.G. Coy.
2 Sections 14th Field Company.

Main Guard

15th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q.
60th Battalion (less 2 Platoons)
2 Platoons 60th Battalion (Battery escort)
54th Battery A.F.A.
Details 5th D.A.C.
2 Sections A.A.M.C.

6. Marching order will be worn. Blankets will not be carried.

7. 26,000 rounds S.A.A. per Battalion will be carried in 3 limbered waggons. Except water carts no other vehicles will be taken by Infantry.

8. Railhead for the column has been established at N.13.D.7-9.

9. Reports will be sent to the head of the Main Guard.

Geo. J. Wright

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

OPERATION ORDER No. 1.
By Brig-General H.E. HILLIOTT, G.M.G.
Commanding 5th Aust. Division Advanced Guard.

17th March 1917.

Issued at 10 p.m.

Reference - 57 C.S.W.
57 C.N.W.
57 O.

- No. 1. 59th Battalion
- 2. 60th Battalion
- 3. 15th M.G. Coy.

1. The enemy has retreated in the direction towards positions believed to be held by the 14th Field Company, 15th Field Ambulance, 13th Horse, and 5th Aust. Division. Our outposts are being reformed.

- 2. A Divisional Advanced Guard is being reformed consisting of the following units viz:
 - 9. War Diary.
 - 10. Staff Captain.
 - 11. 1st Squadron Light Horse.
 - 12. Brigade Signal Section.
 - 13. 2 Sections, 14th Field Company.
 - 14. 2 Battalions Infantry.
 - 1/2 Machine Company.
 - Detalia D.A.C.
 - 2 Sections A.A.M.C.

On the 18th March this Advanced Guard will move forward and ascertain the disposition of the enemy's forces in his new position and to maintain touch, slight opposition must be vigorously pressed and the enemy forced back on his main position.

3. The boundaries of the zone in which the Advanced Guard will operate are:-
Right Boundary - N. 21. Central - O. 14. Central - O. 5. Central.
Left Boundary - N. 27. Central - T. 4. Central.
The route to be followed will be LIGNY THILLY (N. 7. B. 35-40) - N. 9. D. 7-8 - RIMMOCOURT - BANOCOURT - RIMMOCOURT.

4. The O.C. Light Horse Squadron will form a protective screen in advance of the Infantry portion of the Advanced Guard and will BANOCOURT by 9 a.m.

5. The Van Guard will pass the starting point, the cross-roads at N. 9. C. 35-36, at 8 a.m. An interval of 1000 yards will be maintained between the Van Guard and Main Guard.

Order of March

- Mounted Screen - "C" Squadron, 13th L.H.
- Van Guard
- O.C. - Lieut. Col. H.T.C. LAYH, D.S.O., 59th Battalion
- 59th Battalion
- 2 Sections 15th M.G. Coy.
- 2 Sections 14th Field Company.
- Main Guard
- 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Q.
- 60th Battalion (less 2 Platoons)
- 2 Platoons 60th Battalion (Battery escort)
- 54th Battery A.F.A.
- Detalia 5th D.A.C.
- 2 Sections A.A.M.C.

- 6. Marching order will be worn. Blankets will not be carried.
- 7. 25,000 rounds S.A.A. per Battalion will be carried in 2 limbered wagons. Except water carts no other vehicles will be taken by Infantry.
- 8. Railhead for the column has been established at N. 13. D. 7-9.
- 9. Reports will be sent to the head of the Main Guard.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.
Major.

Instructions to Captain W. J. Intype,
O.C. C Squadron, 13th A. S. Horse



- 1 With reference to Advanced Guard operation order No 1, the following further instructions are issued to you by the Advanced Guard Commanders.
- 2 From information received it is deduced that the next position to be taken up by the enemy will be a line running from YTRES to BEUGNY and SAPIGNIES. The defence of this line has probably been taken over by a fresh Division on our front and the enemy rear-guard has retired through it. This fresh Division will probably have advanced posts thrown forward. Tonight at 4 pm parties of the enemy were seen in BAYCOURT and in N22 C.
- 3 You will take over the duty of ascertaining that the front is clear. Any small parties holding localities will be pushed back, or cut off if possible, and touch gained with the enemy on the line on which he intends to resist.
- 4 You will keep close touch ~~with the~~ by signal or patrols with the Division on our right (20th Division) and left (2nd Aust. Division). You will keep close touch with the van guard Commander, using visual if possible.
- 5 More pigeons may be drawn on demand.
- 6 You will allot one section to the van Guard for the purpose of maintaining communication with you.

17th March

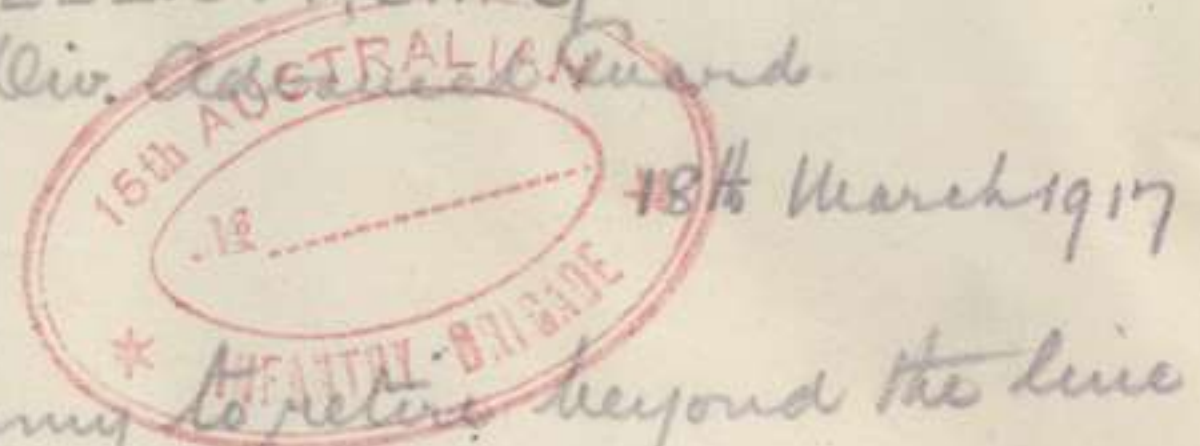
Col. F. W. G. G. G.
 P. de Meyer, 15th Inf Bde
 10 pm.

Appendix 1396
Operation Order No. 296

Copy No. 4

By Brig. General H.E. ELLIOTT, C.M.G.
Commanding 5th Aust. Div. ~~Advanced Guard~~

Reference - 57c NE
57c SE



- 1 we have forced the enemy to retire beyond the line BEUGNY-HAPLINCOURT.
The 20th Division is holding ROCQUIGNY and has posts near BARASTRE (which is unoccupied).
The 2nd Aust. Division occupies BEUGNATRE.
- 2 The 59th Battalion will take a line of outposts on the general line BEUGNY-HAPLINCOURT.
Outposts to be in position by 6 pm.
Lieut Col. LAYH, D.C.O. will command the outposts.
- 3 The remainder of the Advanced Guard will billet for tonight as under -
 - 15th Brigade Headquarters - I 25 a 7-6.
 - 6th Battalion (less 2 Coys) - ~~FREMICOURT~~ BANCOURT
 - 2 Coys, 6th Battalion - FREMICOURT
 - 2 Secs, 14th Field Coy. - FREMICOURT
 - Bearer Sect. 15th Field Amb - BANCOURT
 - 1 Sect. 15th M Coy - with 59th Bn.
 - 1 Sect. - do - - FREMICOURT
 - C Squadron, 13th L.H. - LIGNY-THILLOY
 - 1 Sect. 15th Field Amb. - H 33 B 9-1
- 4 The 6th Bn will be Outpost Reserve.
- 5 Rations and water carts will arrive about 9 am tomorrow.
- 6 Reports to Brigade H.Q. at I 25 a 7-6.

Geoffrey R Meyer
Bde Major 15th Bde.

"C" Form.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message

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



Handed in at Days Office 15 m. Received 17 m.

TO

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Sender's Number | Day of Month | In reply to Number | AAA 6 |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|

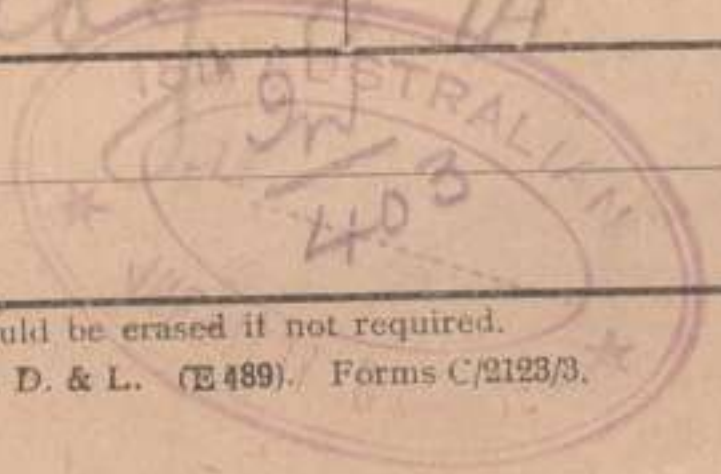
Enemy has retired
 HAPLINCOURT and FREMICOURT and
 C Squadron 13th Light Horse are
 sending contact patrols towards
 those villages and to establish
 close touch on advanced guard
 will be ~~formed~~ ready to
 move off early morning eight
 and Brigadier Gen Elliott will
 command the units and HQ
 15th Brigade and two battalions
 15th Brigade and "C" Squadron
 13th Light Horse and 57th
 Battery Field Artillery and 15th
 Machine Gun Company less 2
 section half Coy 14th Field

FROM

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.

(6337). Wt. W7496/M857. 500,000 Fads. 10/16. D. D. & L. (E 489). Forms C/2123/3.



Appendix ~~137~~ 138



"C" Form.

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

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prefix..... | Code..... | Words..... £ s. d. | Received. From..... | Sent, or sent out. At..... m. | Office Stamp. 10-17.11.17 |
| Charges to collect | | | By..... | To..... | |
| Service Instructions. | | | | By..... | |

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

TO

2

*Sender's Number

Day of Month

In reply to Number

AAA

Co Engineers and one tent
 subdivision one beaver subdivision
 15th Field Amb and 2
 SAA Limbark wagons a skeleton
 SAC and units now in
 rear of FLERS will assemble
 at CHEESE ROAD N260 at
 6 pm tonight and command
 of units will report to
 Brigadier sent list for orders
 forthwith and add three Inf
 Bde CRA for units "C"
 Squadron 13th Light Horse 1st
 1st Anzac B20 DW 2
 Aus DW and "B"

FROM

PLACE & TIME

5 Aus DW
3 30 pm

* This line should be erased if not required.

(633). Wt. W7496/M857. 500,000 Fads. 10/16. D. D. & L. (E489). Forms C/2123/3.

Appendix 138

Copy

Priority

AYE

Office 4.45 pm

4.57 pm



15th Infantry Brigade

C Sqd 13th Light Horse

G.S. 89

17th

Reference G.S. 86 aca If the advanced guard should move forward the following re-arrangement of front will be made aca 14th and 8th Brigades will spread inwards and the front will be held by those two Brigades aca Inter Brigade boundary will be a line North East true through No a O.O. aca 57th and 58th Battalions with half 15th M G Company and 15th A.L.T. M Battery will be withdrawn from the line and will form a Divisional reserve under Lieut Col STEWART aca This reserve will occupy the COW-NEEDLE-POSSUM HAY Line with headquarters at BULLS ROAD, Addressed 8th, 14th and 15th Brigades. C.R.A. CRE ADMS. Repeated 1st Annac. &c.

5th Aust Div.

4.40 pm

Appendix 138a

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 7....

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 90.Reference - 15 C.S.W.17th March 1917.

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

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

Issued No.1. 57th Battalion
 2. 58th Battalion
 3. 59th Battalion
 4. 60th Battalion
 5. 15th M.G. Coy.
 6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
 7. War Diary.

By Brigadier General H.E. ELLIOTT, C.M.G.
Commanding 5th Aust. Div. Advanced Guard



Reference - 57c 40000

- 1 Our troops are now in occupation of the general line VAULTY - BEUGNY - HAPLINCOURT - ROCQUIGNY.
Orders have been received to drive the enemy's detachments back to the HINDENBURG LINE (QUEANT - D25 - HAVRINCOURT)
A British Cavalry Brigade will move to LAGNICOURT this morning.
- 2 The Advanced Guard will continue the forward move today, as under.
 - (a) One troop L.H. will re-establish contact with the enemy as soon as possible after daybreak and will be joined by remaining 3 troops by 8 am.
 - (b) The van-guard will pass the outpost line at 11.30 am
 - (c) Van Guard - O.C. Lieut. Colonel H.T.C. LAYH, D.S.O.
Right Column - 2 Coys both Bn, under Captain T. KERR
4 Vickers Guns.
Left Column - 2 Coys both Bn, under Captain D.B. DOYLE.
2 Vickers Guns.
One Company, 59th Battalion is also allotted to O.C. Van Guard.
MAIN GUARD - 3 Companies, 59th Bn
4th Battalion, A.F.A.
- 3 The divisional boundaries are a prolongation of those given yesterday.
The main BAPAUME - CAMBAAI Road is inclusive to the Right Column.
The main guard will follow generally the main BAPAUME Road.
- 4 The 2 sections, 14th Field Company will repair the main BAPAUME Road.
Commencing at FREMICOURT.
- 5 The O.C. Right Column will establish a post at J 26 a, or vicinity Garrison to consist of one weak platoon and one Vickers Gun.
If the column is in close touch with the Division on our Right this post may be subsequently withdrawn.
- 6 A Dressing Station is established in BAYCOURT.
- 7 Advanced Guard HQ will be established in BEUGNY as soon as the Main Guard clears the village. Messages will be sent to this point.
- 8 The Van Guard will not proceed beyond the line BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES until receipt of further orders.

Geo. J. West Major
Bde Major, 15th Inf Bde

- Copy No 1 - 59th Bn
2 - both Bn
3 - 15th M Coy
4 - C Squadron / 13th LH
5 - 4th Battalion
6 - 14th Field Coy
7 - 15th Field Ambulance
8 - War Diary
9 - Bde HQ

Instructions to

O.C. C Squadron, 13th Light Horse



1. The following line is held by the Advanced Guard
 BEUGNY - HARLINCOURT.

On the Right BARASTRE is unoccupied and on the left the
 2nd Aust Division holds VAULX.

2. At daylight today a British Cavalry Brigade will move
 towards LAGNIECOURT and places further NORTH.

3. Our Advanced Guard will pass the outpost line at about
 9 am.

4. Special Instructions have been received to watch our own
 right flank and to push back enemy detachments
 to the line D 15 - K 1.

5. You will continue to act as a reconnoitering screen in
 the direction of the objective quoted in para 4.

19/3/17

Robert W. Jones
 Lt Col Major 5th Aust Div Adv Guard

Appendix N^o 4 1396 Copy N^o 8
 Appendix N^o 1396
 By Brigadier General H.E. ELLIOTT, CMG.
 Commanding 5th Aust. Div Advanced Guard



Reference - 57c

19th March 1917

- 1 The enemy's opposition to our advance has been stronger today but late this afternoon there were indications of his falling back.
 Our line now runs O 6 Central, J 32 a 0-0, I 24 Central, I 17 c 0-0, I 16 b 2-0 to I 9 a 0-0.
- 2 The Van Guard will take up an Outpost Line on the general line now occupied. Two Vickers Guns will be retained with the outposts.
 Picquets will not be smaller than one platoon.
 Lieut. Colonel H. T. C. LAYH DSO, will Command the outposts.
 The Main Guard will act as a Reserve to the outposts.
- 3 Units, other than both P.M. & 1/2 sec Vickers Guns will bivouac as follows:-

15th Inf Bde HQ. -

59th Battalion -

15th MG Coy -
 (less 1/2 sec)

C Coy 13th Ach -

4th Bty AFA. -

2 Secs Field Coy -

2 Secs 15th Field Amb - BAYCOURT

FREMICOURT (I 15 a 8-6)

Trenches in the DESSAUX FARM Line

FREMICOURT.

-do-

-do-

-do-

4 The advance will be resumed tomorrow.

5 Unit transport will be brought up to BAYCOURT tomorrow.

6 Ration refilling point is changed to BAYCOURT.

7 S.A.A. refilling point is established at FREMICOURT.

Issued to - N^o 1

59th Bn

2 60th Bn

3 15th MG Coy

4 C Coy 13th Ach

5 4th Bty AFA

6 14th Field Coy

7 15th Field Amb

8 War Camp

9 Bde HQ

Geo. F. Wier Major
 Bde Major, 15th Inf Bde.

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appendix 140

100

SECRET.

Con. No. 4

5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 129.

Headquarters,
19th. March, 1917.

1. Our advanced guard is in touch with the enemy between LEBUCQUIERE and DELSAUX FARM.
The main body of the Division holds a line from VILLERS-au-FLOS through RIENCOURT and North East of BAPAUME.
2. The advanced guard, as previously detailed in 5th. Division Order No. 128, will maintain touch with the enemy. Special instructions are being issued to the Advanced Guard Commander.
3. The front of the main body of the Division will be advanced to a line O.10.a.0.2 HAPLINCOURT-BANCOURT H.22.d.0.1.
This line will be occupied by the 14th. Brigade and the 8th. Brigade, (less 32nd. Battalion).
The dividing line between Brigades will be a line I.31.b.0.0-N.6.a.0.0-N.9.d.7.3-N.19.d.0.0.
4. The Divisional right boundary will be as before, but will be continued forward towards HAVRINCOURT (exclusive).
The Divisional left boundary will be from H.27.d.0.2, thence North East along the BEUGNATRE Road (exclusive) to H.22.c.75.25; thence along former boundary through I.8.central.
5. 14th. and 8th. Brigades will reconnoitre the front line given in para. 3 on 19th. March, and will select a series of posts along it, generally on the line of the wire.
The line will be occupied, as an outpost line at 10 a.m. on 20th. March.
6. A supporting line will be held from LUBDA COPSE, north end of RIENCOURT-north side of BAPAUME.
Reserves will be quartered about our old front line and LIGNY THILLOY.
Stewart's Force will be quartered about FLERS-GUEUDECOURT. It will garrison the NEEDLE LINE if required.
7. Divisional Artillery (less ^{one} Battery) will be disposed on a general line south west of the LE TRANSLOY-BAPAUME main road so as to cover the front HAPLINCOURT-BANCOURT-H.22.central.
New positions will be taken up during the afternoon of the 20th. March.
C.R.A. will hold a battery of 14th. A.F.A. Brigade ready to reinforce the Advanced Guard if necessary.
8. Troops will be reorganized under Brigade arrangements. "Q" branch will issue the necessary administrative instructions.
9. Headquarters 14th. Brigade will be established in BEAULENCOURT. Headquarters 8th. Brigade move to H.33.a.
Divisional Headquarters and C.R.A. remain at BERNAFAY WOOD for the present.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

*C. Wagsstaff*Lieut. Colonel.
Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

P.T.O.

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Issued at 8 a.m. to:-

Copy No.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| "C" Squadron, 13th. Light Horse. | 1. |
| 8th. Infantry Brigade. | 2. |
| 14th. Infantry Brigade. | 3. |
| Advanced Guard. (15th. Brigade). | 4. |
| Stewart's Force. | 5. |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion. | 6. |
| Divisional Artillery. | 7. |
| Divisional Engineers. | 8. |
| Divisional Signal Co. | 9. |
| Divisional Train. | 10. |
| A.D.M.S. | 11. |

Copies to:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 2nd. Australian Division. | 12. |
| 20th. Division. | 13. |
| 1st. Anzac Corps. | 14. |
| 1st. Anzac Heavy Artillery. | 15. |
| 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. | 16. |
| A.D.C. to G.C.C. | 17. |
| "G" File. | 18. |
| "C" Branch. | 19. |
| War Diary. | 20. |



SECRET.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 129.

Headquarters,
19-3-17.

1. SUPPLIES.
 (a) Supplies for all formations other than Advance Guard will continue to be drawn from Quarry.
 (b) Advance Guard, including Squadron 13th Light Horse Regiment, will draw from Advance Supply Dump at BAPAUME H.27.a.7.3. (This Dump will be moved to BEAULENCOURT as soon as practicable). All indents for rations from BAPAUME Depot must be handed to Lieut. Laity, Supply Officer, at BAPAUME at earliest possible moment.
2. TRANSPORT.
 One Brigade Transport Section of 5th Australian Div. Train is attached to BAPAUME Supply Depot to assist Advance Guard with transport of supplies.
 The 5th Australian Div. Train will take over transport of supplies from Brigades in back area, thus relieving 1st line transport, which must be concentrated for work in forward areas. Brigade Pack Trains must be kept up to full strength, ready for any emergency.
3. WATER.
 The following wells in new areas are available for use :-

| | | |
|------------------|------------|---|
| FACTORY CORNER | N.19.c.7.2 | Potable. |
| LUISENHOF FARM | N.13.d.8.8 | One measure to water cart. Should not be used without filtration. |
| LIGNY THILLOY | N.7.b.4.5 | Two measures to water cart. Should not be used without filtration. |
| | N.7.a.2.9 | Potable. |
| | N.7.a.1.0 | Two measures. |
| | M.23.d.2.8 | Potable. |
| GUEUDECOURT | N.26.b.9.7 | Potable. |
| | N.26.b.9.2 | Potable. |
| | N.26.b.8.2 | Potable. |
| | N.26.b.4.5 | No chlorination required. |
| FLERS | N.31.c.2.7 | Potable. |
| BEAULENCOURT | N.17.b.9.0 | No. 2 - Potable. 65' deep, 5' water. No. 3 - Horses. 66' deep, 16' water. No. 4 - Potable. 70' deep, 10' water (windlass) |
| MILLERS SON | N.28.c.1.6 |) Potable. Engines and pump being erected. |
| MILLERS DAUGHTER | N.34.a.4.8 | |
| FREMICOURT | I.25.b.9.7 | Horses. |

4. S.A.A. and GRENADES.

In addition to the ammunition dumps already existing, the following are now available :-

| | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| BLACK DUMP | - | N.8.a.0.6 |
| | | H.31.d.3.2 |
| | | H.34.d.4.4 |

Brigades will arrange that all ammunition dumps in their rear areas are moved forward to suitable and convenient positions. Positions of any new dumps must be notified at once to Divisional Headquarters.

J. H. ...

Colonel,
A7A. & Q.M.G. 5th Aust. Div.



Instructions to Brigadier General R.E. Elliott, C.M.G.
Commanding Advanced Guard.

The following instructions are given with reference to 5th. Australian Divisional Order No. 129.

1. The enemy appear to be holding a line VELU-MORCHIES-LAGNICOURT-CROISILLES-BOYELLES with a series of advanced posts.

ST. QUENTIN and villages east of the HINDENBURG LINE are burning.

A Cavalry Brigade has been ordered to push forward at daylight on 19th. March to seize ECOUST and CROISILLES, and throw out a flank detachment to LAGNICOURT.

Divisional Advanced Guards of our Corps are directed to support the operations of the cavalry, and to drive the enemy detachments to the HINDENBURG LINE.

2. Your role is to drive in small enemy detachments; to keep touch with the enemy and to cover the front of the Division within the boundaries detailed, while the Division is halted on the line HAPLINCOURT-BANCOURT. You will be expected to push back small detachments of the enemy and to gain touch with his main positions.

3. You must also maintain touch with the main body of the Division and for this reason you will report when your advanced troops are 6 miles north east of BANCOURT, so that orders may be given regarding the advance of infantry from our line to close the gap behind you if you push on further.

4. On your left flank another Division of the Corps is providing an advanced guard similar to your own. On your right there will be only cavalry in advance of the general line held by the main body.

5. You must keep touch with these, but you will arrange to provide flank protection for your own force.

6. "Q" Branch of the Division will notify you of the Supply and other arrangements made for you.

7. A cable will be maintained to your Headquarters by the Divisional Signal Co. and a wireless set is also being sent you and pigeons provided. You will arrange with your own Signal Section and mounted orderlies for communication within your command and with the advanced guards on your flanks.

8. In the event of the enemy's resistance increasing you will be reinforced with Artillery. One battalion is being held in readiness to support you also. You will inform Divisional Headquarters when you require these reinforcements.

9. You will report every evening at 4.30 p.m. by wire the disposition of your troops and will, of course, report important occurrences at all times.

Cunwagstaff

19.3.17

Lieut. Colonel.
Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

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Appendix N: 140 a

Appendix 140a



"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form 0.214 (in pads of 100). No. of Message

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

TO { 59th Bn, 60th Bn, 14th Squadron L.H., 44th Coy, 15th Mech Coy, 15th Field Amb, 14th Field Coy }

Sender's Number: * 19th M 1/670 Day of Month: 20th In reply to Number: AAA

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| operation | detailed | for | 19th | inst. |
| will | be | Completed | today | aaa |
| order | of | baton | unchanged | aaa |
| the | advance | will | be delayed | |
| until | the | retreat | on | the |
| right | flank | is | cleared | up |
| aaa | the | right | horse | will |
| company | BERTINCOURT and | | O.C. Vanguard | |
| will | if necessary | | use | in |
| company | of | the | 59th | Bn |
| to | support | them | aaa | of |
| leaved | the | Artillery | will | co-operate |
| aaa | when | BERTINCOURT is | | clear |
| the | Vanguard | will | | move |
| forward | | | | |

From: 15th Bde Place: 6.15 am Time: 6.15 am

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

* This line should be erased if not required. 750,000. W 2186 - M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

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OPERATION ORDER NO 5
By Brigadier General H.E. ELLIOTT C.M.G.
Commanding 5th Aust. Division Advanced Guard

106

Reference 57° N.E.
57° S.E.



20th March 1917

(1) We have captured MORCHIES but our attack on BEAUMETZ was unsuccessful. We now hold the line O1 Central - J 26 a 0.0 - J 19 a 0.0 - C 6 central - C 4 central.

(2) Tonight an outpost line will be established on the general line described in para (1).
No picket will be smaller than one platoon.
OUTPOSTS - O.C. Lieut. Col. H.T.C. LAYH D.S.O. 59th Bn.
29th Battalion.
59th do.
6 Vickers Guns 15th M.G. Coy.

The 60th Bn. at FREMICOURT and the 30th Bn. at BANCOURT will act as reserves to the outposts.

(3) Tonight the outpost line will be consolidated by the Outpost Troops assisted by 2 Sections 14th Field Coy.

(4) Troops not forming portion of the outposts will be billeted as under

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 15th Aust. Inf. Bde H.Q. | } | FREMICOURT. |
| C Sqn. 13th L.H. | | |
| 4th Batt. A.F.A. | | |
| 55th do do | | |
| 1/2 Coy. 1st ANZAC Cyclists. | | |
| 2 Sections 15th F. Amb. | | |

(5) Supplies will be drawn from dump at H 27 a 2.3. Unit rations should be sent in as soon as possible to LT. LAITY Supply Officer BAPAUME. Train transport is available to assist units.

(6) Drinking water may be obtained at the well at I 19 d 4.0 and I 25 b 8.5 but bleaching powder in proportion of one measure to 100 gallons is to be used.

No other local water supplies are to be used for drinking or cooking purposes.

Horses may be watered at I 25 b 9.7

(7) It is anticipated that an attack will be made by us on BEAUMETZ tomorrow.

(8) C.O.'s units not in the outpost line will report at Bde H.Q. each evening between 6 pm and 8 pm.

(9) Each unit will send totals of casualties to Bde H.Q. by 8 pm daily.

(10) Units will institute sanitary arrangements within areas occupied by them at once and will clean up the surroundings of their billets.

Robert Smith Major.
Brigade Major 15th Inf. Bde.

- Issued No 1 _____ 59th Bn.
2 _____ 60th Bn.
3 _____ 15th M.G. Coy.
4 _____ C Sqn 13th L.H.
5 _____ 4th Batt. A.F.A.
6 _____ 55th do do.
7 _____ 14th Field Coy.
8 _____ 15th Field Amb.
9 _____ 29th Bn.
10 _____ 30th Bn.
11 _____ Cyclist Company
12 _____ War Diary.
13 _____ } Bde H.Q.
14 _____ }

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Appendix 142

Appendix No. 142



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SECRET.

Copy No. 4.

Headquarters,
21st March 1917.

5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 130.

The enemy is opposing us on the line HERMIERS-DOIGNIEK-LOUVERVAL-LAGNICOURT.

Our leading troops entered BEAUMETZ this morning, otherwise our line runs from VELU to MORCHIES and MARICOURT WOOD.

The line of the advanced guards of the Corps ^{is} to be advanced to the line BEAUMETZ-LAGNICOURT-NORSUIL.

Corps on our flanks are operating against YTRES and CROISELLES. Heavy Artillery is being moved up to co-operate.

The advanced Guard (consisting of the Units shown in the margin)

| |
|--|
| COMMANDER |
| Brig-Gen. H.E. Elliott, C.M.G. |
| TROOPS. |
| H.C. 15th. A.I. Brigade. |
| "C" Squadron 13th. Light Horse. |
| (being relieved by "A" Squadron) |
| Half Company Corps Cyclists. |
| 14th. Bde. A.F.A. (less 2 Batts) |
| <i>How.</i> 54th. Battery, 14th. Bde. A.F.A. |
| Half 14th. Field Co. Engineers. |
| 29th, 30th, 59th and 60th Bns. |
| 15th. Machine Gun Company. |
| Details 15th. Field Ambulance. |

will co-operate with the 2nd. Australian Divisional Advanced Guard in establishing itself on the line VELU WOOD-BEAUMETZ-LAGNICOURT. A special right flank guard will be detailed from the advanced Guard to watch the right flank.

To-morrow the 22nd inst. the 57th and 58th Battalions will move to the area BANCOURT-BAPAUME and will be used by the G.O.C. Advanced Guard to relieve the 29th and 30th Battalions on subsequent dates. The 29th and 30th Battalions will, on relief in the forward line, return under the command of the G.O.C. 8th. Brigade.

C.R.A. will arrange to increase the strength of the Advanced Guard Artillery to 4 18/pdr. Batteries Field Artillery, as Batteries get forward on to the BAPAUME ridge. The 4th. Battery will be withdrawn to rejoin 2nd. Brigade South of BAPAUME.

14th. and 8th. Infantry Brigades (less 32nd Battalion) will assemble and organise their units in the area forward of a line from LE TRANSLOY to LE BAPQUE. Any necessary moves should be completed by the evening of the 23rd inst.

The units will be told off to their positions in the defensive lines already detailed.

Divisional Artillery (less 14th. Brigade A.F.A.) will be disposed on the BAPAUME ridge to cover the front of the 14th and 8th. Infantry Brigades. The units will be made as mobile as possible, having regard to the state of the supply arrangements forward.

C.R.E. will push on the work on the roads and decauville leading to BEAULENCOURT. When possible the forward communications will be taken in hand.

The following will work under the C.R.E., who will arrange quarters:-

- 2 -

Divisional Engineers (less Half Company 14th Field Co.)
 5th. Pioneer Battalion.
 32nd. Infantry Battalion.

9. Divisional Headquarters will be prepared to move to
 BEAULENCOURT at short notice.

W. King

Lieut-Colonel
 General Staff
 5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Issued at 12.30 p.m. to:-

Copy No.

| | |
|--|-----|
| "C" Squadron 13th. Light Horse | 1 |
| 8th. Brigade | 2 |
| 14th. Brigade | 3 |
| Advanced Guard(15th. Infantry Brigade) | 4-5 |
| Stewarts Force | 6 |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion | 7 |
| Divisional Artillery | 8 |
| Divisional Engineers | 9 |
| Divisional Signal Company | 10 |
| Divisional Train | 11 |
| S.S.O. | 12 |
| A.D.M.S. | 13 |

Copies to:-

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 1st. Anzac Corps | 14 |
| 20th. Division | 15 |
| 2nd. Australian Division | 16 |
| 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. | 17 |
| 1st. Anzac Heavy Artillery | 18 |
| "G" File | 19 |
| "G" Branch | 20 |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 21 |
| War Diary | 22 |

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Appendix 143



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S E C R E T.

Copy No. 6

5th AUST. DIV. ADVANCED GUARD ORDER No.6.

Reference - 57 C.N.E.

21st March 1917.

1. We are holding the general line BERTINCOURT - BEAUMETZ - MORCHIES - MARICOURT WOOD as an outpost position. The outposts troops are :-
 O.C.outpost - Lieut-Col.H.T.C. LAYH, D.S.O.
 59th Battalion
 29th Battalion
 2 sections 15th M.G. Coy.
2. To-day the 30th Battalion will relieve the 59th Battalion in the outpost position and Lieut-Col. CLARK, 30th Battalion will take over the duties of O.C. outposts. Completion of relief to be notified to Advanced Guard H.Q.
3. After relief the 59th Battalion will move to billets in BANCOURT and vicinity.

Geo. F. Sweet

Major
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

- Issued = No.
1. 59th Battalion
 2. 29th Battalion
 3. 15th M.G. Coy.
 4. "C" Squadron 13th L.H.
 5. 14th F.A. Brigade
 6. War Diary

15. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Daily Strength Return

17th March 1917

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| Unit | ACTUALLY WITH UNIT | | | IN. HPL | | | DETACHED | | | TTL EFFECTIVE STRENGTH | | | REMARKS |
|----------------|--------------------|------|------|---------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|------------------------|------|------|---|
| | Off | OR | TTL | Off | OR | TTL | Off | OR | TTL | Off | OR | TTL | |
| 15. B.H. Q | 7 | 20 | 27 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 7 | 20 | 27 | |
| 15. A.L.J.M.B. | 3 | 33 | 36 | . | 7 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 43 | 47 | |
| 15. M. G. Coy. | 6 | 150 | 156 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 168 | 178 | Excludes 2 OR. AMO attached |
| 57. Bn. | 31 | 762 | 793 | 2 | 77 | 79 | 7 | 81 | 88 | 40 | 920 | 960 | Excludes 5 OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 58. Bn. | 26 | 785 | 811 | 6 | 63 | 69 | 7 | 51 | 58 | 39 | 899 | 938 | Excludes 5 OR. AMO attached |
| 59. Bn. | 30 | 806 | 836 | 1 | 64 | 65 | 5 | 28 | 33 | 36 | 898 | 934 | Excludes 4 OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 60. Bn. | 36 | 813 | 849 | 2 | 57 | 59 | 7 | 33 | 40 | 45 | 903 | 948 | Excludes 4 OR. AMO attached. |
| Total. | 139 | 3369 | 3508 | 14 | 278 | 292 | 28 | 204 | 232 | 181 | 3851 | 4032 | |



Appendix 144

Appendix 144

Appendix No 144

Details of Detached.

| 15 M.G. Coy | | 0 OR | | 57 Bn | | 0 OR | | 58 Bn | | 0 OR | | 59 Bn | | 0 OR | | 60 Bn | | 0 OR | |
|------------------------|---|------|---|-------|--|------|---|-------|---|-----------------------|---|------------|---|------|---|---------------------------------------|---|------|--|
| M.G. school. | 1 | 5 | A.G.'s office | 1 | D.H.Q. | 4 | 5 Div Inf School | 3 | 7 | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | | | Div Salvage Coy. | 2 | | |
| (Lt. FITZGERALD. G.F.) | | | D.H.Q. | 2 | Div Ordnance store | 1 | { Lt. A.J. BECK T. MITCHELL 2/Lt. EG. ALEXANDER } | | | Div school | 4 | 7 | Decauville Rly | 7 | | Rly Construction | 3 | | |
| 29. A.S.C. | 1 | | { Capt. LINTON Lt. DAVIS 2/Lt. HEDGEWOOD MUNTZ } | 7 | A.G.'s office | 1 | | | | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | | Conart Party | 1 | | Traffic Control | 1 | | |
| Shooring Course. | 1 | | 29. A.S.C. | 3 | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | | | | Shooring Course. | 1 | | Grenade school | 3 | | Camp wardens | 2 | | |
| Batman to off in hptl | 1 | | Div Draughtman | 1 | W.P.M.S. Div. (Lt. W.J. CRAZE) | 1 | | | | Batman to off in hptl | 1 | | 5 Div Police | 1 | | A.G.'s office | 1 | | |
| | | | Leave | 4 | Lewis Gun School | 1 | | | | | | | 4 Army Inf. School | 1 | | A.W.L. | 2 | | |
| Total | 1 | 8 | Instn L.G. School | 1 | Div Bomb Dump | 1 | | | | Total | 1 | 8 | 5th | 1 | | Detention | 1 | | |
| | | | Cinema | 4 | Corps Baths | 7 | | | | | | | 4 Army telegraphic sch | 1 | | Gas school | 1 | | |
| 15. A.L. J.M.B. | | | Water Wardens | 8 | A.W.L. | 5 | | | | 15. A.L. J.M.B. | | | (Lt. D.W. FAIR) | | | School of Inst. | 2 | 5 | |
| 5th Army School | 1 | 1 | Sig School MONTONVILLERS | 2 | Div School of Inst. | 2 | 8 | | | 5th Army School | 1 | 1 | { Lt. STILLMAN. L.P. 2/Lt. STUBBS. G.A } | | | School of Inst. | 2 | 5 | |
| (Lt. F.K. KEYS) | | | Bootmaker D.A.D.O.S. | 1 | Rly fitters | 2 | | | | (Lt. F.K. KEYS) | | | 5th Army Sig school | 1 | | 5th Army Sig school | 3 | | |
| A.W.L. | 1 | | Armourer | 1 | 8th Inf Bde | 1 | | | | A.W.L. | 1 | | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | | Leave (H. STEELE. J.H) | 1 | 1 | |
| Instn. 1st Angas Sch | 1 | | Patigie Meaulte | 1 | Army School of Inst. | 2 | 3 | | | Instn. 1st Angas Sch | 1 | | A.G.'s office | 1 | | Intelligence school | 1 | | |
| | | | (Lt. MORROW) | 26 | { Capt. N.M. FREEMAN Lt. R.B. FORSYTH } | 5 | | | | | | | Camp Commandant | 1 | 2 | Stokes Gun school | 3 | | |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 4th Army school | 1 | Detention 5th Div. | 5 | | | | Total | 1 | 3 | (Lt. D.G. TOONEY) | | | 5th Army school | 2 | 2 | |
| | | | 5th | 3 | Cinema theatre | 1 | | | | | | | | | | { Capt. WRIGLEY. H. BAIRIE. J.C } | | | |
| | | | Stokes Gun school | 4 | Sanitary section | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 5th A.D.B.D. | 1 | | |
| | | | Div Sig Coy | 3 | 1st Angas Workshops | 2 | | | | | | | | | | (MAJ. TRICKEY. F.V) | | | |
| | | | L.G. school | 1 | 5th A.D.B.D. | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | Sniper's school | 2 | | |
| | | | Aldershot school | 1 | (Capt. F.D. JOHNSTONE) | 1 | | | | | | | | | | L.G. school { Capt. ROBERTS. G.A } | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | Murshby school | 1 | Water supply. FRIGOURT | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1st Angas Grenade | 1 | Detention 1st Angas | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | A.G.M. | 1 | Div Sig Coy | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | L.G. School (2/Lt. WHITE) | 1 | Leave (Lt. W.B. McVHANEZ) | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Cookery school | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 7 | 81 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 7 | 51 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 5 | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 7 | 33 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appendix No 144

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Appendix 145

Appendix N^o 145

112

SECRET.



Copy No. 12

5th Aust. Division Advanced Guard Order No. 7.

Reference - 57 C N.E.
S.E.

22nd March, 1917.

1. There is no change on the Divisional Front.
2. The following reliefs will take place on the 23rd March, viz:-
 The 27th Battalion will take over the outpost line from J.13.B.O-9 to I.4.Central.
 The 58th Battalion will take over the Outpost Line from ~~J.32.Central~~ to I.4.Central. *J.13.B.O-9*
J.13.B.O-9 Companies not required in the Front Line will be held in Support.
 The 59th Battalion is detailed as a Special Right Flank Guard, and will hold the villages of BERTINCOURT and VELU.
 The 60th Battalion will be in Reserve at FREMICOURT.
 Lieut.Col. J.C.STEWART D.S.O. will be O.C. Outposts.
 Lieut.Col. H.T.G. LAYH D.S.O. will be O.C. Right Flank Guard.
 The Relief will be completed as soon after 8 p.m. as possible.
 The Command of the Outposts will pass when the 29th and 30th Battalions have been relieved.
 Front Line Units concerned will have guides waiting at MILLGROSS at 6 p.m.
3. After Relief the 29th and 30th Battalions will rejoin the 8th Brigade.
4. The Headquarters of the O.C. Outposts is at I.30.B.6-5.
5. Advanced Headquarters will remain at FREMICOURT.

Geo. L. Wick Major,
Brigade Major, 15th Australian Inf. Bde.

- Issued - No.
- 1 57th Battalion.
 - 2 58th Battalion.
 - 3 59th Battalion.
 - 4 60th Battalion.
 - 5 15th M.G.Coy.
 - 6 15th A.L.T.M.B.
 - 7 13th Light Horse.
 - 8 14th F.A.Brigade.
 - 9 14th Field Coy.
 - 10 15th Field Ambulance.
 - 11 Cyclists.
 - 12 War Diary.

282

SECRET.

Appendix 146

Appendix N^o 146

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Copy No. 12

5th AUST. DIVISION ADVANCED GUARD ORDER No. 7.Reference -57 C.N.E.
S.E.23rd March 1917.

1. The enemy captured BEAUMETZ at 4.45 a.m. but was driven out by a counter-attack.
2. The enemy will be attacked at 10 a.m. to-day on the line DOIGNIES - LOUVERAL.
3. (a) The 59th Battalion with its right flank on the line J.14. Central - J.17.A.0-8 will attack on the front J.4.A. Central - J.16.B.8-8 (C.O. Lieut-Col. H.T.C. LAYH, D.S.O.)
- (b) The 60th Battalion will attack on the immediate right of the 59th Battalion and will co-operate against DOIGNIES as well as engaging any enemy's troops threatening the right flank of the attack. (C.O. Lieut-Col. DAVIES)
- (c) 2 Companies 57th Battalion under Major AITCHISON, M.C. will rendezvous at CHAUFOURS WOOD and act as local reserves under orders of Lieut. Col. LAYH, D.S.O.
Hostile counter-attacks against the left flank of our line will be dealt with without reference.
- (d) "B" Squadron, 13th L.Horse less 1 troop will co-operate on the right flank of the attack. One troop of the Squadron will co-operate on the left flank of the attack.
- (e) The 14th F.A. Brigade will engage the objective as above and will open fire when the Infantry advance commences. F.O.O. must keep close touch with the progress of events.
- (f) The Heavy Artillery will co-operate by shelling HERMIES and villages beyond the objective.
- (g) The 57th Battalion (less 2 Companies) will be in reserve at FREMICOURT.
- (h) The 58th Battalion will be in reserve at HAPLINCOURT.
- (i) The outpost troops will remain in their position.
- (j) Report centre is in the deep dugout at I.28.A.3-2.

Geo J. Wrench
Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

- Issued No.
1. 57th Battalion
 2. 58th Battalion
 3. 59th Battalion
 4. 60th Battalion
 5. 15th M.G. Coy.
 6. 13th L.Horse.
 7. 14th F.A. Brigade
 8. Heavy Artillery
 9. 15th Field Amb.
 10. 14th Field Amb.
 11. Cyclists.
 12. War Diary
 13. O.C. Outposts
 14. Brigade H.Q.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message

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

TO { TOOLS

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

| | | | |
|------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Bw 1/725 | 23rd | | |
| 7:30 | am | aaa | O.C. outpost |
| reports | that | BEAUMETZ | practically recovered |
| aaa | two | wounded | German being |
| brought | back | aaa | are preparing |
| counter | attacks | to | drive enemy |
| night | back | and probably including | |
| DOIGRIES | | | |

From BOOK

Place

Time 7:45 am

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor. (Z) Edward [Signature]

Signature of Adressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
760,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

"C" Form.

Army Form 521
(In books of 100).

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Prefix <i>SB</i> | Code <i>LP</i> | Words <i>63</i> | Received. <i>Alba</i> | Sent, or sent out. | Office Stamp. |
| Charges to collect | | | From <i>Alba</i> | At <i>11:30</i> m. | |
| Service Instructions. | | | By <i>Alba</i> | To | |
| | | | | By | |

Handed in at *Alba* Office *Alba* m. Received *11:45* m.

TO *Advance Gd.*

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Sender's Number <i>40249</i> | Day of Month <i>23</i> | In reply to Number <i>2370. SB2</i> | AAA |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|

It is not considered advisable to attack DOIGNIES at present and. If however you can satisfactorily organise an attack and capture DOIGNIES and LOUVERVAL tonight the attempt can be made on the line suggested yesterday by the Army Corps Commander and discuss with Colonel WAG STAFF on his arrival and wire your decision

FROM *5 Aus Div*
PLACE & TIME *11.30*

* This line should be erased if not required.
(6334). Wt. W7495/M857. 500,000 Imp. 10/16. D. D. & L. (E 450). Forms C/2123/3.

Appendix 147

5th AUST. DIV. ADVANCED GUARD.



Summary of Operations for week ending 23rd March 1917.

GENERAL SITUATION.

1. The enemy's rear-guard is holding the general line HERMIERS-DOIGNIES. He has a good number of machine guns and our Advanced Guard is in close touch. Our right flank comes under enfilade fire from the 20th Divisional Area owing to that Division not having progressed as rapidly. It is believed that only the enemy rear-guard with field guns and field howitzers (2 batteries in all) is in front of us and could easily be driven off.

OPERATIONS.

2. BRITISH - The Advanced Guard consisting of 15th Inf. Brigade H.Q. 59th and 60th Battalions A.I.F., 15th Aust.M.G.Coy. (less 2 Sections) "C" Squadron, 13th L.Horse Regt., 4th Battery A.F.A., 2 Sections 14th Field Company, 2 Sections 14th Field Ambulance, and $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 5th D.A.C. commenced operations on 18th March 1917. The 4th Battery was substituted for the 54th Battery on the 19th March owing to the ^{left} inability, through transport difficulties, to join the column in time.
- 18th March - Our Light Horse patrols passed through the outpost line (RIENCOURT-BAPAUME) at 6.30 a.m. and having occupied BANCOURT and VILLERS-AU-FLOS came into touch with hostile Infantry post (30 rifles) in FREMICOURT 7.30 a.m. Closing round the town the Light Horse captured 2 and wounded 1 man of the 96th R.I. Regiment. At 12.30 p.m. enemy post (70 rifles and 1 machine Gun) was located at DELSAUX FARM (I.28.A.3-5) The Van Guard (59th Bn.) deployed and moved against this position which was captured at 3.45 p.m. One officer and 3 men of enemy garrison were killed. On the body of the officer was found an operation order detailing the whole of the German plans for the retirement and this was forwarded to 5th Div. H.Q.. The enemy dead all belonged to the 38th Division. At 4 p.m. our right flank occupied HAPLINCOURT without opposition and at 4 p.m. drove the enemy out of BEUGNY. At 6 p.m. our line ran from HAPLINCOURT to BEUGNY and the 59th Battalion with 2 Vickers Guns established on that line.
- 19th March - At 7 a.m. our Light Horse patrols were fired on from O.5.C.7-8 (40 rifles and 1 M.Gun) VELU (12 Cavalry) LEBUCQUIERE (30 rifles and 1 M.Gun) I.17.D.5-7 (30 rifles and 1 M.Gun) O.3.D.6-6 (30 Cavalry) and were unable to make progress. At 1.45 p.m. the 60th Battalion moving in 4 columns had come into close contact with all these points and progress commenced at 2.30 p.m. On the right the first named locality was very troublesome owing to the fact that fire from there enfiladed our line moving towards VELU. A $\frac{1}{2}$ Company was directed on this point and under cover of Artillery fire drove out the enemy, at 2.30 p.m. VELU was shelled by our 18 pounders and at 4.35 p.m. our patrols entered the village. At 4.15 p.m. our Infantry working round LEBUCQUIERE drove out the enemy and occupied the village. The left flank could not make progress owing to enfilade fire effect of the hostile cavalry in I.3.D. The Division on our left did not advance and the hostile post was able to maintain its position which was not within our zone. At 5 p.m. we held the general line E.6.Central, J.26.C.0-0, I.24.B.0-0, I.9.A.0-0 and occupied this line as an outpost line, with the addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ Company in HAPLINCOURT (this precaution was deemed necessary on account of the fact that the 20th Division has not moved forward from BARASTRE and the enemy was known to be in BERTINCOURT). The 60th Battalion supplied the outpost Companies.
- 20th March - At 8 a.m. our L.Horse patrols encountered heavy rifle fire from direction of MORCHIES and BEAUMETZ. At 8.30 a.m. our L.Horse occupied BERTINCOURT and at 9.30 a.m.

(2)

handed over the village to the cavalry of the 20th Division. At 11 a.m. our Infantry advanced, the 59th Battalion on MORCHIES and the 60th Battalion on BEAUMETZ, there was little opposition in the direction of MORCHIES but the enemy was seen to be reinforcing 3 posts in front of BEAUMETZ and it was estimated that he had 100 Infantry with 2 machine guns in action there.

At 12 noon our patrols between VELU WOOD and BERTINCOURT were shelled with shrapnel at about this time the ridge 200 yards East of BEUGNY was also shelled by enemy's field guns.

At 1 p.m. the 59th Battalion occupied MORCHIES and good progress had been made towards BEAUMETZ. MORCHIES was the final objective of the left flank and was at once consolidated and connected with the Division on our left at MARICOURT WOOD.

At 2.25 p.m. under heavy rifle fire our Infantry commenced to work round BEAUMETZ - the enemy were very active and progress slow. At 3 p.m. the cavalry of the 20th Division withdrew from BERTINCOURT leaving our right flank so dangerously exposed that $\frac{1}{2}$ Company 59th Battalion was ordered to proceed there.

At 3.30 p.m. the 4th Battery fired on BEAUMETZ with good effect and the enemy commenced to withdraw from the village.

At 4.30 p.m. when the 60th Battalion had practically surrounded BEAUMETZ, warning was received that a hostile counter-attack was developing from the direction of HERMIES and was threatening our right Company in reserve. As BEAUMETZ was still occupied by the enemy and his counter-attack was strong our attack was temporarily abandoned and the Companies fell back to our side of the village.

At 6 p.m. our line ran from O.1.Central to J.26.A.0-0, J.19.A.0-0 - G.6.Central - G.4.Central and outposts were established on that line by the 59th and 60th Battalions.

21st March - At 7 a.m. our Light Horse patrols supported by patrols of the 29th Battalion found BEAUMETZ unoccupied and at once consolidated the village which was incorporated within our outpost line. At night our patrols found no enemy within 600 yards of our line. One German was wounded and one killed; both belonged to the 94th R.I.R.

22nd March - Our Light Horse and Infantry patrols drew fire from the same points as noted the previous day.

ENEMY - The enemy attempted a counter-attack against our front near BEAUMETZ on 20th inst. otherwise hostile activity has been purely defensive.

ARTILLERY.3. BRITISH -

19th March - Our 4th Battery A.F.A. put an effective screen of fire in front of our Infantry advancing on O.5.C.7-8 and VELU.

20th March - The 4th Battery engaged enemy's post and Machine Guns and in one case caused the evacuation of a trench.

21st March - The 55th Battery came into action with the 4th Battery and both were busy against hostile posts.

23rd March - All batteries of the 14th Brigade were in action against RUYALCOURT, LAGNICOURT and several hostile batteries observed.

ENEMY - 18th March - Nil.

19th March - BEUGNY was heavily shelled by all calibres up to 5.9" after its capture. Our advancing troops were shelled with shrapnel.

20th March - Rather more active along our front line but 5.9" not so prominent.

21st March - 77 m.m. were firing in salvos of 4. The ridge east of BEUGNY was shelled as also was MORCHIES.

22nd March - Slightly less. MORCHIES and BEUGNY again shelled. Some gas shells used near MORCHIES.

(3)

MACHINE GUNS.

4. BRITISH - Our Machine Guns have been of very great assistance in assisting the Infantry advance and subsequently strengthening the outpost line.
ENEMY - About 4 Machine Guns have been operating on our front but beyond delaying our advance at times have not been very effective.

CASUALTIES.

5.

| DATE | KILLED | | WOUNDED | | MISSING | | TOTAL. | |
|------------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--------|------|
| | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. | Off. | O.R. |
| March 17th | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18th | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19th | - | 2 | - | 7 | - | 1 | - | 10 |
| 20th | 1 | 3 | - | 12 | - | - | 1 | 15 |
| 21st | - | 1 | - | 10 | - | - | - | 11 |
| 22nd | - | 2 | - | 9 | - | - | - | 11 |
| 23rd | | | | | | | | |

Brig-General.
 Commanding 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

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Appendix No 148

119

"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121 (in pads of 100). No. of Message

Prefix Code m. Words Charge Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Recd. at m. Date From By

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

Posts will be pushed out to the line cross roads B. 25. d. 70. 85 - D. 19. C. 30. 15 - J 2 a. 8. 8. AAA your infantry will guard the night flank of the 2nd Aust Division and will take advantage of targets offered when the enemy retires AAA The second division are rushing the village at zero plus day 20 minutes AAA the day and hour will be notified to you by 7 1/2 brigade AAA zero hour will probably be 4.45 a.m. AAA further details will be arranged by you direct with 7th brigade

From 5th Aust Div Place 2-10 pm

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) Signature of Adressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required. 750,000. W 2195-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

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Appendix No. 148

120

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message

Prefix Code m. Words Charge
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.
This message is on a/c of:
Recd. at m.
Date
From
By

TO { Advanced Guard

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number.
* G.S. 001 23 AAA

Reference Division AAA. two task personally 720 Phillips loads this will present time Infantry line J.1.a.4-6 Division
Cooperation in Colonel batteries tables AAA rounds will from afternoon Cooperate line as advance FARM to at
with attack and ~~attacked~~ ^{handed} The expenditure draw Second AAA by at the in about
with on will fire to task AAA four division your the Second to J.8.C with C.30.a.
Second LAGNICOURT use the him involves Colonel wagon dump Infantry your same Division a through Second

From
Place
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
760,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

Appendix 148

SECRET.



5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 131

Headquarters,
25th. March, 1917.

1. The enemy is still holding DOIGNIES, LAGNICOURT, NOREUIL and ECOUST ST. MEIN. Our advance guard has successfully defeated two attempts made by the enemy to retake BEAUMETZ, inflicting considerable loss mostly at close quarters.
2. (a) On 26th. inst. the 2nd. Australian Division on our left is to attack and occupy LAGNICOURT and later NOREUIL.
(b) The Corps on the left of 1st. Anzac Corps, on the same date, is to attack and occupy ECOUST ST. MEIN.
3. Our advance guard will cooperate in the attack of the 2nd. Australian Division on LAGNICOURT as follows:-
(a) An advance will be made to a line from the FARM in J.8.c. through J.1.a.4.6 to join with 2nd. Australian Division at about C.30.a.5.3, protecting the right of 2nd. Australian Division.
Posts will be pushed out to the line CROS. ROADS D.19.c.30.13 -J.2.a.8.3.
(b) Two batteries of the Advanced Guard will be detailed to engage the targets allotted by 2nd. Australian Division.
4. (a) The day and hour and programme will be notified direct to G.O.C. Advanced Guard by G.O.C. 7th. Infantry Brigade, 2nd. Australian Division.
(b) Further details will be arranged direct between Advanced Guard Commanders' of 5th. and 2nd. Australian Division.
5. A Liaison Officer of Anzac Heavy Artillery will be with the Advanced Guard Commander to further the cooperation of the Heavy Artillery in the operations.
6. Contact patrols of 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. will be in the air subsequent to the attack. Flares will be lit in all advanced positions when called for by KLAXON horn or VERY Lights.
7. Advanced Guard Headquarters will be at DELSAUX FARM.
Divisional Headquarters will remain at BERNAFAY WOOD.

Curragh Staff

Lieut. Colonel.

Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Issued at 11.0 a.m. to:- | Copy No. |
| Advanced Guard. | 1-2 |
| 8th. Infantry Brigade. | 3 |
| 14th. Infantry Brigade. | 4 |
| Divisional Artillery. | 5 |
| Divisional Engineers. | 6 |
| Div. Signal Co. | 7 |
| A. D. M. S.. | 8 |
| Copies to:- | |
| 2nd. Australian Division. | 9-10 |
| 1st. Anzac Corps. | 11 |
| 20th. Division. | 12 |
| 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. | 13 |
| "G" | 14 |
| "Q" | 15 |
| A. D. C. to G. O. C. | 16 |
| War Diary. | 17 |
| Anzac Heavy Artillery | 18. |

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S E C R E T.

Appendix 148a

Appendix No. 148 a

122
Copy No. 14..5th AUST. DIV. ADVANCED GUARD ORDER No. 9.Reference - 57 C.N.E.25th March 1917.

1. The enemy is still holding DOIGNIES - LAGNICOURT - MOREUIL and ECOUST ST MEIN.
2. (a) On the 26th inst. the 2nd Australian Division on our left is to attack at 5.15 a.m. and occupy LAGNICOURT, and later, MOREUIL.
(b) The Advanced Guard will co-operate in the attack of the 2nd Australian Division on LAGNICOURT.
3. The 58th Battalion will advance and occupy the line from the FARM in J.8.C. through J.1.A.4-6 to join with the left Brigade at C.30.A.5-3. Posts will be pushed out to the line CROSS ROADS D.19.C.30-13 - J.2.A.8-8. as part of the advance and not as a subsequent operation.
4. The Artillery programme will be as follows :-
(a) The 53rd and 114th Batteries will stand by to open fire as required. F.O.O's will be pushed forward and advantage will be taken of any fleeting opportunities, as well as dealing with points of resistance.
(b) The 26th Battery will open fire on DOIGNIES and QUEANT from Zero.
(c) The 88th Battery will fire on the BEET ROOT FACTORY, WINDMILL and the fire trench in J.9.A. from Zero plus 15 minutes.
5. The 15th M.G. Coy. will be prepared to engage any hostile Infantry advancing from the direction of DOIGNIES.
6. The 60th Battalion (less Companies in the outpost line) will act as a Reserve but will not be used without reference to Brigade H.Q. This Reserve will be in position in the BEUGNY trenches by 5.15 a.m.
7. The attack will be made at 5.15 a.m. (summer time) on 26th inst. Watches will be synchronised with Brigade Signal Coy. at 6 p.m. 25th inst. and 4 a.m. 26th inst.
8. At about 7 a.m. a contact aeroplane will sound a Klaxon horn or fire Very Lights upon which the Infantry most advanced line will show flares.
9. The Brigade Report Centre will be at the Dug-out I.28.A.3-2.

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 4.30 p.m.

- No. 1. 57th Battalion
2. 58th Battalion
3. 59th Battalion
4. 60th Battalion
5. 15th M.G. Coy.
6. 14th F.A. Brigade
7. 15th Field Ambulance
8. 26th H.A.
9. 88th H.A.
10. 7th Infantry Brigade
- 11.) Brigade H.Q.
- 12.)
13. 14th Field Coy. Engineers.
14. War Diary.

282

SECRET.

Appendix No 148 a

Copy No. 1



A M E N D M E N T T O

14th. AUST. F. A. BRIGADE ORDER No. 1

Headquarters,
25th. March 1917

1. The Divisional Advanced Guard is advancing to capture LAGNLCOURT and the line from C.30.a.3.7 on the South to the crest line in C.17 on the North. Posts are to be established at least 300 or 400 yards beyond the village.
2. Table of Tasks amended and attached and will be carried out by the 54th. and 55th. Batteries. The 53rd. and 114th. Batteries will stand by to open fire as required.
3. Expenditure of ammunition will be in accordance with the following table :-

Zero time 5.15 a.m. (Summer time) on 26th. inst.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|---------------|
| Zero to 0.10 | - | 30 rds. | |
| 0.10 to 0.15 | - | 60 " | Proportion :- |
| 0.15 to 0.20 | - | 180 " | 60% "A" and |
| 0.20 to 0.30 | - | 60 " | 40% "AX" |
| 0.30 to 0.40 | - | 30 " | |
4. F.O.O's. will be pushed forward and advantage will be taken of any fleeting opportunities.
5. Watches will be synchronised at 6.30 p.m. 25th. inst. and 4.30 a.m. 26th. inst.
6. A C K N O W L E D G E by wire.

[Signature]
 Captain and Adjutant,
 14th. F. A. Brigade.

Issued at 11.15 a.m. to :-

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| G.O.C. 15th. Inf. Brigade | Copy No. 1 |
| O.C. 53rd. Bty. | 2 |
| O.C. 54th. " | 3 |
| O.C. 55th. " | 4 |
| O.C. 114th. " | 5 |
| FILE | 6 |
| WAR DIARY | 7 |

T A S K T A B L E.

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 55th. Bty. | 0.0 to 0.15 | Road C 23 d 95.00 to C 29 b 75.00 |
| | 0.15 to 0.20 | C 23 d 95.00 to C 29 b 85.50 |
| | 0.20 to 0.30 | Lift back from C 23 d 95.00 to C 24 c 6.0 through village East of Road C 24 c 0.3 - C 23 d 95.80 - C 24 a 35.30. Rate:- Lift 100 yards per minute. |
| | 0.30 to 0.40 | Search road from C 18 c 75.00 to C 7 c 3.0 |
| 54th. " | 0.0 to 0.20 | Road C 24 c 15.10 to C 30 a 65.35. |
| | 0.20 to 0.40 | Lift back N.E. at rate of 200 yards per minute to road C 24 b 10.25, D 10 c 0.4, and resting there. |



Appendix 149



"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

At... (in pads of 100). No. of Message

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

TO { 59th Bn, O/C. Outposts, 60th Bn

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

Table with 5 columns: The, 60th, Bn, will, release. the, 59th, Bn, in, the. Outpost, line, during, (night 25th/26th. Relief, AAA, Details, of, the. Detachment, will, be, arranged, mutually. of, relief, will, be, completed. as, early, as, possible. will, be, notified, to, O/C. Outposts, and, Brigade, HQ.

From: BOOKS Place: 9.30 am Time: 9.30 am

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

* This line should be erased if not required. 750,000. W 2186-M509. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

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Appendix 150



"A" Form. MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121 (in pads of 100). No. of Message

Form header with fields: Prefix, Code, m., Words, Charge, Office of Origin and Service Instructions, Recd. at, Date, From, By, (Signature of "Franking Officer.")

TO { 59th Bn, 50th Bn, 60th Bn } 13th Bde, 14th Bde, 15th Bde

Sender's Number: * 190m 1/763, Day of Month: 24th, In reply to Number: AAA

The 59th Battalion will attack and occupy the following general line - T30 Central - T30 d 3-2 ...

From: 15th Bde, Place, Time: 12 noon

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

* This line should be erased if not required. 750,000. W 2183 - M509. H. W. & V., Ld. 6/16.

Appendix 157

SECRET



5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 132.

Headquarters,
26th. March, 1917.

1. The Advanced Guards of the Corps hold a line VE. U WOOD-J. 20. d. O. 3-
BEAUMETZ-FARM at J. 8. c. 6. 3-LAGNICOURT inclusive, where they are in
touch with the enemy rearguards. The enemy appears to be intending
to stand on the HINDENBURG LINE.
2. The forward limits of the main defensive front of the Corps is to
be advanced to the line O. 5. central-I. 27. central-I. 14. d-H. 12. central
H. 4. d.
The date when this line will be taken up will be notified later.
3. The next objective of the advanced guard (15th. Australian Infantry
Brigade, 14th. A. F. A. Brigade and details) will be DOIGNIES and
LOUVARVAL.
When these are taken, the hole of the advanced guard will be
disposed forward of the line given in para. 2.
4. The remainder of the Division will then be disposed on a two
brigade front as follows:-
A front system extending to a depth of 1200 yards in rear of the
line given in para. 2 will be organized in a system of defended
localities.
This system will be held by one battalion from each of the 14th.
and 8th. Brigades, with a proportion of Vickers' guns.
The inter-brigade boundary will be a line I. 23. central-I. 31. central-
N. 10. central.
5. An intermediate line system will be established on, and in rear of,
the line VILLERS-AU-FLOS - BANCOURT - H. 28. b. The balance of the
infantry of the Division will be disposed within Brigade sectors
in the area of this system.
Troops will be told off to the defence of this system and will be
quartered so that stations for defence can be taken up at short
notice.
6. The Divisional Artillery (less units with the advanced guard) will
be disposed so as to cover the line laid down in para. 2.
7. The whole of the Corps Heavy Artillery is being advanced with a
view to action against the HINDENBURG LINE.
8. 14th. and 8th. Brigades will reconnoitre the new lines of defence,
and make all arrangements to take up the new positions at short
notice.
9. Administrative arrangements consequent on these moves will be
notified by "Q" of the Division.
10. C. R. E. will have at his disposal for work on hutting, communications
and water supply:-
Divisional Engineers (less $\frac{1}{2}$ company)
2 companies, 5th. Pioneer Battalion.
32nd. Battalion.

2.

11. Headquarters Advanced Guard will move to BEUGNY.
 Headquarters Right Brigade will move to VILLERS-AU-FLOS.
 Headquarters Left Brigade will move to FREMICOURT.
 Divisional Headquarters is moving to vicinity of BANCOURT.

11. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Cunway Stubb

Lieut. Colonel.

Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

Issued at 10.30 a.m. to:-

Copy No.

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Advanced Guard | 1. |
| 8th. Infantry Brigade. | 2. |
| 14th. Infantry Brigade. | 3. |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion. | 4. |
| Divisional Artillery. | 5. |
| Divisional Engineers. | 6. |
| Divisional Signal Co. | 7. |
| Divisional Train. | 8. |
| A.D.M.S. | 9. |

Copies to:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 2nd. Australian Division. | 10. |
| 1st. Anzac Corps. | 11. |
| 20th. Division. | 12. |
| Anzac Heavy Artillery. | 13. |
| 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. | 14. |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 15. |
| "G" | 16. |
| "Q" | 17. |
| War Diary. | 18. |

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Appendix No 151 a

Appendix 151a

S E C R E T.



Copy No. 13

5th AUST. DIVISION ADVANCED GUARD ORDER No. 10.

Reference 57 C.

27th March 1917.

1. During the night 27th/28th March 1917 the following reliefs will take place viz :-
 - (a) The 31st Battalion will relieve the 57th Battalion in the right Battalion sector of the Outpost Line.
 - (b) The 30th Battalion will relieve the 58th Battalion in the left Battalion sector of the Outpost Line.
 - (c) Lieut-Colonel J.W. CLARK, D.S.O. 30th Battalion will relieve Lieut-Colonel J.G. STEWART, D.S.O. 57th Battalion as O.C. Outposts. Change of Command to take place when both Battalions have reported relief complete.
2. The 57th Battalion will move into Reserve at FREMICOURT.
The 58th Battalion will move into billets at BAPAUME.
The 59th Battalion will move into billets at BAPAUME.
3. The 58th Battalion and 59th Battalion on reaching their new areas will come under the orders of the G.O.C. 8th Infantry Brigade.
4. Transport will accompany Units.
5. S.A.A. and grenades in the Outpost line will be handed over and receipts obtained.
The Map reference of these dumps will be quoted on receipts which must reach Brigade H.Q. within 24 hours of relief. Mobile reserves will be completed on requisition.
6. Units may make mutual arrangements regarding exchange of picks and shovels.
7. Aeroplane photos and sketches showing dispositions will be handed over to incoming Units.
8. C.O.'s will mutually arrange details of transfer.
9. Advanced Guard Headquarters will remain at FREMICOURT.

Geo. Stewart

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued at 4 p.m.

- No. 1. 57th Battalion
2. 58th Battalion
3. 59th Battalion
4. 60th Battalion
5. 15th M.G. Coy.
6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
7. 30th Battalion
8. 31st Battalion
9. 13th A.L.H.
10. 14th A.F.A. Brigade
11. 8th Inf. Brigade
12. 61st Inf. Brigade
13. War Diary.

Appendix 152

Appendix No. 130

SECRET.



5TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 155.

Headquarters,
27th. March, 1917.

1. The 14th. Infantry Brigade will relieve the units of the left

| | |
|--|---|
| H.Q. 15th. Infantry Brigade 2 Battalions 15th. Infantry Brigade 2 Battalions 8th. Infantry Brigade 15th. M.G. Company 15th. L.T.M. Battery | Advanced Guard shown in margin on 28th. March and night 28/29th. March, 1917. |
|--|---|
2. The relief will be carried out under the orders of G.O.C. 15th. Infantry Brigade who will hand over command of the Advanced Guard to G.O.C. 14th. Infantry Brigade at 8.0 a.m. on 29th. March, 1917. Details of the relief will be arranged between Brigadiers concerned.
3. All maps, plans of operations, air photographs, intelligence records, and operation orders and messages pertaining to the Advanced Guard will be handed over on relief.
4. The relieved units of the present Advanced Guard will move in the first instance to the right Divisional Sector. G.O.C. 15th. Infantry Brigade will take over command of this Sector from G.O.C. 14th. Infantry Brigade.
5. G.O.C. 15th. and 8th. Infantry Brigades will arrange for the necessary interchange of battalions to the respective sectors on 29th. March, 1917.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Creedy Staff

Lieut. Colonel.
Gen: Staff, 5th. Australian Division.

Issued at 10.30 a.m. to:-

Copy No.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Advanced Guard. | 1-2. |
| 8th. Infantry Brigade | 3. |
| 14th. Infantry Brigade, | 4. |
| 5th. Pioneer Battalion. | 5. |
| Divisional Artillery. | 6. |
| Divisional Engineers. | 7. |
| Divisional Signal Co. | 8. |
| Divisional Train. | 9. |
| S.S.O. | 10. |
| A.D.M.S. | 11. |

Copies to:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 20th. Division. | 12. |
| 2nd. Australian Division. | 13. |
| 1st. Anzac Corps. | 14. |
| 1st. Anzac Heavy Artillery. | 15. |
| 3rd. Squadron R.F.C. | 16. |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 17. |
| "G" | 18. |
| "Q" | 19. |
| War Diary. | 20. |

SECRET.SECRET.5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.ADMINISTRATIVE ADDENDUM TO 5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 133.Headquarters,
27-3-17.SUPPLIES.

The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade will move forward, rationed up to and including breakfast on 30th inst., drawing as usual from railhead on 28th inst. and by 1st line transport from Road Loop on that date.

On and after 29th inst. rations will be drawn from advanced ration dump at N.4.a.9.9 (BAPAUME - BEAULENCOURT Road).

Ration strengths to be wired to S.S.O., 5th Australian Division, to-night (27th inst.).

The 8th Australian Infantry Brigade will continue to draw as at present.

The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade will draw from Quarry on and after 29th inst. Supplies will be carted to GINCHY by Divisional Train. Brigade will arrange for these supplies to be sent forward by push trucks to ROAD LOOP, where its 1st line transport will collect.

J. H. Bruch
Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G. 5th Aust. Div.

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15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.92.

Reference - 57 C.N.W.
S.W.
N.E.



28th March 1917.

1. The 14th Infantry Brigade will relieve the 15th Infantry Brigade in the Advanced Guard on 28th/29th March 1917.
2. All Units of the 15th Infantry Brigade with 2 Battalions 8th Brigade attached will, after relief, move to the Right Brigade Sector of the Divisional main defensive line. Command of the Advanced Guard will pass to G.O.C. 14th Infantry Brigade at 8 a.m. on 29th inst.

3. The following will be the details of the relief, viz :-

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 54th Battalion | will relieve the | 30th Battalion. |
| 53rd " | " | 31st " |
| 55th " | " | 60th " |
| 14th M.G. Coy. | " | 15th M.G. Coy. |
| 14th A.L.T.M.B. | " | 15th A.L.T.M.B. |

4. The Units will occupy the defensive position as under :-

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <u>Front Line</u> | - | 57th Battalion, One Section 15th M.G. Coy. |
| <u>Intermediate Line.</u> | - | 30th Bn., 31st Bn., 60th Bn., 15th M.G. Coy. (less 1 Section) 15th A.L.T.M.B. |
| <u>Brigade H.Q.</u> | - | REINCOURT. |

The Front line runs from 0.5.Central to I.27.Central.
The Intermediate Line will be established in, or in rear of the line VILLERS-AU-FLOS - BANCOURT.
The Right Boundary is a line running through 0.14.Central, 0.5.Central, N.31.Central.
The Left Boundary is a line running through I.23.Central and I.31.Central

5. Units are allotted the following areas for quartering :-

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Brigade H.Q. | - | REINCOURT. |
| 57th Battalion | - | HAPLINCOURT. |
| 60th Battalion | - | VILLERS-AU-FLOS. |
| 30th Battalion | - | " " |
| 31st Battalion | - | REINCOURT. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. | - | 1 Section at HAPLINCOURT, - 1 Section VILLERS-AU-FLOS, H.Q. and 2 Sections at BEAULENCOURT. |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | - | BEAULENCOURT. |

On 29th March the 30th Battalion and 31st Battalion will change quarters respectively with the 58th Battalion and 59th Battalion.

6. All Aeroplane photos, sketches showing unit distribution, S.A.A. Grenades etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained. Receipts must be forwarded to 15th Brigade H.Q. within 24 hours of relief.
7. Details of relief will be arranged mutually between C.O's concerned.
8. Supplies will be drawn from QUARRY on and after the 29th instant. Supplies will be carted to GINCHY by Divisional Train and from there will be brought by push trucks to ROAD LOOP, where 1st line transport will collect.
9. Brigade Headquarters will close at FREMICOURT at 8 a.m. on 29th March and will re-open at REINCOURT at same hour.
10. Details of the organisation of the defences will be notified later.

Geo. F. Wright

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

P.T.O.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 22.

28th March 1917.

Reference - 27 O.N.W.
S.W.
H.E.

Issued at 9 a.m.



1. The 14th Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 15th Infantry Brigade in the Advanced Guard on 28th March 1917.
2. All Units of the 15th Infantry Brigade with 2 Battalions 8th Brigade attached will, after relief, be relieved by the 14th Infantry Brigade. Divisional main defence line will be established in the rear of the Command of the Advanced Guard on 28th March 1917 at 8 a.m.
3. The following will be relieved by the 15th Infantry Brigade:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 14th A.L.T.M.B. | 14th M.G. Coy. | 14th Field Coy. | 14th Infantry Battalion |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | 15th M.G. Coy. | 15th Field Coy. | 15th Infantry Battalion |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | 15th M.G. Coy. | 15th Field Coy. | 15th Infantry Battalion |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | 15th M.G. Coy. | 15th Field Coy. | 15th Infantry Battalion |

4. The Units will occupy the defensive position as under:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Front Line | - | 27th Battalion, One Section 15th M.G. Coy. |
| Intermediate Line | - | 30th Bn., 31st Bn., 30th Bn., 15th M.G. Coy. (less 1 Section) |
| Line | - | 15th A.L.T.M.B. |

 The Front Line runs from 0.5 Central to 1.27 Central. The Intermediate Line will be established in, or in rear of the line VILLERS-AU-FLOS - BANCOURT. The Right Boundary is a line running through 0.14 Central, 0.5 Central, N. 21 Central. The Left Boundary is a line running through 1.23 Central and 1.31 Central.

5. Units are allotted the following areas for quartering:

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| 15th M.G. Coy. | - | 1 Section at HAPLINCOURT, - 1 Section at VILLERS-AU-FLOS, H.G. and 2 Sections at BEAULINCOURT. |
| 31st Battalion | - | REININCOURT. |
| 30th Battalion | - | " |
| 30th Battalion | - | VILLERS-AU-FLOS. |
| 27th Battalion | - | HAPLINCOURT. |
| Brigade H.Q. | - | REININCOURT. |

 On 28th March the 30th Battalion and 31st Battalion will change quarters respectively with the 28th Battalion and 29th Battalion.
6. All Aeroplanes photos, sketches showing unit distribution, S.A.A. Grenades etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained. Receipts must be forwarded to 15th Brigade H.Q. within 24 hours of relief.
7. Details of relief will be arranged mutually between G.O.'s concerned.
8. Supplies will be drawn from QUARRY on and after the 28th instant. Supplies will be carried to GINCHY by Divisional Train and from there will be brought by push trucks to ROAD LOOP, where fat line transport will collect.
9. Brigade Headquarters will close at REININCOURT at 8 a.m. on 28th March and will re-open at REININCOURT at same hour.
10. Details of the organisation of the defences will be notified later.

Geo. S. Murray

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

Major.

P.T.O.

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Appendix 153

Appendix No 153



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Operations 23rd to 30th March 1917.

-----***-----

GENERAL SITUATION.

1. The enemy has been driven back to the last position before his main line and is holding this by means of a series of posts. His Artillery has been withdrawn to the main line and it is considered that the posts will not be able to withstand a determined attack. Enemy counter-attacks have not been pushed with any degree of determination.

OPERATIONS.

2. BRITISH - 23rd March - At 4.30 a.m. the enemy opened a vigorous bombardment against BEAUMETZ. At 4.45 a.m. the enemy made an attack on both flanks of the village. The right enemy party consisted of 300 and the left of 120; both parties were made up of specially trained STURMTRUPPEN and were brought up from some point several miles away. They were given orders to capture BEAUMETZ at any cost. The organisation of the defence and attack are shown on attached sketch.

The right column evidently found a gap in our chain of posts and reached the rear of the village before they were seen. The left column met a fighting patrol on its way to attack Farm J.8.C. and was discovered. The right Company of the 30th Battalion attacked this column with bombs and drove them off - the column then inclined towards BEAUMETZ but was met by the counter-attack. The sudden appearance of the enemy behind the village caused a certain amount of confusion but by 5.30 a.m. counter-attacks, delivered mainly by the Support Companies of the 30th Battalion were launched and these gradually forced the enemy through our line where at 6.30 a.m. he came under, and suffered heavily from the fire of 30th Battalion Lewis Guns and the Vickers guns of the 15th M.G. Coy.

At 7.30 a.m. the village had been retaken and at 8 a.m. our line was re-established in its original position. The enemy left in, or near our lines, 59 dead and 11 severely wounded of the 95th and 96th R.I.R. Our casualties were 12 killed and 38 wounded.

24th March - At 3 a.m. the enemy opened a heavy bombardment of BEAUMETZ, LEBUCQUIERE, the front-line in that vicinity and on certain battery positions. One 8" gun, two 4.2" batteries and two 77 m.m. batteries appeared to take part. At about 4 a.m. a hostile party (50 other ranks of the No.1 Storming Battalion, brought up specially for the purpose) attacked BEAUMETZ at the NORTH EAST Corner, and drove our posts back about 200 yards. Captain TRAINOR'S Support Company billeted in the centre of the village attacked the enemy and drove them back to the last house where they made a temporary stand.

At 2 p.m. this house was shelled by 4.5" howitzers and destroyed, only two wounded Germans were found there. At 4.30 a.m. a large party of Germans (300 strong) were observed coming down the Sunken Road at J.14.A.4-8 in column. Our Vickers Guns opened at short range and caused the column heavy loss. The survivors scattered and as they showed themselves on the hillside in the growing light came under our heavy Lewis Gun and rifle fire; the remnants took refuge in shell holes. At 3.15 p.m. our 18 pounders put a creeping shrapnel barrage over the area of refuge. The enemy loss in killed is estimated at 60, 1 wounded prisoner and 5 unwounded prisoners. Our losses were 4 killed and 21 wounded including one officer.

At 3.45 p.m. 59th Battalion (less one Company) with two Companies 60th Battalion attached moved from VELU - LEBUCQUIERE against the line J.20.Central, J.20.D.3-2, J.31.A.1-7. The "A" Squadron, 13th L.H. covered the right flank of the advance and one battery of 18 pounders co-operated.

(2)

The enemy (140 rifles) occupying a position in J.20.Central were driven out and as they retired in a disorderly manner across the open and up a Sunken Road our Shrapnel inflicted heavy loss.

The position was consolidated.

Our casualties were 4 killed and 32 wounded.

At 9 p.m. a fighting patrol of 57th Battalion occupied the Farm at J.8.C.6-3 without opposition but 5 hours later an enemy bombing party attempted to retake the Farm without success.

26th March - At 5.15 a.m. the 58th Battalion advanced from the outpost line and occupied the line J.8.C.7-5, J.8.@.0-0 then along the road to C.30.A.5 Central.

Posts were to be established on the road D.19.C.1-0 to J.2.A.8-8. The main line was reached without loss but the enemy vigorously resisted the pushing out of the posts. The task was complete by 7 a.m.

At 11.15 am. the 7th Brigade reported hostile counter-attack on his right flank and requested co-operation and two Companies 59th Battalion were directed on a point 300 yards EAST of LAGNICOURT, the counter-attack was repulsed.

At 1.15 p.m. at the request of the 7th Brigade the two Companies of the 59th Battalion carried out a counter-attack against a second body of the enemy advancing over the same ground as on the first occasion; this counter-attack was successful.

The 58th Battalion in its advance captured 2 wounded and 6 unwounded other ranks of the 15th R.I.R. and 91st R.I.R. and one Machine Gun.

Owing to the heavy nature of the M.G. fire from the right flank our post at J.2.A.8-8 was abandoned at 4 p.m. after several casualties had been sustained.

At 10.45 p.m. under cover of a heavy bombardment which practically demolished the post the enemy recaptured the FARM J.8.C.6-3. but was driven out again by the 59th Battalion $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour later.

27th March - At 8 p.m. the 58th Battalion made an attack on the line J.8.C.6-3 - J.2.A.7-7 - D.25.D.7-8 and by 10 p.m. was in possession of the objective. One machine gun, 2 portable Search lights and one minenwerfer were captured at J.2.A.7-7. Our casualties were slight.

28th March - At 10 p.m. the 55th Battalion established a strong point at J.8.D.2-6, thus securing for us an excellent observation post.

ARTILLERY.

3. BRITISH - 23rd March - Our heavies and 18 pounders fired on enemy villages and known posts.

24th March - Our Field Guns put a creeping barrage over area occupied by remnants of enemy party defeated in the morning.

At 4 p.m. the enemy's retreating infantry crowded into a narrow Sunken road and practically annihilated them. A body of reinforcements issued from HERMIES were dispersed by shrapnel.

25th March - We engaged working party at DOIGNIES also some enemy batteries near QUEANT.

26th March - Our Field Guns assisted the advance by firing on hostile positions and later engaged good moving targets. Our heavies (6" and 30 pounders) engaged LAGNICOURT and QUEANT.

27th - 29th March - Our fire was directed mainly on hostile movements reported by our Observation Posts.

ENEMY - 25rd March - Our troops organised for the attack on DOIGNIES were observed and shelled with 4.2" and 70 m.m. We had 28 casualties. Hostile guns were active on our front system.

24th March - All calibres up to 8" were used on our front line, LEBUCQUIERE, BEAUMETZ and our gun positions for one hour to cover attack.

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(3)

25th March - The FARM in J.8.C. was persistently shelled all day by a 5.9" howitzer firing from near D.8.Central. BEAUMETZ was shelled with 77 m.m. shrapnel from HERMIES at intervals during the day.

26th March - Hostile shelling was heavy. MORCHIES was violently shelled with 5.9" all day as was the FARM at J.8.C.6-3.

Our new positions was shelled with shrapnel by Field guns throughout the 24 hours.

27th March - Until 9 p.m. shelling was only slight. At 9 p.m. during our attack the enemy 5.9", 4.2" and 77 m.m. were freely used but obviously at long range.

28th - 29th March - Shelling has slackened considerably but what there is falls in our front line villages.

CASUALTIES. 4.

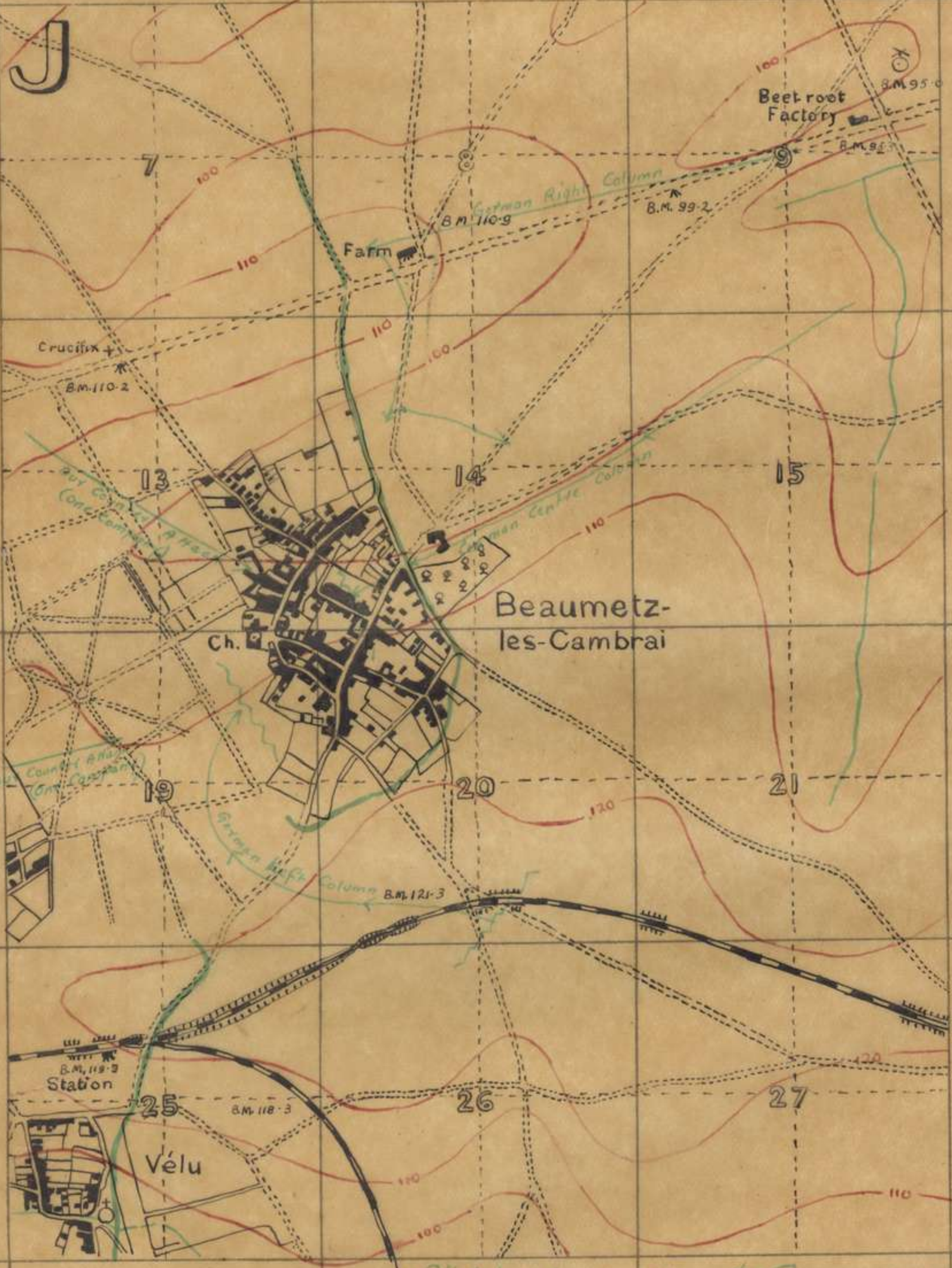
| DATE | KILLED | | WOUNDED | | MISSING | | TOTAL | |
|-------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|-------|------|
| | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. | OFF. | O.R. |
| 23rd | - | 4 | 1 | 23 | - | - | 1 | 27 |
| 24th | - | 8 | 5 | 61 | - | 1 | 3 | 70 |
| 25th | - | 1 | - | 12 | - | - | - | 13 |
| 26th | 1 | 21 | 4 | 82 | - | 2 | 5 | 105 |
| 27th | - | 4 | - | 42 | - | - | - | 46 |
| 28th | - | 1 | - | 13 | - | 2 | - | 16. |
| 29th. | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | | | | | | | 9 | 279 |

Geo. F. Wick

9 277

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

282



am Bapaume

J

Beet root Factory

Farm

Beaumetz-les-Cambrai

Ch.

Station

Vélu

Sketch illustrating the German attack on Beaumetz on evening of 22/3/17. Our line shown in heavy green.

Arthur [Signature]

— 5th Australian Division. 28'3'17. —

— Translation: —

Outpost position 38th Infantry Division.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Kür 6 | 6 th Cuirassiers |
| F.W. i Stabb | Picket No 1. Storming Detachment |
| Meldesammelstelle | Report Centre |
| Führer Stabb | O/c Storming Detachment |
| 4 MG. der 2 MGK/95 | 4 MG's. of 2 nd MG. Coy. of 95 th Inf. Regt. |
| F.W.R.A. | Picket Res. A. |
| Vorp. Kmdr. | Outpost Commander |
| 1 Zug 11/94 | 1 Platoon 11 th Coy/94 th Regt. |

2nd GUARD RESERVE REGIMENTDivisional Headquarters

23.3.17.

DIVISIONAL ORDER.

1. The task of the outposts consists in causing the enemy to fight step by step for the ground immediately in front of the position.

2. The present outposts positions will be strengthened by the construction of dugouts and wire obstacles. The work must be so constructed that the existence of our positions, not already known to the enemy, remain unknown to him. Further, the possession of LAGNICOURT must be secured by the establishment of a strong point in that place and a "Point d'appui" must be given to the line between LAGNICOURT and LOUVERAL by the establishment of another Strong Point. Both these supporting points must be concealed from enemy observation.

In order to scatter the enemy artillery fire, which is of special importance owing to the lack of dugouts, and to make the enemy believe that our foremost defence position is the LAGNICOURT - LOUVERAL line, the outposts will make liberal use of dummy works (wire obstacles and earthworks). The outpost commander will reconnoitre for a new battle H.Q. south of QUEANT in advance of the S.I. STELLUNG, which, for subsequent fights round the foreground, can be used as advanced artillery O.P. He will report progress as early as possible.

3. It is intended to increase the number of M.G.'s with the outpost bn. to a total of three M.G. coys., and a three bn. establishment minen-granst-werfer.

The advanced post commander will see to the preparation of the positions. The increase in M.G.'s is particularly intended in order to enable guns to be mounted in rear positions, thus enabling enemy who may have penetrated to be effectively dealt with.

The Pioneer Commander will serve out to the outposts such portable searchlights as are available with the pioneer companies; in order that they may be used in conjunction with M.G.'s.

4. The fixing of the two supporting points at LAGNICOURT and between LAGNICOURT and LOUVERAL is to be carried out on 24/3 by advance post commander and Pioneer Commander. Pioneer Commander to report progress verbally and with a sketch on 24/3 at 6 p.m.

5. The Artillery Commander will so adjust the barrage fire so that it can be laid out in front of the line of the N.C.O. Posts according to arrangements of existing registration, and so that it will specially support the defence of LAGNICOURT and the support point between LAGNICOURT and LOUVERAL yet to be constructed. AA

282

SECRET.

Appendix 154

Copy No. 3140

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER No. 134.

Headquarters,
31st March 1917.

1. The enemy is holding a line HAVRINCOURT WOOD - P.5. - HERMIES - DOIGNIES - J.9.b. - D.13.central - NOREUIL - ECOUST - CROISILLES.
2. ANZAC Corps and Corps on our left are making an attack on NOREUIL ECOUST - CROISILLES on 2nd April. The 4th Australian Division is cooperating in this attack and is capturing NOREUIL, after which posts will be pushed out to C.5.central - D.19.b. and towards C.13.central.
3. At the same times as these attacks take place the 5th Australian Division will capture DOIGNIES and LOUVERVAL, and will move forward the post in D.25.b.
4. This task will be undertaken by the Advanced Guard, reinforced by 2 batteries of 18-pdrs, one from each of the 3rd and 13th Field Artillery Brigades. Separate orders will be issued to and by the G.O.C. Advanced Guard for this operation.
5. C.R.A. will detail two batteries, one from each of 3rd and 13th Field Artillery Brigades for the operation. The batteries will come under the command of Lieut-Colonel Phillips D.S.O. 14th Field Artillery Brigade and will move forward and register on 1st April.
6. 8th and 15th Infantry Brigades will each detail one battalion to take over the defence of the present front line on the evening of the 1st April, so that the 14th Infantry Brigades can be concentrated for the operations. C.O's of battalions selected will report for orders to Brigadier General Hebkirk D.S.O. at 9 a.m. on 1st April. 8th and 15th Infantry Brigades will arrange to have the main line of resistance - O.5.b. to I.8.c. - garrisoned by one battalion and a proportion of machine guns in each Brigade Sector, when the 2 battalions mentioned above move forward.
7. Remainder of Divisional Artillery will be disposed, as at present, to cover the main line O.5.b. to I.8.c.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE BY WIRE.

Cuwaystulo

Lieut-Colonel,

General Staff, 5th Australian Division.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Issued at 2.30 p.m. to: | Copy No. |
| 8th Infantry Brigade | 1 |
| 14th Infantry Brigade | 2 |
| 15th Infantry Brigade | 3 |
| Divisional Artillery | 4 |
| Divisional Engineers | 5 |
| A.D.M.S. | 6 |
| Copies to: | |
| 1st ANZAC Corps | 7 |
| 20th Division | 8 |
| 4th Australian Division | 9 |
| 1st Australian Division | 10 |
| A.D.C. to G.O.C. | 11 |
| "G" | 12 |
| "Q" | 13 |
| War Diary | 14. |

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 93.

141

Reference - 57 C.N.W.
57 C.S.W.

30th March 1917.



1. The Brigade will occupy and strengthen the main defensive line within the Right Brigade Sector.
2. The defence of the Sector is organised in two lines as under :-
FRONT LINE - From O.5. Central to I.27. Central, following generally the line of the old German wire.
 At present this line will be garrisoned by the Battalion billeted at HAPLINCOURT and strong points will be constructed forthwith in suitable positions on the line. These strong points will ultimately be joined up.
 One Section of Vickers Guns is allotted to the garrison.
 The Battalion billeted in REINCOURT will be a Reserve for the Battalion holding the front line.
INTERMEDIATE LINE - Along the general line O.15.A.0-5 - O.8.B.0-5 - I.31.C.5. Central.
 The Intermediate Line is divided into two sub-sectors along the line of the old German light railway which passed through O.2. The Battalion whose Battalion H.Q. in VILLERS-AU-FLOS is the most Eastwardly situated, with One Vickers Gun Section, will garrison the right sub-sector while the other Battalion with one Vickers Gun Section will garrison the left sub-section.
3. Troops not specified in para.2 will remain in Reserve on the BEAULENCOURT ROAD.
4. The defensive lines as in para.2 will be reconnoitred as soon as possible and work commenced by Company working parties of the garrison Battalions who will be given definite tasks to do.
 It is considered that four strong points should be constructed in each sub-sector at first. All works constructed must be of the best possible type. Engineer advise is available and should be applied for to the O.C. 15th Field Company.
5. The S.O.S. Signal is 3 rockets fired in quick succession in the following order, viz :- GREEN - RED - GREEN.

Geo. J. Wick

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade

Issued at 9 a.m.

- No.1. 57th Battalion
2. 58th Battalion
3. 59th Battalion
4. 60th Battalion
5. 15th M.G. Coy.
6. 15th A.L.T.M.B.
7. 15th Field Company.
8. War Diary.
9.)
10.) Brigade H.Q.

DATE

Mar 1st
1917.

Quiet day on both sides. Enemy artillery activity below normal. At 7.30 p.m. two detachments of this Battery took up position in "Mucky Way" at N-15-D-6-7, covering a reconnoitering patrol which had gone out from our lines to examine enemy wire in vicinity of N-16-C-3-95. At 10 p.m. the sub section opened fire on enemy trench at N-16-C-3-95. The patrol having reported that an enemy machine gun was operating from this point. Forty rounds were fired with good effect. Enemy retaliated with a few "pineapple" bombs which did no damage.

W.E.7.

Mar 2nd
1917.

Enemy artillery quiet. During the day the detachments in the front line improved existing emplacements and carried on with the construction of an ammunition dump. The detachments at Chalk Cliffs brought forward 40 rounds of ammunition from dump at Chalk Cliffs to dump in "Mucky Way".

W.E.7

Mar 3rd
1917.

Quiet day on both sides. The detachments in the front line cleaned out and occupied a dug out in "Mucky Way". The detachments at Chalk Cliffs were employed in fusing ammunition which had been forwarded to their dump from Brigade dump.

W.E.7

Mar 4th
1917.

Quiet day on both sides. Continued the work of forwarding ammunition to front line and the improvement of dumps

W.E.7.

Appendix 155

Appendix 155

Appendix 155

Appendix No 155

142

DATE.

MAR. 5TH
1914.

Enemy Artillery very quiet. There is now no apparent movement in enemy trenches and no targets are offered for trench mortars. Our detachments are employed in forwarding ammunition to new dumps in "Mucky Way"

W.E.F.

MAR. 6TH
1914.

Quiet day on both sides. Our Brigade front having been further extended to the left, we have attached a mobile gun to the Headquarters of the left Company. The C.O. in charge of the detachment to act under the instructions of the O.C. line.

W.E.F.

MAR. 4TH
1914.

At 11.30 pm enemy was heard working in trench in vicinity of N-16. A. 2-1/2. We fired 20 rounds on this point with good effect.

W.E.F.

MAR. 3RD
1914.

With the exception of enemy snipers who were unusually busy today, it was a very quiet day. A number of jacks and shovels were observed on top of enemy trench at the point at which we fired last night.

W.E.F.

MAR. 9TH
1914.

At 9 pm one detachment of this Battery opened fire on enemy trench at N-16. A. 2-1/2. at which point movement had been observed late in the afternoon. We fired 40 rounds in vicinity of this point.

DATE
MAR. 9TH
continued.

At 11 pm. one of our Patrols was bombed and sniped at from a strong post in enemy line at N. 16. C. 4-9. We immediately opened fire on this point. We fired 10 rounds.

47. E. 4.

At 3.30 am. a flare was fired from this post. we immediately fired another 10 rounds into it.

MAR. 10TH

at 9 pm. we fired 15 rounds, 5 of which were air bursts on enemy trench at N. 16. C. 4-9. from which point an enemy sniper had been ^{doing} a lot of sniping. No more sniping was done from this point during the night.

47. E. 4.

MAR. 11TH

At 10 am enemy fired a few 'pineapples' into our front line. They appeared to come from about N. 16. A. 5-1. at which point we immediately fired 20 rounds. Enemy mortars did not fire again from this direction. At 11 pm. 20 rounds were fired at a machine gun position at N. 16. C. 5-8.

47. E. 4.

MAR. 12TH

Quiet day on both sides. During the day our detachments in front line and Chalk Cliffs forwarded 90 rounds of ammunition to dump in front line.

47. E. 4.

MAR. 13TH

Continued the work of forwarding ammunition to front line and improving front line dumps.

47. E. 4.

144

Appendix No. 155

Date

MAR. 14TH

Quiet day on both sides. Enemy artillery activity during the past few days has been practically nil. no movement can be seen in their trenches and no targets are presenting themselves.

W.E.F.

MAR. 15TH

Particularly quiet day. No enemy movement visible in trenches opposite our Brigade front.

W.E.F.

MAR. 16TH

At 11 pm our left mobile detachment accompanied a strong fighting patrol from the left Batt. The objective being Hill Trench. The patrol however found the enemy wire too great an obstacle and returned to Bailey Trench.

W.E.F.

MAR. 17TH

Early this morning our Brigade occupied Hill and Atom Trenches. Our front line detachments - the position being consolidated - moved forward and established themselves in Fire Trench.

W.E.F.

MAR. 18TH

Our advanced guards yesterday afternoon pushed forward to beyond REINCOURT and are still advancing. Owing to the rapidity of this forward movement and the lack of targets for Trench Mortars this Battery was this morning instructed to remain with the rear guard. (Stewart's Force)

W.E.F.

MAR. 19TH

Our detachments in Fire Trench and Chalk Cliffs were

| DATE | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|
| MAR-19 th | employed today in carrying all of our forward ammunition back to Chalk Bluffs. On completion of this work our front line detachments were withdrawn from fire trench to Poosum Reserve. | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 20 th | acting under instructions from C.O. "Stewart's Force" the Battery today moved to <u>FLEERS</u> . | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 21 st | All available N.C.O's and men of the Battery under Lieut Cockerill were today employed on construction of road through <u>GUEUDEECOURT</u> . | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 22 nd | "Stewart's Force" moved to the forward area today. Our Battery moving to <u>FRENICOURT</u> . | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 23 rd | Battery was employed today in cleaning up and improving <u>Billets occupied by the Battery</u> . | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 24 th | Two mobile detachments under Lieut Samble, moved today to our outpost line near <u>BEAUMETZ</u> . The remainder of the Battery being engaged cleaning and fusing ammunition and forwarding same to <u>LEBUCQUIERE</u> at which place we established our forward dump. | 4r. E. 4. |
| MAR. 25 th | The Battery was today engaged on work of fusing and forwarding ammunition to forward dump. | 4r. E. 4. |

DATE

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------|
| MAR. 26. | } Continued the work of fusing and forwarding ammunition to LEBUCQUIERE. Our detachments in Outpost line have not been able to fire owing to lack of targets. | 48.8.4 |
| " 27 | | |
| Mar 28 th | Our Brigade was relieved relieved this afternoon by the 14 th Aus Inf Bde. The 14 th A.L.T.M.B. relieving this Battery. | 48.8.4 |
| MAR. 29 th | The Battery moved to Billets in BEAULENCOURT. This morning. The remainder of the day being spent in cleaning up and improving Billets. | 48.8.4 |
| MAR. 30 th | This morning was devoted to a thorough kit inspection the afternoon being spent in improvement of Billets. | 48.8.4 |
| MAR. 31 st | A syllabus of training has been drawn up by the Officers of the Battery. and this morning the Battery started on a thorough refresher course. Gun drill being the main item of the morning's work. The afternoon was spent in still further improving billets. | 48.8.4 |

15 Aust Inf Bde.

Daily Strength Return

24 March 1917.

203

| Unit | ACTUALLY WITH UNIT | | | IN. HPL | | | DETACHED | | | TTL EFFECTIVE STRENGTH | | | REMARKS |
|------------------|--------------------|------|------|---------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|------------------------|------|------|---|
| | OH | OR | IM | OH | OR | IM | OH | OR | IM | OH | OR | IM | |
| 15. B. H. Q | 7 | 20 | 27 | | | | | | | 7 | 20 | 27 | |
| 15. A & J. M. B. | 3 | 32 | 35 | | 8 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 43 | 47 | |
| 15 M. G. Coy. | 5 | 156 | 161 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 174 | 183 | Excludes. 2 OR. AMO attached |
| 59. Bn. | 32 | 757 | 789 | 3 | 96 | 99 | 8 | 90 | 98 | 43 | 943 | 986 | Excludes 5 OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 58. Bn. | 26 | 777 | 803 | 3 | 55 | 58 | 5 | 59 | 64 | 34 | 891 | 925 | Excludes. 5 OR. AMO attached. |
| 59. Bn | 29 | 774 | 803 | 3 | 69 | 72 | 4 | 27 | 31 | 36 | 870 | 906 | Excludes 5 OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 60. Bn | 37 | 782 | 819 | 1 | 84 | 85 | 8 | 32 | 40 | 46 | 898 | 944 | Excludes. 4 OR. AMO attached. |
| Total | 139 | 3298 | 3437 | 13 | 325 | 338 | 27 | 216 | 243 | 179 | 3839 | 4018 | |

Appendix 156

Appendix No 156

APP 156
148

Details of Detached

| 15 M.G. Coy. | O | OR | 57. Bn | O | OR | 58. Bn | O | OR | 59. Bn | O | OR | 60. Bn | O | OR |
|--------------------|---|----|---|---|----|------------------------------------|---|----|---|---|----|--|---|----|
| M.G. School | 1 | 3 | A.S.'s office | . | 1 | D.H.Q. | . | 4 | 5. Div Inf School | 3 | 7 | 29. A.S.C. | . | 2 |
| 29. A.S.C. | . | 1 | D.H.Q. | . | 2 | Div Ordnance store | . | 1 | { Lt. A.F. BECK T. MITCHELL (2/Lt E.C. ALEXANDER) | . | | Div Salvage Coy | . | 2 |
| Shoering Coarse | . | 1 | Div School | 4 | 7 | A.S.'s office | . | 1 | Decauville Rly | . | 7 | Rly Construction | . | 3 |
| | . | 1 | { Capt. LINTON Lt. DAVIS 2/Lt. HEDGECOCK " MUNTZ | . | | 29 A.S.C. | . | 2 | 5 Div Concert Party | . | 1 | Traffic Control | . | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 5 | Inst. L.S. School | . | 1 | Lewis Gun School | . | 1 | 5 Div Grenade school | . | 3 | Camp wardens | . | 2 |
| | | | 29. A.S.C. | . | 3 | Div Bomb Dump | . | 1 | 5 Div Police | . | 1 | A.S.'s office | . | 1 |
| | | | Div Draughtman | . | 1 | Cook's Paths | . | 7 | 29 A.S.C. | . | 2 | A.W.L. | . | 3 |
| 15 A.L.J.M.B. | | | Leave | . | 2 | Div School of Inst. | 2 | 8 | A.S.'s office | . | 1 | Detachment | . | 1 |
| School 5th Army | 1 | 1 | Cinema | . | 4 | { 2/Lt. W. MORRISON " R.V. MOON | . | 4 | Camp Commandant | 1 | 2 | Gas school | . | 1 |
| (Lt. E.K. KEYS) | . | 1 | Water wardens | . | 8 | Rly fitters | . | 1 | (Lt. D.G. TOOMEY) | . | 1 | School of Inst | 2 | 5 |
| A.W.L. | . | 1 | Boatman D.A.D.S. | . | 1 | 8th Bde | . | 1 | 5th Army Inf School | . | 1 | { Lt. STILLMAN L.R. (2/Lt LESLIE. G.A.) | . | 1 |
| Inst. Anzac School | . | 1 | Armour | . | 1 | Army School | 1 | 2 | 5th A.D.B.D. | . | 1 | 5th Div Sig Coy | . | 1 |
| | . | 1 | Fatigue Meaulks | 1 | 26 | (Lt. R.B. FORSYTH) | . | 5 | 5th Army Sig School | . | 1 | Leave (Lt. STEELE. J.W.) | 1 | . |
| Total | 1 | 3 | (Lt. MORROW) | . | 3 | Detachment 5 Div. | . | 1 | | | | Intelligence school | . | 1 |
| | | | 5th Army school | . | 3 | Cinema theatre | . | 2 | | | | Stokes Gun school | . | 3 |
| | | | Stokes Gun School | . | 4 | Sanitary Section | . | 2 | | | | 5th Army School | 2 | 2 |
| | | | Div Sig Coy | . | 3 | 1st Anzac workshops | . | 2 | | | | { Capt. WRIGLEY. H. BARRIE. J.G. | . | 1 |
| | | | L.S. School | . | 1 | Water supply. Tricourt | . | 1 | | | | 5th A.D.B.D. | . | 1 |
| | | | School Aldershot | 1 | 1 | Detachment Anzac | . | 1 | | | | (MAJ. TRICKEY. F.V.) | . | 2 |
| | | | Mushky school | . | 1 | Div Sig Coy | . | 2 | | | | Sniping school | . | 2 |
| | | | 1st Anzac Grenade | . | 1 | Leave (Lt. F.B. McWHANNELL) | . | 1 | | | | Lewis Gun school | 1 | 1 |
| | | | A.P.M. | . | 2 | Woodcutters MAMETZ | . | 6 | | | | (Capt. ROBERTS. C.H.) | . | 1 |
| | | | L.S. school (2/Lt WHITE) | 1 | 3 | Sniping school (Lt. G.R. COLE) | 1 | 2 | | | | A.F.C. Mechanics tent | . | 1 |
| | | | Cooking school | . | 1 | A.W.L. | . | 4 | | | | 6th Division (Lt. BOWEN) | 1 | . |
| | | | Shelton platoon | 1 | 13 | Armour's school | . | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 8 | 90 | Total | 5 | 59 | Total | 4 | 27 | Total | 8 | 32 |

Appendix No. 156

Daily Strength Return

15 Australian Infantry Brigade.

31st March 1917.

| Unit | ACTUALLY WITH UNIT | | | IN. HPL | | | DETACHED | | | TOTAL EFFECTIVE STRENGTH | | | Remarks. |
|--------------------|--------------------|------|-------|---------|-----|-------|----------|-----|-------|--------------------------|------|--------|--|
| | OH | OR | Total | OH | OR | Total | OH | OR | Total | OH | OR | Total. | |
| 15. B. H. Q | 7 | 18 | 25 | . | 2 | 2 | . | . | . | 7 | 20 | 27 | |
| 15. A. L. I. M. B. | 4 | 32 | 36 | . | 8 | 8 | . | 2 | 2 | 4 | 42 | 46 | |
| 15 M. G. Coy. | 6 | 155 | 161 | 2 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 172 | 181 | Excludes 2. OR. AMO attached |
| 57. Bn | 30 | 756 | 786 | 3 | 82 | 85 | 8 | 77 | 85 | 41 | 915 | 956 | Excludes 5. OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 58 Bn | 21 | 721 | 742 | 4 | 87 | 91 | 5 | 61 | 66 | 30 | 869 | 899 | Excludes 4. OR. AMO attached |
| 59 Bn | 25 | 745 | 770 | 3 | 112 | 115 | 5 | 32 | 37 | 33 | 889 | 922 | Excludes 5. OR. AMO attached 1 interpreter " |
| 60 Bn | 36 | 810 | 846 | 2 | 74 | 76 | 8 | 27 | 35 | 46 | 911 | 957 | Excludes 4. OR. AMO attached. |
| Total. | 139 | 3237 | 3366 | 14 | 377 | 391 | 27 | 204 | 231 | 170 | 3818 | 3988 | |

Appendix 157

Appendix No 157

157/150

Details of Detached

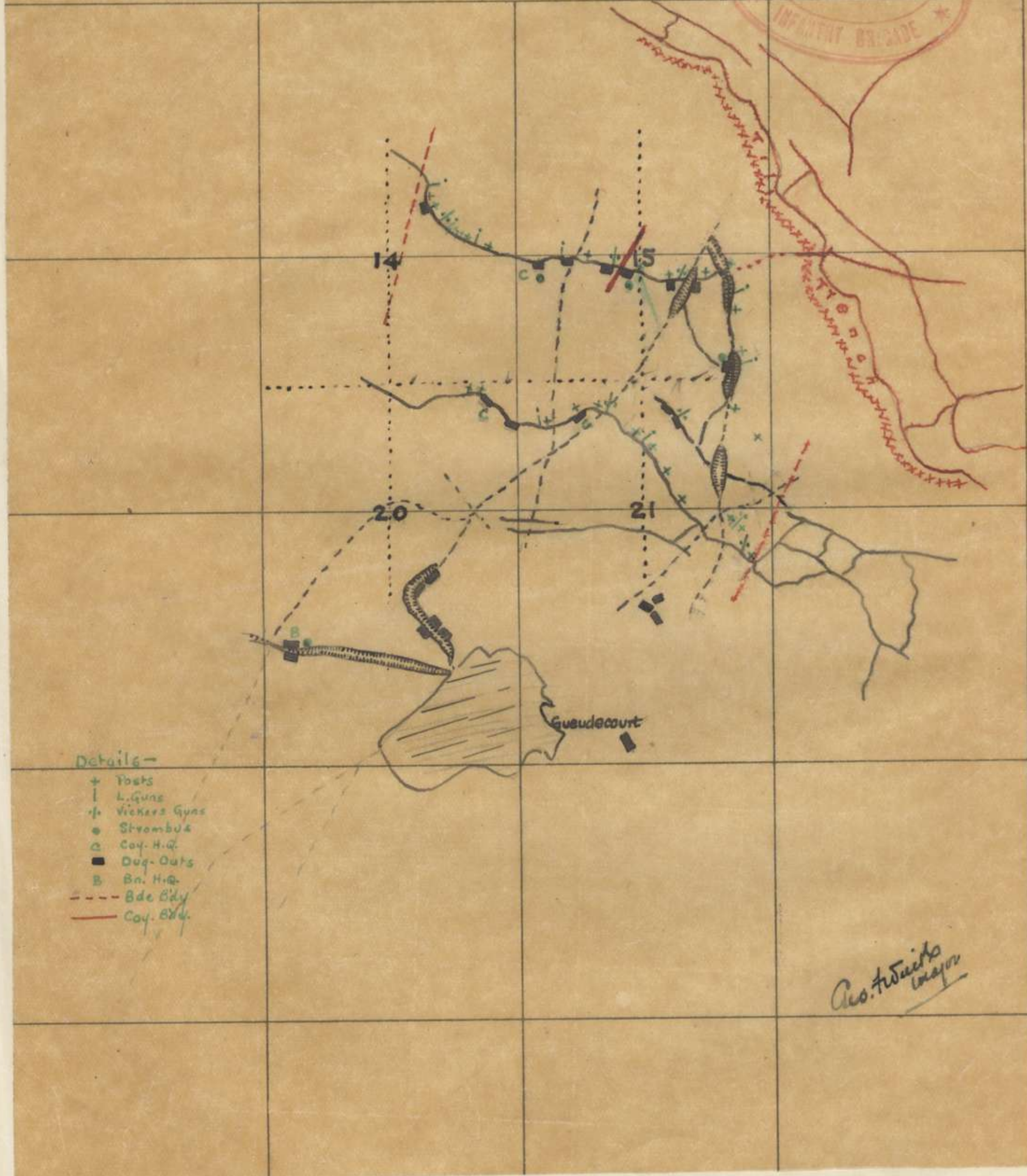
| 15 M.G. Coy | | 57 Bn | | 58 Bn | | 59 Bn | | 60 Bn | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--|-------------|--|-----|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| O | OR | O | OR | O | OR | O | OR | O | OR |
| M.G. School (Lt. FITZGERALD. G.F) | 1 3 | A.S.'s office. D.F.O. | 1 2 | D.F.O. | 4 | 5 Div Inf School | 3 8 | 29. A.S.C. | 2 |
| On leave | 1 | 5 Div Inf School {Capt. LINTON Lt. DAVIS Lt. DICKINSON} | 3 7 | Div Ordnance Store | 1 | {Lt. H.J. BECK J.H. WADESON T.J. GANNON} | | Div Salvage Coy | 2 |
| 29. A.S.C. | 1 | Instr L.G. School | 1 | A.S.'s office | 1 | Decauville Pkly | 7 | Pkly Construction | 3 |
| Total | 1 5 | 29. A.S.C. | 3 | 29 A.S.C. | 2 | Conart Party | 1 | Traffic Control | 1 |
| <u>15. ALTMB</u> | | Div Draughtsmans | 1 | Lewis Gun school | 1 | Grenade School | 3 | Camp wardens | 2 |
| Instr 1st Angas School | 1 | Leave | 2 | Div Bomb Dump | 1 | 5 Div Police | 1 | A.S.'s office | 1 |
| A.W.L. | 1 | Cinema | 4 | Corps Baths | 7 | 5 th Army Inf School | 3 | A.W.L. | 3 |
| Total | 2 | Water wardens | 8 | A.W.L. | 4 | 5 th Army Sig School | 1 | Detention | 1 |
| | | Boatmaker D.A.D.O.s | 1 | Div School of Inat {Lt. L.B. DAVIS (2) Lt. H.S. MC COLL} | 2 8 | 29. A.S.C. | 2 | Div School Inat | 2 5 |
| | | Armourer | 1 | Pkly fitters | 4 | A.S.'s office. | 1 | {2) Lt. RANKIN. R.C. { " ROLLAND. R.M. | |
| | | Fatigue Meaulle (Lt. MORROW) | 1 26 | 8 th Inf Pkly | 1 | Camp Commnd. (Lt. D.G. TOOHEY) | 1 2 | 5 Div Sig School | 1 |
| | | 5 th Army school (Capt. MORGAN) | 1 4 | Army School of Inat (Lt. S.J. TOPP) | 1 2 | 5 A.D.B.D. | 1 | Leave (Lt. STEEL J.H) | 1 1 |
| | | Stokes Gun School | 1 | Detention 5 Div | 5 | 5 th Army Stokes Sch | 2 | 5 th Army School (Lt. LOVE. H.K) | 1 2 |
| | | Div Sig Coy | 3 | Cinema theatre | 1 | 6 th Division (Lt. D.W. FAIR) | 1 | 5. Div School (2) Lt. TWOMEY.) | 1 |
| | | L.G. School | 1 | Sanitary Section | 2 | | | 5. A.D.B.D. (MAJ. TRICKEY. F.V) | 1 |
| | | School Aldershot. (MTR. MARGHALL) | 1 1 | 1 st Angas workshops | 2 | | | 6. Division (Lt. BOWEN. G.E) | 1 |
| | | Grenade School | 1 | Water Supply Fricourt. | 1 | | | School Aldershot (MAJ. CAMERON. W) | 1 1 |
| | | Musketry School | 1 | Div Sig Coy | 2 | | | Stokes Gun School | 2 |
| | | A.P.M. | 2 | Leave | 1 1 | | | | |
| | | L.G. Schools (2) Lt. WHITE) | 1 3 | (Lt. F.B. MOWHANNELL) Woodcutters MAMETZ | 6 | | | | |
| | | Cookery school | 1 | Sinker's school (Lt. C.R. COLE) | 1 2 | | | | |
| | | Telegraph high school (Lt. MARKEN) | 1 | Armourer's school | 1 | | | | |
| | | 5 Army Stokes Gun school | 2 | 5 th Army Stokes Gun Sch | 2 | | | | |
| | | Total | 8 77 | Total. | | Total | 5 32 | Total | 8 27 |

Appendix No 157

151

Sketch II

Position held by 15th Aust. Inf. Bde on 2/3/17.
use with Artillery Maps.

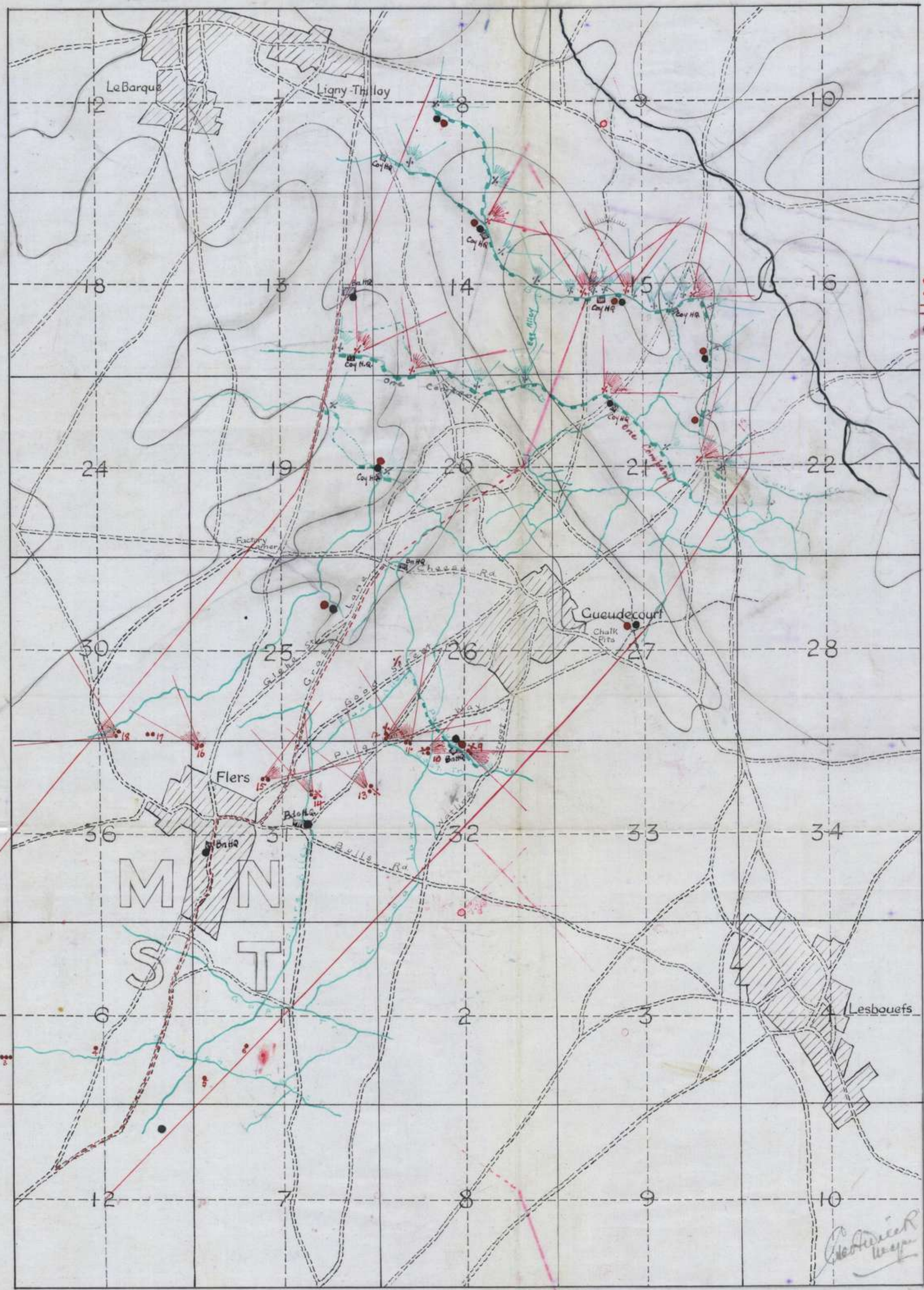


- Details—
- + Posts
 - | L. Guns
 - † Vickers Guns
 - Strombus
 - a Coy. H.Q.
 - Dug-Outs
 - B Bn. H.Q.
 - - - Bde Bdy
 - Coy. Bdy.

*Geo. F. Smith
Major*



S. 12

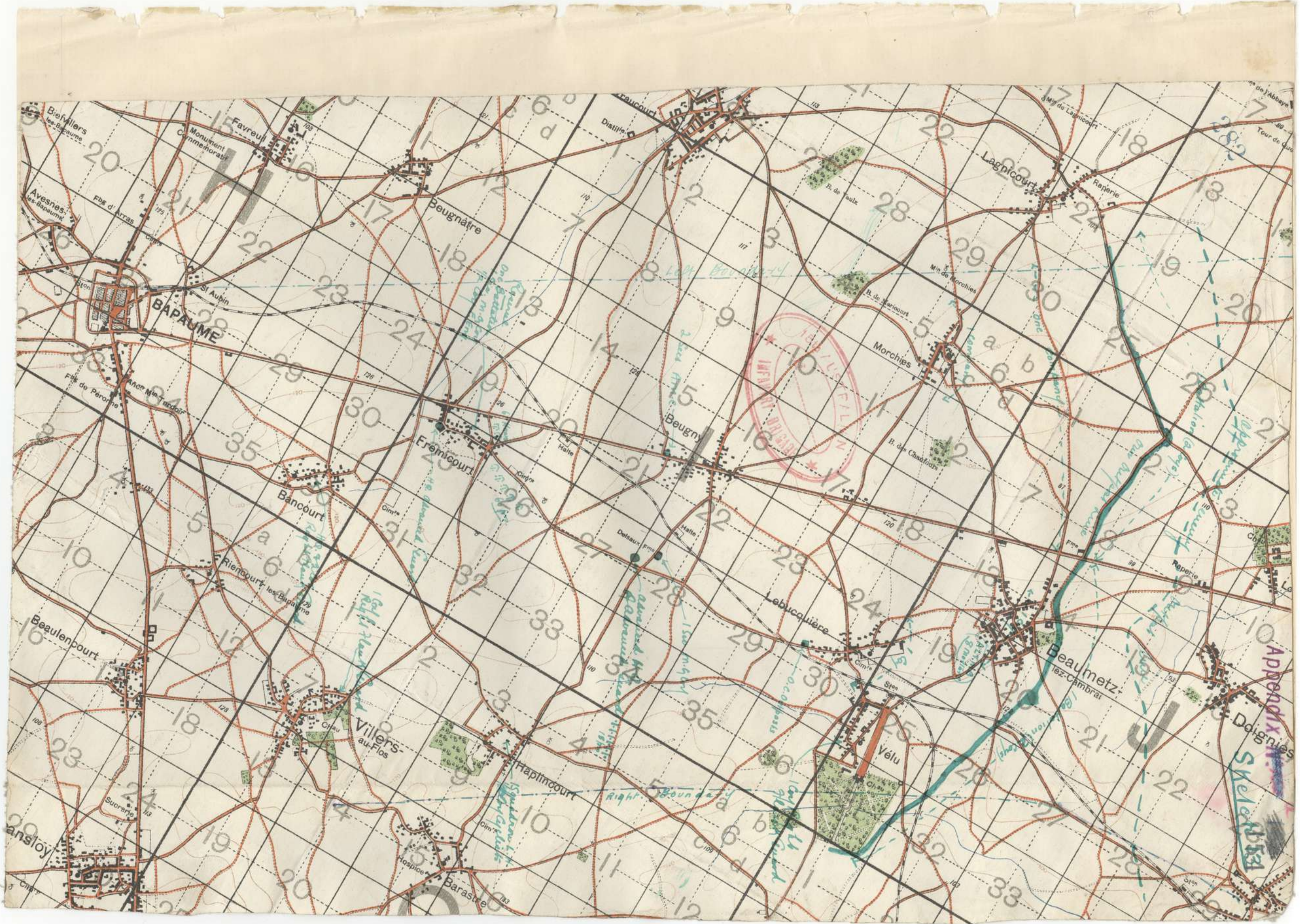


- S.O.S.
- + Vickers Guns
- Brigade Boundary
- Sub-Brigade Boundary
- Stenches Holes

SOMME

Scale 4" = 1 mile
or about 1/6000

Handwritten signature



Biefvillers
les-Bapaume
Avesnes
les-Bapaume
Bapaume
Beaulencourt
ansloy

Favreuil
Monument
Commemoratif
St Aubin
Bancourt
Riencourt
les-Bapaume
Villers-
au-Flos
Barastre

Beugnatre
Fremicourt
Beugny
Lebucquiere
Haplincourt

Beugny
Morchies
Vélu

Lagnicourt
Raperie
Beau Metz
lez-Cambrai

Beau Metz
lez-Cambrai

Beau Metz
lez-Cambrai

Beau Metz
lez-Cambrai

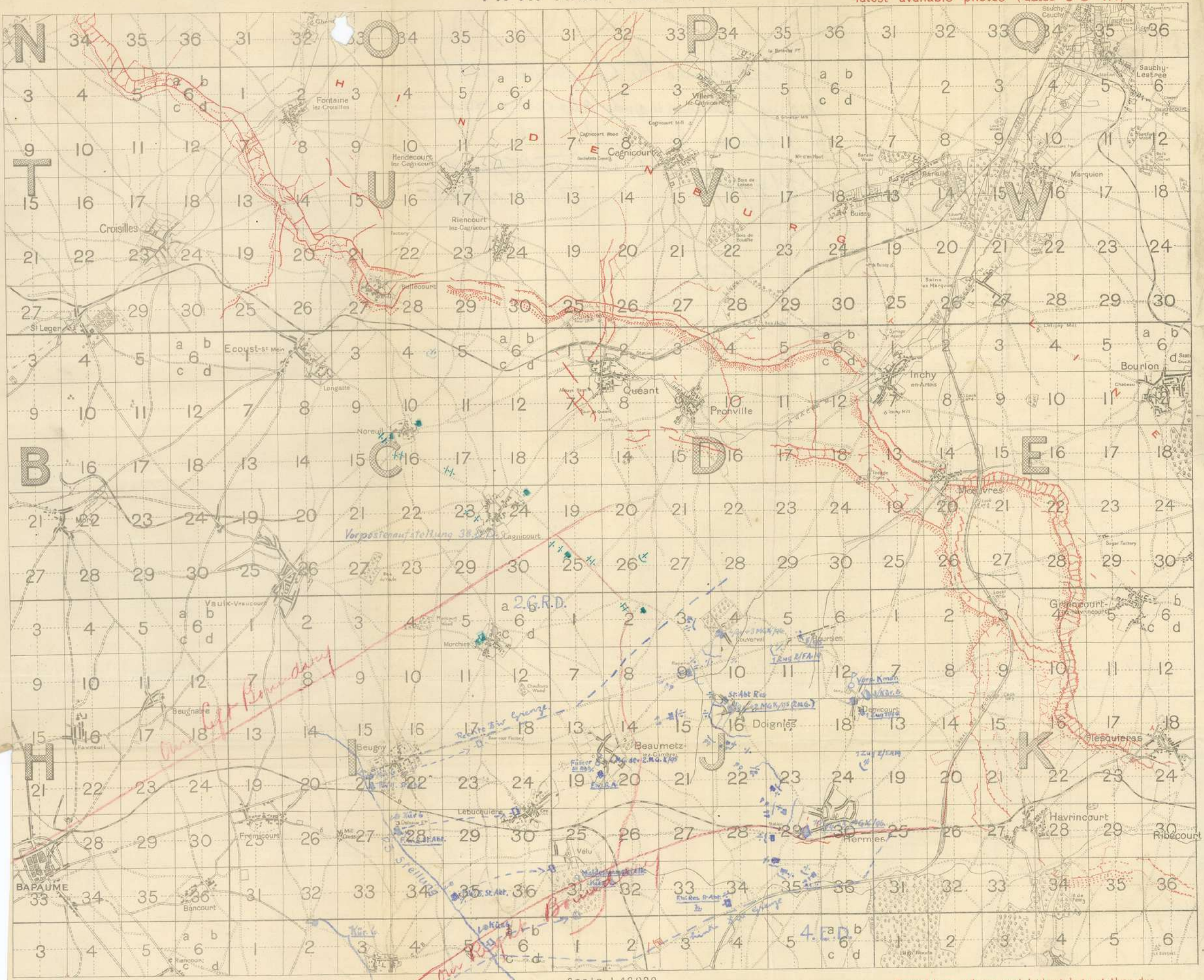
Beau Metz
lez-Cambrai

Appendix
Doignies
St. Leu

FIFTH ARMY AREA. (B.)

Map showing HINDENBURG LINE from latest available photos (dated 6-3-17.)

282



5th FIELD SURVEY CORP. (B20) 21-3-17

Date of Publication 21-3-17.

Scale-1:40,000

Dotted lines indicate work laid out but not then dug.

Sketch 14



Showing the composition of the
Enemy rearguard opposing our
Advance.

30/3/17

Robert H. Mason
POW 154 Bde

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 1/3/17 to 6 a.m. 2/3/17.

-----***-----

Reference Map 57 G.S.W.

WEATHER -

Wind Nil - foggy - Visibility bad.

GENERAL.Our Operations -

Artillery - ATOM and TILL trenches also the roads and tracks in the vicinity of BEAULENCOURT during the day.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire was carried out on roads and tracks N.3.C.4-0 to N.2.B.3-1., N.10.A.0-5 to N.10.A.4-9., N.9.A.8-9 to N.9.B.4-9.

Our Lewis Guns were very active and kept TILL trench under fire throughout the night. A party of about 12 men were fired on and dispersed in N.10.C.2-2.

Patrols - A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 other ranks left BARLEY trench at N.15.D.7-8 at 8.15 p.m. A German patrol of from 3 to 5 men were seen coming down BARLEY trench towards our line. Their presence was noticed when they fired a flare from N.15.D.9-9. Our patrol proceeded towards them but they were heard as several bombs were thrown in their direction. Our patrol went as far as N.16.C.05/95. but the only trace of the enemy that could be found was an empty flare cartridge. The patrol remained ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ out for some time and voices could be heard in ATOM trench and one man was seen walking about at N.16.A.5-1. This patrol returned at 10.10 p.m. One Officer and 7 other ranks left BARLEY trench at N.15.C.8-9 to inspect the enemy wire in front of TILL trench. The wire was reached at N.9.D.4-5. The patrol was fired on by M.Guns and snipers and flares were fired towards them. They then moved 100 yards to the left and took cover in a shell hole for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. A party of 5 were seen digging between their wire and TILL trench. A fatigue party was also seen to come down and disappear in the trench. The patrol then returned. Another patrol reached N.9.D.4-4 but were bombed and fired on with rifles. This patrol withdrew to our lines after being out from 11.30 p.m. until 1.30 a.m.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - GOODWIN'S Post and FRITZ'S FOLLY were subjected to occasional bursts of fire from 77 m.m. H.E. and Shrapnel. At 6 a.m. a barrage with 77 m.m. shells was opened on our Front Line trenches. This barrage lasted for 20 minutes and came from the direction of BEAULENCOURT. From 2.15 p.m. until 6 p.m. FLERS was shelled with 5.9" and some 8.3" from the direction of VILLERS-AU-FLOS. This fire was particularly heavy from 5.25 p.m. until 6 p.m. GUEUDECOURT and S.12.B. also received a little attention during the day.

Trench Mortars - Our post at N.15.A.6-7 was shelled by T.M. from N.16.A. Central. No damage.

Machine Guns - Active from TILL and ATOM trenches.

Sniping - Active.

MOVEMENT.

A great deal of movement was seen in and about the VILLERS-AU-FLOS line in N.12.A. Large parties were seen moving about and entering the trenches; they came from the direction of VILLERS-AU-FLOS. One party of about 200 and several parties numbering from 20 to 60 were seen.



Small parties were also seen in N.4.D. and N.11.A & C. The track along the E side of the road running through N.4.D and N.9.A and D was used by small parties throughout the day.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Railways - At 1.45 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. smoke of an engine was seen N.W. of VILLERS-AU-FLOS. The engine moved in the direction of REINCOURT.

Dug-outs- A dug-out at N.15.A.3-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ was investigated and found to be in good order but not completed. A post of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men were established here. The dug-out showed signs of recent work and a number of picks and shovels and sand bags were lying about. It is in a good position for observation.

SIGNALS.

At 5.45 p.m an aeroplane dropped a white light in rear of BEAULENCOURT, at the time the enemy were heavily shelling FLERS.

AIRCRAFT.

Our planes were active during the day. Between 1.20 p.m. and 5.25 p.m. the enemy planes were very active and several excursions were made over our lines. At 5.25 p.m. 10 enemy planes were up together, 4 of them flew over our lines and BARLEY trench was fired on with M.Guns and one casualty caused.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At 11.30 p.m. a party of 7 went out to strengthen the newly established post at N.14.B.6-9. This work was completed at 5 a.m. and the party started to return but lost direction and were fired on by an enemy M.Gun. They took refuge in a shell hole where they were kept down by the M.Gun playing over it. They could see no distance for the fog; Voices were heard and a party of 40 Germans surrounded the shell hole and covered our men with rifles. Our men were ordered to get up and take off their equipment and respirators which the enemy threw into a shell hole. They were then marched for about half a mile. Suddenly 5 or 6 Australians appeared on a parapet and our men informed them that there were some Australians in the party. The Germans became confused and bombs were exchanged. Our men took advantage of the opportunity and escaped. The Germans disappeared in the mist. The 6th Battalion immediately sent out a fighting patrol.

WORK.

Improvement of posts in the Front Line.
Extension of Decauville railway in N.27.C.
Mending and improving FLERS road.
Maintenance of Duckboard walks.
Salvage, Unloading and carrying parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Battalion | MAMETZ CAMP |
| 58th Battalion | TOWNSVILLE CMP |
| 59th Battalion Front Line H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 60th Battalion Intermediate line -H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line | HQ. S.12.B.60-65 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " | S.12.B.60-65 |

FORECAST.

60th Battalion relieving 59th Battalion in Front Line on night 3rd/4th inst.
59th Battalion occupying Intermediate Line.

J. Stewart

Lieut-Colonel.
Temp. Commanding 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 2/3/17 to 6 a.m. 3/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

GENERAL.

Weather Calm and very misty - Wind E.S.E. Mild
Visibility bad.

Our Operations.-

Artillery - Active - Roads in the vicinity of BEAULENCOURT and REINCOURT were fired on. The railway in the vicinity of REINCOURT was shelled by our heavies.

Machine Guns - Vickers Guns - Indirect fire used on roads leading into BEAULENCOURT. TILL trench swept at intervals throughout the night. An enemy patrol dispersed and casualties caused.

Lewis Guns - Very Active - TILL trench swept continuously throughout the night. A patrol in N.16.C. and parties in the vicinity of N.10.C. were fired on with good effect.

Sniping - Quiet -

Patrols - No.1. 1 N.C.O. and 6 men left BARLEY trench at N.15.C.1-2 at 8 p.m. and proceeded in a N.E. direction towards TILL trench, when 20 yards from the enemy wire they were fired on and took cover in a shell hole; after fire slackened they moved N.W. parallel to the enemy wire for 200 yards. A party of 20 Germans was seen in single file. These were watched until they returned to TILL trench.

No.2. A constant patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men moved backwards and forwards 100 yards in front of N.15.A.6-7. No enemy movement was seen.

No.3. Two Officers and 3 other ranks patrolled the enemy wire in N.16.A. also BARLEY trench from N.15.D.7-9 to N.16.C.2-9. No enemy were seen but their tracks were plainly visible. A Stokes bomb arranged with a trip wire was placed across one well defined track, where an enemy patrol had been seen previously. A patrol of 5 men were seen in this vicinity later on in the night and were dispersed by our Lewis Gun fire.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Fairly quiet on our Front Lines.

N.21.C was shelled with 5.9" between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. GUEUDECOURT was shelled at intervals with H.E. and Shrapnel from VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

At 9 p.m. salvos of 5.9" were fired around GOODWIN'S Post but no damage was done. S.12.B. was shelled during the afternoon with 4.2" shrapnel from the direction of REINCOURT. The enemy has been paying more attention lately to targets in rear of the front line system.

Trench Mortar - Our advanced posts at N.15.A.3-5 and N.15.A.6-7 were shelled by a light T.M. firing from N.16.A.1-5 (approx) between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Machine Guns - Intermittent fire was used on PORK and BARLEY trenches and the road from PORK trench to GOODWIN'S Post.

Sniping - Active from TILL trench.

MOVEMENT.

Isolated cases of movement were seen on the usual tracks in rear of the enemy front line.

Parties of 6, 2, and 18 men were seen moving about and working on the VILLERS-AU-FLOS line in N.12.A.

(2)

AIRCRAFT.

Two of our planes were up between 3 p.m and 5 p.m.
They were flying low over our front line.
Enemy A.A. Guns shelled them.

WORKS.

Building O.T. in N.14.D.
Mending and improving roads
Extension of Decauville Railway.
Maintenance of Duckboard walks.
Extension of dug-out at Chalk Pits.
Salvage, carrying and unloading parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 15th Brigade | H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Battalion | | MANETZ CAMP |
| 58th Battalion | | TOWNSVILLE CAMP |
| 59th Battalion | Intermediate Line - H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 60th Battalion | Front Line - H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. | Front & Intermediate Line | H.Q. S.12.B.60-65 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | " " " | S.12.B.60-65 |

FORECAST.

58th Battalion relieving 59th Battalion in Intermediate
Line on night 3rd 4th/5th inst.
59th Battalion moving to TOWNSVILLE CAMP.

Geo. Swick
MAJOR
BDE. MAJOR
15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence.

6 a.m. 3/3/17 to 6 a.m. 4/3/17.

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Reference map 57 C.S.W..

WEATHER.

Wind South - Visibility fair.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery - TILL trench and overland tracks in rear of the enemy lines were shelled during the day and night.Machine Guns - Intermittent fire was brought to bear on the cross roads at N.19.C.1-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and N.9.D.7-3. The wire in front of TILL trench was occasionally swept.Patrols - 1 N.C.O. and 4 men left BARLEY trench at N.15.C.4-9. They reached a point about N.9.C.2-4. No signs of the enemy were seen but he could be heard talking and moving about in the trench. This patrol returned at 4 a.m. after being out for 2 hours.

At midnight a patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men left the MILKY WAY at N.15.D.7-5. This patrol went out in order to try and locate some of the enemy seen earlier in the night, but no trace of them could be found. The patrol returned at 1.30 a.m.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.Artillery - A good deal of shelling was distributed between BARLEY and STORMY trenches at intervals during the night. N.21.C, N.20.A and B were shelled with 5.9" from the direction of VILLERS-AU-FLORS from 4 p.m. until 5.15 p.m. At 4 a.m. 6 Salvoes of 5.9" were fired in N.21.C and D but no damage was done. GUEDECOURT and FLERS were shelled intermittently during the day with 4.2" from the direction of BANCOURT and REINCOURT.Trench Mortars - A few "pineapple" bombs were fired on THUNDER Lane during the night.Machine Guns - Troublesome throughout the night enfilading PORK trench and tracks to BARLEY trench. These guns appear to be firing from close to the junction of BARLEY and ATOM trenches.Patrols - An enemy patrol of 5 men was seen at N.16.C.2-7 at 9.30 p.m. and dispersed by our Lewis Guns. Owing to a relief of the front line being in progress no patrol was sent out immediately.MOVEMENT.

The Visibility was bad and no movement was seen.

SIGNALS.

A number of blue flares which burst into two stars were fired during the night but no action followed.

WORK.

Mending roads between LONGUEVAL and FLERS.
 100 yards of left C.T. dug
 15 yards of right C.T. dug.
 Extension of dug-outs at CHALK PITS.
 Salvage of mining material in the Brigade area.
 Extension of Decauville Railway.
 Maintenance of Duckboard walks.

DISPOSITIONS:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Battalion | PERTH CAMP |
| 58th Battalion Intermediate Line -H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 59th Battalion | TOWNSVILLE CMP |
| 60th Battalion Front Line - H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9 . |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line HQ. | S.12.B.60-61 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " | S.12.B.60-61 |
| 57th Battalion moving to PERTH CAMP to-day. | |

FORECAST.

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence.
6 a.m. 4/3/17 to 6 a.m. 5/3/17.
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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER. Wind South - Visibility bad.

OUR OPERATIONS. Artillery - Our Artillery quiet during the day. ATOM and TILL trenches in the vicinity of BARLEY trench shelled during the day by howitzers. BEAULENCOURT shelled by 18 pdrs

Machine Guns - Direct fire brought to bear on TILL trench by guns on left. Indirect fire used on road and tracks in rear of enemy's position.
Enemy patrol of 3 men fired on and dispersed.

Sniping - Our snipers active during the day.

Patrols - At 10 p.m. 1 Officer and 6 men left our line at N.15.C.2-9 and moved in a N direction as far as N.15.A.4-8. A party of 7 Germans was seen moving about in front of TILL trench but did not come towards our patrol. They soon returned to their lines and afterwards M.Guns opened fire and prevented our patrol from proceeding further. When the enemy party was out no flares were fired from this trench. This patrol returned at 11.45 p.m.
One Officer and 5 men left THUNDER Lane at N.15.D.7-4 at 10.45 p.m. They moved in an Easterly direction for about 400 yards and reached the enemy wire. A party of 25 of the enemy was seen behind their wire in front of ATOM trench. This party disappeared into the trench and our patrol returned after being out for 2 hours.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Enemy Artillery fairly active during period. Salvoes of 5.9" were fired on STORMY trench from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. One post damaged, parapet being breached and entrance to dugout blown in. 2 casualties caused.
A number of 77 m.m. shells fell in vicinity of THUNDER Lane. GUEUDECOURT and vicinity shelled with H.E. and S during day, no damage. FLERS shelled with heavies from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. from the direction of BANCOURT.

Machine Guns - Active - STORMY, PORK & BARLEY trenches were swept at intervals during the night. Our patrols were also fired on.

Patrols - A small enemy patrol was seen at N.15.B.9-8 at 8.30 p.m. Dispersed by our Lewis M. Guns.

MOVEMENT.

At 7 a.m. 4 Germans who appeared to be officers were seen in front of TILL trench at N.16.C.4-9. One appeared to be pointing out places to the others. Our Lewis Guns fired on them and one fell, stood up and fell again, and the others ran back to the trench.

Between 7.5 a.m. and 8 a.m. parties of the enemy were seen moving into BAPAUME through N.4.C. They were full marching order and totaled about 150 men.

At 9 a.m. a party of 25 was seen at N.12.A.5-9 they moved in an E direction and disappeared at N.12.A.6-5.

Several other parties were seen in this vicinity during the day.

At 9.10 a.m. 50 men were seen at N.5.A.4-7 they disappeared behind some trees.

Small parties were seen at intervals throughout the day in N.11.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Smoke from train seen in N.6.D. at 9 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. At 3.5 p.m. clouds of smoke rose from BAPAUME in N.28.C. Machine Guns were firing from N.9.D.7-3.

SIGNALS.

At 6 p.m. flare bursting into 4 green stars was fired from ATOM trench. This was followed by salvos of 5.9" at a target on our right. Several green and red flares were fired at 9.15 p.m. but no action followed.

AIRCRAFT.

Our planes were active and several excursions made over the enemy lines.
Enemy planes were over our lines at 1 p.m., 1.10 p.m. and 2.15 p.m.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

A prisoner belonging to the ~~93rd~~ 93rd R.I.R. was taken at 7 p.m. He wandered into our lines at N.15.C.4-9.

WORKS.

Mending roads from LONGUEVAL to GUEUDECOURT.
Extending deep dug-out at CHALK Pits.
Extension of Decauville Railway in N.27.A.
Salvage Work.
Maintenance of duckboard walks.
Right C.T. completed to within 50 yards of front line
Left C.T. dug 50 yards.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector HQ. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 58th Bn. Front line, Left Bn. sector | |
| 59th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.28.A.2-9. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front and Intermediate Line HQ. | S.12.B.60-65 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " " | S.12.B.60-65 |

FORECAST.

58th Bn. moving to Left Bn. Sector Front Line to-night.
59th Bn. moving to Left Bn. Sector Intermediate Line to-morrow.
57th Bn. moving to Right Bn. Sector Intermediate Line to-night.

Ceo. J. Wick

Major
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 5/3/17 to 6 a.m. 6/3/17.
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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

GENERAL.

Wind, East, fresh. Visibility fair.

ARTILLERY OPERATIONS.

Artillery - At 6.15 p.m. REINCOURT was shelled with 60 pounders. BAPAUME was shelled by heavy howitzers at intervals during the day. At 12.35 a.m. a heavy barrage was put on enemy lines on our left, this lasted until 1 a.m.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire was used on roads leading from TILL trench to H.34.C.0-1 and N.11.A.4-8, and on new work N.3.C.4-5 to N.3.B.7-6. Front line guns swept the enemy parapet and wire at intervals.

Sniping - Quiet - very few targets presented themselves.

Patrols - A patrol of 1 Officer and 5 men left our lines at N.15.D.65-85 and travelled along the road for 500 yards. It was very quiet and no enemy were seen although they could be heard in the trenches.

This patrol was out from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. At 8 p.m. 1 Officer and 7 O.R. set out from N.15.C.2-9- and proceeded to N.9.B.7-0. The enemy could be heard using picks and shovels in TILL trench. The patrol then moved to the right to N.9.D.0-0 but no enemy could be seen. This patrol returned at 10 p.m.

Patrols kept touch with the Brigades on our flanks and isolated posts.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - At 6.10 a.m. STORMY trench was shelled with 4.2", no damage done. STORMY trench was again shelled at 3.20 p.m. with 5.9". At 8.25 a.m. shrapnel was fired into NO MAN'S LAND in N.15.A. THUNDER Lane was shelled with 77 m.m. shrapnel. During the afternoon BARLEY trench also met with some shelling with 5.9" and 4.2" from BAPAUME. At 12.45 a.m. N.8.C and N.7.D. was shelled with H.E. but no damage resulted. There was a little shelling round GUEUDECOURT during the day and the Decauville Railway track was fired on with a few 77 m.m. shrapnel and H.E.

Trench Mortars - A number of light minenwerfer bombs fell in front of our line at N.15.A.0-0- and N.15.C.3-9½ at 11.25 p.m.

Machine Guns - A little quieter than usual.

Sniping - An enemy sniper firing from N.16.A.2-8 was shot by one of our snipers.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A suspected O.P. at N.9.B.7-8 was fired on by our artillery.

MOVEMENT.

Small parties were seen during the day marching along the main BAPAUME road in N.4.D. There was considerable movement again seen about REINCOURT.

SIGNALS.

During the bombardment on our left the enemy fired rockets of all colours; chiefly red flares and green flares. A number of flares were fired from behind TILL trench.

AIRCRAFT.

Our planes were active during the afternoon. AT 2.15 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. enemy planes flew over our front line.

(2)

WORKS.

Front Line - Posts improved.

A dug-out which had a case of stick bombs and minenwerfer bombs detonated and connected with wires was cleared and occupied.

100 yards of wire transferred from rear to front of PORK trench.

Mending and making roads from LONGUEVAL to GUEUDECOURT.

Extension of Decauville Railway.

Salvage work.

Extension of dug-out at CHALK Pits.

Maintenance of duckboard walks.

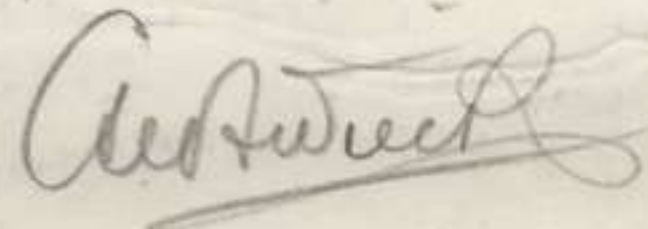
DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 59th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate line HQ. | S.12.B.60-61 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | S.12.B.60-61 |

FORECAST.

57th Bn. relieving 60th Bn. in Front Line, Right Bn. Sector on night 6th/7th inst.

60th Bn. occupying Intermediate Line.



Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 6/3/17 to 6 a.m. 7/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

GENERAL.

Wind - North East, Strong - Visibility low.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - REINCOURT and BAPAUME were shelled at intervals during the day. At 12 noon BEAULENCOURT and its vicinity was shelled with shrapnel. The enemy front line and tracks received intermittent shelling throughout the day and night.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire was used on enemy roads and tracks. Our front line guns swept the enemy parapet and wire.

Sniping - Active - The targets are very few and always at a long range.

Patrols - Four patrols were sent out in front of our right sector at different hours throughout the night. A dug-out which has been blown in was examined at N.15.B.5-7 and two wires leading to it cut. The enemy could be seen working in TILL trench in N.9.D. Our Lewis Guns were directed on to them. Otherwise nothing of interest to report.

Three patrols of 1 Officer and 14 other ranks following at intervals of two hours left our lines at N.14.B.5-2 and travelling North reached the BEAULENCOURT Road where they turned West and followed the road to N.8.B.1-3. They then returned to TICK trench. No opposition was met with and M.G. and sniping was fairly quiet.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - FLERS was again heavily shelled with 5.9" from the direction of REINCOURT at intervals during the whole day. GUEUDECOURT was shelled with 4.2" H.E. from VILLERS-AU-FLOS from 2.15 p.m. until 3 p.m. The front line was shelled occasionally with 77 m.m. TICK trench and THUNDER Lane being the special targets. The 77 m.m. guns which fire on TICK trench appear to be firing from N.4. Between 9.10 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. STORMY trench in N.21.A. and B was vigorously shelled with 5.9" from REINCOURT; damage was done to the trench. Registration was carried out on our front line in both sectors during the day.

Trench Mortars - Light Minenwerfer bombs were fired on THUNDER Lane at 3 a.m. and 5.40 a.m. This minenwerfer appears to be firing from N.16.A.1-5.

Machine Guns - Occasional bursts fired along our front line and PORK trench.

Sniping - Enemy snipers are alert.

MOVEMENT.

Small parties were seen during the day moving over the open country and along the tracks in N.4.B and D, N.10.A., N.11.A. and C and N.12.A.

At 8.20 a.m. 25 men were seen in N.10.C. moving in an E direction towards the BAPAUME road.

At 8 a.m. a number of the enemy were seen working at N.3.C.7-3 on fire being opened by our M.Guns they scattered into the sap ESCAPE ALLEY.

At 3 p.m. parties of 25 were seen to leave REINCOURT and move along the BAPAUME Road. Artillery were notified at 10.15 a.m. and 10.20 a.m. the enemy were seen working at H.32.D.9-5.

At 6.30 p.m. a party of 39 men were seen leaving TILL trench at N.9.A.7-0. Their movements could not be followed.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Flashes and smoke seen from behind dug-outs at N.11.A.6-7
Work is still going on along the BAPAUME Road in
N.11.A. There is some sawn timber lying about at
N.9.A.3-0.

Trains were seen running in rear of REINCOURT at
9.55 a.m., 12.20 p.m., 1.20 p.m., 2.20 p.m., 2.55 p.m.
and 4 p.m. Suspected M.G. position at N.3.C.2-4.

SIGNALS.

A great number of green flares are fired by the enemy.
Some red flares bursting into 2 green stars were fired
during the night but no action followed.

AIRCRAFT.

Exceptional activity was displayed in the air during
the day by both sides.

Three of our monoplanes were brought down during the
day. One fell at 12.30 p.m. in N.20.A Central; the
pilot died and the observer walked away wounded. This
plane A.268 was smashed beyond repair; all instruments
of value were collected and are at Battalion H.Q.
N.13.D.6-8.

Another plane fell in N.27 and another to the W of FLERS.
Enemy observation balloons were up in rear of BANCOURT
and BAPAUME.

WORKS.

Front line improved and shelters erected
30 yards of sap from STORMY to BREAD trench dug.
Extension of TICK trench from BAREEY trench dug 80 yards
and positions for posts and shelters dug.
EGG trench cut through.
Extension of CHALK Pit dug-outs.
200 men employed on mending roads.
General maintenance and Salvage work.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9 |
| 58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector | N.13.B.6-9 |
| 59th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Sector (Bn) | |
| 60th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector HQ. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line HQ. | S.12.B.60-65. |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " | S.12.B.60-65. |

Geo. J. Wick

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 7/3/17 to 6 a.m. 8/3/17.



Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

GENERAL.

Weather - Wind N.N.E. strong - Visibility bad.

OUR OPERATIONS

Artillery - TILL trench was shelled at 8 a.m. and 4.5 p.m. At 2.30 p.m. REINCOURT was shelled with salvos of H.E. causing a fire which burnt until 4 p.m. The BAPAUME Road near REINCOURT was shelled with shrapnel.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire was used on enemy roads and tracks. Direct fire swept enemy parapet and wire at intervals. A working party of 10 was fired on and dispersed at N.9.D.7-3.

Patrols - Three patrols were out in front of our right sector at different times during the night. The wire at N.9.D.9-1 was reported in good condition and 20 ft in depth. Sniping and flares came from an advance post at about N.9.D.2-3. BARLEY trench near ATOM trench was also examined; Picks and shovels were seen in the trench and wire was strewn about in coils in the shell holes in front of his wire. The wire in front of ATOM was in good condition and not damaged, to any extent. The enemy in TILL trench were quieter than usual. Patrols from our left sector examined the enemy wire between N.9.A.3-4 and N.9.C.6-8 and report it fairly light. Machine Gun and rifle fire was used on this patrol and some bombs were also thrown. No enemy movement was seen. Three other patrols out in front of this sector have nothing new to report.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Quieter than usual. Our front line in N.15.C and D was shelled with 77 m.m. shrapnel and H.E. occasionally during the day. STORMY trench in N.21.A and D was shelled with 5.9" and 4.2" from the direction of REINCOURT, *at 4 p.m. and during the night* ~~at 4 p.m. and during the night~~ LUISENHOF FARM and vicinity received a little shelling from the direction of REINCOURT between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. N.8.C was also shelled a little during the day.

Trench Mortars - ^{Mortars} A few light minenwerfer bombs were fired on N.15.C during the day. No damage was done.

Machine Guns - ~~xxxxxx~~ Fairly quiet.

Sniping - Active.

MOVEMENT

At 6.30 a.m. men could be seen moving in TILL trench. Smoke was also observed rising from this trench. At N.3.C.2-5 an officer wearing a steel helmet and carrying a stick was seen to double across to what appeared to be a dug-out at N.3.C.4-5. At 6 p.m. a large party of Germans was seen moving N.W. along VENUS trench. They were fired on by our Lewis Guns. They were wearing caps and dark uniforms and carrying rifles but no equipment.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A battery has been located at N.11.B.3-8. Three guns were seen firing from this place at 5.33 p.m.

SIGNALS.

Nil.

AIRCRAFT.

Nil.

(2)

MISCELLANEOUS.

At 3.5 p.m. a heavy explosion was heard to the right of BAPAUME. This was followed by smaller ones until 4 p.m. Enclosed is a discription of dud shell found.

WORKS.

Extension and deepening of TICK trench to BARLEY trench
Improvement and extension of posts in the front line.
Extension of sap from STORMY to BREAD trench.
Maintenance of tracks and railways.
Extension of dug-out a CHALK Pits.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.8-7. |
| 57th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.13.D.6-9. |
| 59th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 60th Bn. " " Right Bn. Sector HQ. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line HQ. | S.12.B.60-65. |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " " | S.12.B.60-65. |

FORECAST.

59th Bn. relieving 58th Bn. in Front Line, Left Bn. Sector on night 9th/10th inst.
58th Bn. moving to Intermediate Line.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 8/3/17 to 6 a.m. 9/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER

Wind - S.W. fresh - Visibility fair.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - Active - BAPAUME Road and the vicinity of BEAULENCOURT was shelled with shrapnel at intervals during the day.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire used on enemy tracks and C.T. Front line guns swept enemy wire and parapet at intervals. A patrol and several small working parties were dispersed during the night.

Sniping - Active

Trench Mortars - At 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. our A.L.T.M.B. fired on N.16.A.4-8 and N.16.C.4-9. 60 rounds were fired with good effect.

Patrols - Four patrols were out in front of our right sector during the night and the whole front was covered. When the wire in the sap at N.16.C.20-96 was reached by one patrol they were bombed and fired on, one man was wounded. Working and movement was heard in TILL trench in N.9.D. and a great deal of transport movement was heard on the BAPAUME Road.

Patrols were out in front of our left sector during the whole night. An old battery position was examined in N.8.B and three deep dug-outs in good order were found. These were connected by a trench. A good deal of wire was lying about. A small party was seen inside the enemy wire at approx. N.9.D.4-5 and machine guns were firing from about this position and 100 yards on either side. Transport was also heard by these patrols on main Road between BAPAUME & REINCOURT. Endeavours were made to place a L.T.M. but owing to the brightness of the night and the enemy's activity it could not be done.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Our front line was shelled at intervals during the day with 77 m.m. H.E. and shrapnel. The trench on our right sector is very accurately registered and several direct hits were made. BARLEY trench in N.7.D. was enfiladed with 5.9" from VILLERS-AU-FLOS at 9 p.m. The duckboard track in N.31.D. and N.1.B. received a good deal of attention during the afternoon with 77 m.m. shrapnel and 4.2" H.E. Several direct hits were registered. GAP trench was shelled at intervals during the afternoon with 5.9" from the direction of VILLERS-AU-FLOS. GUEUDECOURT, FLIERS and S.12.B. were also shelled a little.

MOVEMENT .

Small parties were seen along the BAPAUME Road during the day. Most of the movement was in N.11.A. (N.11.A.) At N.11.A.9-2 and along the road in this vicinity dug-outs are frequented a great deal and several times during the day movement was seen in and out of these. At 12.45 p.m. a wagon drawn by 6 horses was seen moving between the pumping station and BAPAUME. Parties were seen moving about in N.4.A and D, N.12.A, N.5.A and D. None of the parties were large but there were a considerable number of men seen in these places during the day. At 2 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. enemy patrols were seen in front of our right sector in N.16.A and N.9.D.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Suspected O.P. in house at N.32.D.2-2.
At 3.15 p.m. Railway behind REINCOURT in use
At 2.44 p.m. thick clouds of smoke were seen rising from N.5.B. Similar clouds were seen at 3.17 p.m. rising from N.5.A.

(2)

SIGNALS.

A green flare bursting into 4 green stars was fired at 5.30 p.m. The enemy opened fire a few minutes later with shrapnel on W.31.B.

AIRCRAFT.

Nil.

WORKS.

Posts in front line improved
 G.F. from W.21.A.8-6 to BARLEY trench dug 100 yards to a depth of 5 feet.
 Extension of dug-outs at CHALK Pits.
 Extension of TICK trench to BARLEY trench dug through.
 200 men employed on road to GUEDESCURT.
 Salvage, carrying parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | W.26.A.2-9. |
| 58th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 59th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | W.13.D.6-9. |
| 60th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | W.31:B.4-1. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. | S.12.B.60-65 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | " " " S.12.B.60-65 |

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence

8 a.m. 9/3/17 to 6 a.m. 10/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

GENERAL.

Wind S.W. mild. - Visibility very bad.- Heavy mist.

OUR OPERATIONS.Artillery - More active than usual.

At 3 p.m. a bombardment of TILL and ATOM trenches was carried out. REINCOURT was fired on at intervals during the day. BAPAUME Road and area N.9.D. also received attention.

Machine Guns - The usual indirect and direct fire was used on enemy tracks, parapet and wire.Patrols - Patrols were out on our front during the night. The enemy was heard working on his wire at N.9.D.3-5. Otherwise nothing unusual to report.

3

ENEMY ACTIVITY.Artillery - Active.

Our front line system received a good deal of attention from all calibres. TICK trench was shelled with 77 m.m. at 8.35 a.m. Retaliation to our bombardment at 3 p.m. was not very heavy. Our right sector received most attention. LUISENHOF FARM and FLERS were also shelled.

Trench Mortars - Some light mine-thrower bombs were fired on our lines in N.15.C. during the night. 4 landed in our trenches but the majority fell short.MOVEMENT.

At 8.15 a.m. a man was seen on top of a dug-out at N.3.C.2-5. from which smoke was coming.

At 9.45 a.m. a party of 5 walked overland to N.3.C.5-5.- they were fired on and dispersed.

Several small parties seen on BAPAUME Road at N.11.D.1-3

At 5 p.m. parties of 15 to 20 Germans seen in N.9.A. - they appeared to be changing over. Our M.G. opened fire on them but the light was very bad.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Batteries of 77 m.m. guns firing on our lines were firing from N.17.B.2-0 and from the road running from N.11.B.3-0. to N.11.B.8-6.

AIRCRAFT.

Quiet. One of our planes engaged an enemy plane at 9.30 a.m. and drove it off in a northerly direction. Another enemy plane was over our lines at 11.35 a.m.

WORKS.

TICK trench widened and improved and 3 shelters constructed BARLEY trench dug for 150 yards to connect with EGG Sap. 70 yards to be dug to complete.

Extension of dug-out in CHALK Pits.

200 men employed in constructing road to GUEINDECOURT
Salvage and maintenance parties supplied.DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.3-7. |
| 57th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-3. |
| 58th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 59th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.13.D.8-9. |
| 60th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. | S.12.B.40-45. |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | " " " " |

FORECAST.60th Bn. relieving 57th Bn. in Front line, Right Bn. Sectors on night 11th/12th inst.
57th Bn. moving to Intermediate Line.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence

6 a.m. 10/3/17 to 6 a.m. 11/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.WEATHER.

Wind South - fresh. Visibility good.

GENERAL.Our Operations.

Artillery - Fairly quiet on our front, the Sunken Road in N.3.B. and H.33.D., trench in H.34.C. and REINCOURT were shelled at intervals.

Machine Guns - The usual indirect fire was used. The enemy parapet and wire was swept with bursts.

Trench Mortars - Our A.L.T.M.B. fired on ATOM trench H.18.A.4-0. with good effect.

Patrols - Our right sector patrols were out from 8 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. They report the enemy quiet in N.9.D; no movement was heard there and very few flares were fired. Our left sector patrols were out from 11 p.m. until 2 a.m. One patrol which reached H.9.A.2-3 was fired on by 6 rifles and took cover for an hour during this time a machine gun or machine guns fired from 3 different places between H.9.A.6-3 and N.9.C.8-8. A minenwerfer could be heard firing on posts round THILLOY but this mortar could not be accurately placed.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Not so active as usual. TICK trench, BARLEY trench and LUISEHOF FARM were fired on occasionally during the day with 77 m.m.

FLERS and T.1.A. and B were shelled throughout the day with 5.9" and 4.2" H.E.

Areas T.1.A. and B, N.31.B and GUEUDEGOURT received an occasional shell.

Trench Mortars - A few light minenwerfer were fired in N.15.B. but no damage was done.

Machine Guns - Very active - Particular attention was paid to dug-outs in BARLEY trench.

Patrols - An enemy patrol of about 9 or 10 were seen at 4.30 a.m. this morning; they were in extended order with two scouts out in front. They were in N.22.A; a volley was fired at them and shortly afterwards the party were seen running across the sky line. A party was sent out to reconnoitre the ground but no sign of the enemy could be seen.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Trench Mortars fired from approx. N.3.C.5-5. There appears to be 5 different mortars here as five distinct reports in quick succession were heard. These mortars fire on and in front of THILLOY.

A trench mortar firing from approx. N.9.D.8-2 fires on our lines in N.15.A.

MOVEMENT.

Owing to heavy mist movement could not be seen.

SIGNALS.

Nil.

AIRCRAFT.

Nil.

WORKS.

130 yards of sap from STORMY to BARLEY trench dug 4'9" x 4'6" x 2'0".

160 yards of trench 3' x 4' dug from junction of EGG and BARLEY trench west.

TICK trench deepened and improved. 30 yards of fire-stepping done and one shelter erected.

Extension and maintenance of Decauville Railway.
 Extension and improvement of dug-outs at CHALK Pits
 and BULL'S ROAD.
 Building road to GUEUDECOURT.
 Salvage and maintenance parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 58th Bn. Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector | |
| 59th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.13.D.8-9. |
| 60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 15th M.F. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. | S.12.B.60-65 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | " " " " |

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 11/3/17 to 6 a.m. 12/3/17.



Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER.

Wind S.S.W. strong - Visibility good.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - At 12 noon a bombardment of TILL and ATOM trenches in N.9 and N.16 took place. This bombardment lasted for 20 minutes and was well placed most of the shots bursting on the wire and in the trenches. The Pumping Station and REINCOURT were shelled during the day. Shrapnel was fired by our long range guns in N.34 A&C.

Machine Guns - Indirect fire was carried out on an extensive scale on enemy tracks and C.T. TILL trench was swept with occasional bursts of fire. A working party was dispersed during the night. A casualty is claimed by Lewis Guns at N.9.A.5-4.

Sniping - Quiet. Targets are scarce.

Patrols - Two patrols of 1 Officer and 7 other ranks were out in front of our right sector during the night. There was nothing unusual to report.

Patrols in front of our ~~right~~ left sector reached N.9.C.7-8 report M.G. fire and flares much quieter than on the previous night. This patrol was sniped at. A tape was run from TICK trench to N.15.C.9-9.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Very active throughout the day. At 12.10 p.m. the enemy retaliated to our bombardment by shelling ~~the~~ NO MAN'S LAND with 77 m.m. and 5.9". N.32.B. and D and N.33.C. was heavily shelled with 5.9". TICK trench and the road from Factory Corner to LUISENHOF Farm was shelled from direction of REINCOURT at intervals during the day and night. LE BARQUE and LIGNY THILLOY was heavily shelled with 5.9" between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. At 5.5 p.m. dug-outs in N.31.B. and the East side of FLERS was heavily shelled with 5.9" and 8.3". A good deal of damage was done round the dug-outs and some casualties caused. The direction from which the shelling came could not be ascertained as the reports of the guns could not be heard. POSSUM trench, PILGRIMS Way, GRASS Lane, GAP trench, GUEUDECOURT and N.27.C were also shelled occasionally during the day.

Trench Mortars - The enemy were very active with light minenwerfer in N.15.C. They appeared to be firing from N.16.A.2-9.

Machine Guns - Quieter than usual. Occasional bursts were fired round dug-outs in BARLEY trench.

Sniping - Active - One casualty caused.

Patrols - None were seen during the night.

MOVEMENT.

A good deal of movement was seen in N.12.A. and D where the enemy were seen working on wire. A number of small parties were seen in N.4. B. near the reservoir and on the BAPAUME road. At 1.42 p.m. 3 men were seen riding horses in N.6.D.5-3. At 2.15 p.m. a party of about 20 men were seen near the Pumping Station on the BAPAUME road. The artillery were informed and the party disappeared.

(2)

AIRCRAFT.

Very Active on both sides.
 One of our planes and an enemy planes were seen to fall during the morning. Both came down out of our sector one near BAUCOURT L'ABBEY and the enemy plane near BAPAUME. Several indecisive combats took place. Enemy Observation balloons were up over GREVILLERS and VILLERS-AU-FLOS between BAUCOURT and REINCOURT.

SIGNALS.

Flares were less numerous than usual.

WORKS.

Improvement and extension of posts in BARLEY trench.
 75 yards excavation of BARLEY trench to meet EGG Sap.
 Firestepping and ammunition recesses made at intervals.
 Sap from STORMY trench to BARLEY trench dug out 130 yds.
 Extension and maintenance of Decauville Railway.
 Construction of road to GUEUDECOURT.
 Salvage and maintenance parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7 |
| 57th Bn. Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1 |
| 58th Bn. " " Left Bn. Sector | |
| 59th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.13.D.6-9 |
| 60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9 |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. | S.12.B.60-6 |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " | " |

FORECAST.

58th Bn. relieving 59th Bn. in Front Line, Left Bn. Sector on night 13th/14th inst.
 59th Bn. moving to Intermediate Line.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 12/3/17 to 6 a.m. 13/3/17.



Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER.

Wind S.W. mild - Visibility poor.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - At 4.25 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. TILL trench was shelled with 16 pounders. BAPAUME and REINCOURT were shelled at intervals during the day. The BAPAUME Road and VENUS trench received a little shelling.

Machine Guns - Front line guns were used to sweep enemy wire and parapet. Indirect fire was used on cross roads at H.3.C.5-0. and TILL support trench. A party of five were dispersed by our Lewis Guns.

Sniping - quiet.

Patrols - Right Sector.

One patrol of 1 officer and 10 other ranks inspected wire from H.9.C.9-8 to H.9.D.0-4. The wire is very thick - from 20' to 25', and there were no gaps in it.

A listening post at H.9.D.1-8 was examined and wire leading back to the trench cut. No flares were being fired from TILL trench but from somewhere in rear.

The line appeared to be thinly held.

This patrol was out from 9 p.m. until 11.45 p.m.

Another patrol of the same strength was out from 11 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. but report nothing of importance.

Two smaller patrols were also out.

Left sector -

A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men left our lines at 7 p.m. and reached the enemy wire at H.9.A.4-5. Moving N.W. a gap was found but when the patrol attempted to pass through a number of flares were fired towards them and they were sniped at. Machine Guns were much quieter than usual. There was a good deal of sniping. The patrol returned at 10.30 p.m.

At 11.30 p.m. a patrol of 1 Officer and 7 other ranks left our lines and proceeded as far as the enemy wire at H.9.A.35-30. Hammering was heard in the trench and coughing was heard from 5 different places. The wire is reported strong although a little damaged in places. No movement was seen in rear of the trench.

Patrol returned at 2.30 a.m.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Active - Our front line in H.15.C and D. was shelled with 77 m.m. at intervals during the day.

LUISENHOF FARM was shelled with 77 m.m. between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. In reply to our bombardment at 4.30 p.m. the enemy distributed fire along the whole of our front line and STORMY trench in H.21.B. 77 m.m., 4.2" and 5.9" were used. This fire ceased 5 minutes after our bombardment, stopped. At 6.30 p.m. H.21.B. was shelled with H.E. and shrapnel from N of REINCOURT.

GUEUDECOURT, H.31.B. and FLERS were shelled occasionally during the day with 5.9" H.E.

Machine Guns - Our front line was not swept quite as much as usual. Indirect fire was used on road between LUISENHOF FARM and LIGNY THILLOY.

Trench Mortars - Four were again heard firing from approx. H.3.C.5-5 into THILLOY.

(2)

APPENDIX

40 light minenwerfer bombs were fired in N.15.D. from about N.16.A.2-8½. No damage was done.

Sniping - Active.

Patrols - At 2 a.m. an enemy patrol of 10 men were seen in N.22.A. Fire was opened and one man was seen to fall and distinctly heard to groan. The remainder of the patrol quickly returned to ATOM trenches.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A battery was located firing from a bearing of 59° 40' true from N.15.D.2-6.

At 11.20 a.m. clouds of white and brown smoke were seen rising from N.27.A. One of our planes came back from that direction at the same time.

At 12.6 p.m. smoke rose from H.28.A. this continued until 12.30 p.m. This may have been a dump as puffs such as are caused by an explosion were seen.

At 12.40 p.m. smoke was rising from rear of BEAULENCOURT cause unknown.

At 3.20 p.m. a train was seen to enter BAPAUME from the direction of REINCOURT.

MOVEMENT.

Small parties were seen during the whole day in N.12.A., B and D. A little movement was seen in N.4.B and C.

Between 6.30 and 7 a.m. small parties were seen in N.16 Central when fired on they took cover.

At 5.30 p.m. a party of 10 were seen walking towards the Reservoir on the BAPAUME road where they disappeared. They were in fatigue dress.

At 8.30 a.m. at N.6.D.2-1 3 men on horseback were seen. They dismounted at N.12.C. and walked about.

They then mounted and rode towards BANCOURT.

At 10.10 a.m. a transport wagon was seen in N.6.D. It was drawn by 2 horses. It disappeared in the trees around VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

At 10.20 a.m. 8 transport wagons were seen in N.6.D. They were moving in the direction of BANCOURT.

At 12.3 p.m. and 1.58 p.m. 1 wagon was seen in the same place.

AIRCRAFT.

At 10 a.m. 3 enemy planes were seen manoeuvring over his own lines.

At 9 a.m. 5 of our planes were up, and during the whole morning our planes were flying over our lines.

WORKS.

Building road to GUEUDECOURT.

Extension of Decauville Railway.

Connecting up BARLEY trench 100 yards completed 35 yards dug 3' x 4'. Posts improved and shelters erected.

Sap from N.21.A.9-6 to N.15.D.3-8. 120 yards dug 4'6" x 1'9".

Salvage, maintenance and deep dug-out parties supplied.

DISPOSITIONS.

15th Brigade H.Q.

57th Bn. (less 1 Coy.) PERTH Camp) Intermediate Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. N.31.B.4-1.

58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. N.13.D.6-9.

59th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH Camp) Intermediate Line, Left Bn. Sector

60th Bn. Front line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. N.26.A.2-9.

15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line HQ. S.12.B.60-65

15th A.L.T.M.B. " " "

R. G. Kendall
Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 13/3/17 to 6 a.m. 14/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER.

Wind S.W. fresh - Visibility poor.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - Active during the day.
ATOM trench, REINCOURT and BAPAUME were shelled at intervals. Our long range guns were very active between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Machine Guns - Our front line guns swept the enemy parapet and wire. Indirect fire was used on TILL trench from N.3.C.0-9 to N.3.C.4-4 and also on road N.3.C.7-3 to N.3.C.9-9.

A party of 8 were fired on early this morning at N.9.C.8-5. Several casualties are claimed.

Sniping - Quiet

Patrols - Three patrols were out in front of our right sector during the night. The wire was inspected at N.9.C.9-7 and N.22.A.8-9. The wire in both places was in good condition. At N.22.A.8-9 the trench appears to be strongly held. No enemy patrols were seen. A patrol on our left sector reached N.9.A.1-5 where they were directly in front of an enemy post. Talking was heard and the post was visited by an officer or N.C.O. Another post was heard about 60 yards S.E. There was some sniping and bomb throwing. The trench appeared to be strongly manned by a series of strong posts. This patrol was out from 2.30 a.m. until 5 a.m. Other patrols out in front of this sector report TILL trench still occupied.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Active.

Between 8.30 a.m. and 8.50 a.m. N.27.C. was shelled with 5.9" from the direction of BAPAUME.

At 11 a.m. the enemy shelled NO MAN'S LAND in N.9.C. with 77 m.m. H.E. and shrapnel.

MILKY WAY was shelled at 12 noon with 5.9" a little damage was done to a post at N.15.D.6-7.

N.31.B and D, FLERS and GUEUDECOURT were intermittently shelled during the day chiefly with 5.9" from BAPAUME and VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

Between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. N.15.D and N.21.B was shelled with 5.9".

At 10 p.m. N.14.B. was suddenly bombarded for two minutes with H.E. and shrapnel.

Trench Mortars - A number of light minenwerfers were fired in N.15.D. during the day but no damage was done. There were a number of duds.

Machine Guns - Active - BARLEY trench was swept at intervals. PORK and STORMY trench were also swept. Indirect fire was used on road N.20.B. N.21 A.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A 4.2" howitzer battery which has been active on our front during the day was firing from a bearing (70° true) from N.15.D.7-2.

Machine Gun firing from approx. N.16.C.8-3.

Suspected O.P. at N.11 Central. Observer can be seen up a tree on the BAPAUME Road.



(2)

MOVEMENT.

At 6.30 a.m. several men were seen jumping from shell hole to shell hole at N.16.C.8-2. They were fired on. At noon a truck with a white flag was pushed along at N.9.D.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 apparently with wounded men on it.

SIGNALS.

At 4.15 a.m. a number of green flares were fired when enemy shells were dropping short. No alteration took place in enemy range. A number of flares bursting into two green stars were then fired and shelling ceased. At 10 p.m. the enemy sent up a rocket which burst into 3 red stars, 4 salvos of 77 m.m. shrapnel were immediately fired.

AIRCRAFT.

Our planes were up at 3.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. At 6 p.m. three of our planes were flying up and down over the enemy lines.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An enemy sniper was shot between his wire and parapet at N.9.D.9- $\frac{1}{2}$ at 7 a.m. this morning. Stretcher bearers came out with a white flag and carried him in.

WORKS.

Connecting up posts in BARLEY trench 60 yards of trench dug to a depth of 2ft.
Improving posts along the front and support lines building latrines and removing wire from rear of trench. 180 yards of BEL Alley completed.
Extension of Decauville Railway.
Building road to GUEUDECOURT.
Salvage and maintenance of duckboard walks.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | S.12.B.6-7. |
| 57th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH Camp) Intermediate Line | |
| Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.31.B.4-1. |
| 58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.13.D.6-9. |
| 59th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH Camp) Intermediate Line | |
| Left Bn. Sector H.Q. | |
| 60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. | N.26.A.2-9. |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. | S.12.B.60-65. |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. | " " " " |

R. G. Green Capt

MAJOR
BDE MAJOR
15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 14/3/17 to 6 a.m. 15/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.F.S.W..

WEATHER.

Wind North fresh - Visibility poor

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - Our Artillery activity was above normal. TILL trench, H.32.D., BAPAUME and main BEAULENCOURT - BAPAUME road being heavily shelled during the day.

Machine Guns - Quiet owing to patrols. indirect fire used on enemy rear communications.

Sniping - Active during day.

Patrols - At 11.40 p.m. two reconnoitring patrols each followed by 2 platoons left our right sector.

No.1 Party - The reconnoitring patrol found the wire at N.16.C.7-2 cut very well and entered ATOM trench which was deep in mud at this point. 30 yards to the right there was a M.G. firing bursts and 30 yards to the left there was an infantry post which was firing flares. This patrol got out of the trench again and reconnoitred the trench from outside the wire for 150 yards on either side of N.16.C.7-2. The trench was held by a series of posts which were about 60 yards apart. The patrol was ordered to withdraw at 2.15 a.m.

No.2 Party - The reconnoitring patrol for this party reached the enemy wire at N.16.A.0-9. The wire was not cut and was strong, deep, and in good condition. The enemy M.G. were very active. A reconnaissance was made for 150 yards to the right and 200 yards to the left but there were no openings in the wire. M.G. fire was too severe to successfully cut the wire with wire cutters. The enemy were heard talking in their trench which appeared to be normally held. At 3.40 a.m. this party was ordered to return. No casualties occurred in either party. The ground covered was in a very bad condition. TILL and ATOM trenches are held by a series of strong posts with numerous Machine Guns.

Left Sector - At 11.30 p.m. two parties each of 2 Officers and 30 other ranks left TICK and BARLEY trench.

No.1 Party - After leaving TICK trench the party proceeded to the Sunken Road in H.9.C. where it formed up. Small reconnoitring patrols went forward from here and found the enemy wire strong and no openings could be found. The M.G. fire was heavy. Several determined attempts were made to find gaps in the wire but without success. A patrol of 2 Officers and 12 other ranks proceeded along the BEAULENCOURT road to N.9.D.25-30 but could get no further owing to the number of flares and the enemy wire.

No.2 Party - Formed up on the BEAULENCOURT Road in H.8.B. Patrols which were sent forward to the enemy wire from here were driven back by M.G. fire suffering casualties. Both parties returned to our lines at 5 a.m. The enemy line was held by a series of posts and several Machine Guns.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Active - Our front line was shelled at intervals during the day with 77 m.m. and a few 5.9" from the direction of REINCOURT. STORMY and PORK trenches were also shelled at intervals. BULL'S ROAD, N.31.B. and FLERS were intermittently shelled with 5.9" H.E. throughout the day.

This shelling came from the direction of BANCOURT and VILLERS-AU-FLOS. GUEUDECOURT was shelled occasionally with 77 m.m. and 4.2". SWITCH trench in T.1.C. was shelled at 3 p.m.

Machine Guns - Very active.

Patrols - Nil.

MOVEMENT.

At 10.30 a.m. parties of men carrying tools came from BAPAUME and disappeared near the reservoir in N.4.B. A small party was seen at this time in VENUS trench and fired on by our Lewis guns.

Parties were seen during the day working on the wire in front of the VILLERS-AU-FLOS line in N.18.

At 4 p.m. a waggon was seen at N.12.A. It moved in a N.W. direction and disappeared behind some trees.

At 11.5 a.m. smoke coming from a train was seen in N.5.D. The train appeared to be moving in the direction of BANCOURT.

Smoke rose in large volumes from BAPAUME at 1.20 p.m., 2.15 p.m., and 3.55 p.m. It appeared to come from N.33.A. and B.

A party of 6 were seen to enter TILL trench at N.9.A.4-5. at 7 a.m.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

At 7.45 a.m. three explosions were heard in enemy lines in N.9.A. and N.9.C.

AIRCRAFT.

At 5.30 p.m. an enemy balloon was up between BANCOURT and VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

SIGNALS.

Enemy used a large number of flares during the night.

WORKS.

Building road to GUEUDECOURT.
Extension of Decauville Railway.
Extension of dug-outs at Chalk Pits.
Salvage and maintenance work.

DISPOSITIONS.

15th Brigade H.Q. S.12.B.6-7.
57th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH CAMP) Intermediate Line
Right Bn. Sector H. Q. N.31.B.4-1.
58th Bn. (Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. N.13.D.85-90.
59th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH CAMP) Intermediate Line
Left Bn. Sector
60th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. N.26.A.2-9.
15th M.B. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line H.Q. S.12.B.60-65.
15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " " " "

Robert R
MAJOR
BDE. MAJOR
15th AUS. INF. BRIGADE

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 15/3/17 to 6 a.m. 16/3/17.



Reference Map 57 C.S.W.

WEATHER.

Wind Nil. foggy - Visibility bad.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - TILL and ATOM trenches were shelled by our 18 pounders a good deal during the day. REINCOURT and BAPAUME were shelled by our heavies.

Machine Guns - Favourable targets were fired on by our M.G. A sniper in a tree at N.9.A.2-5 was fired on at 2.30 p.m. and seen to fall.

At 5 p.m. a large party was seen coming towards TILL trench along the road running from N.3.Central to N.3.C.6-3. It was fired on and 7 casualties were observed.

Sniping - Our snipers were alert but few targets presented themselves.

Patrols -

Right Sector - Four strong patrols of about 30 men each left our right sector and were in position at Zero. Their objectives were No.1 ATOM trench at N.16.C.85-00, No.2 ATOM trench at N.16.C.6-7, No.3. TILL trench at N.16.A.2-3, No.4 TILL trench at N.9.D.9-1. In each case the main patrol was preceded by a small reconnoitring patrol of bombers. Opposition was met with in every case in the shape of machine gun fire and rifle fire. There was also some bombing. No gaps in the wire were found although it was examined for a good distance on either side of the objectives. Seven casualties were sustained. There were no indications of the enemy having weakened his line.

The patrols were out from 12 midnight until 5 a.m. and during that time there was no falling off in the volume of the enemy fire. Considerable use was made of flares. Left Sector - Two patrols of 2 Officers and 60 other ranks each went out from our left sector and were in position at midnight. Although 12 different patrols examined the wire closely over the whole front ~~but~~ could find no gap. Enemy snipers were very active and machine guns were also firing consistently causing 4 casualties.

A trench mortar which was firing from approx. N.9.A.2-8 into THILLOY. At 3.30 a.m. after every effort to penetrate the enemy line had been made without success the patrols were ordered to withdraw.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Our front line was intermittently shelled during the day with 77 m.m. H.E. and shrapnel.

At 5 p.m. STORMY trench was shelled with 77 m.m. shrapnel from the direction of REINCOURT.

Between 11.25 a.m. and 12.45 p.m. N.26.C. was shelled with 4.2" H.E. from VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

From 1.25 p.m. until 6.20 p.m. FLERS and battery in T.1.A. were shelled with 5.9" and 8.3" from the direction of O.1.

GUEUDECOURT, T.1.D., and GAP trench were also occasionally shelled during the afternoon.

Machine Guns - Very active during the night.

Sniping - Normal.

MOVEMENT.

Small parties were seen working throughout the day on a sap in N.4.B. near the reservoir.

A good deal of movement was also seen in N.12.A. and D. and N.5.D.

(2)

The usual small parties were seen on the BAPAUME road between BEULENCOURT and REINCOURT. Our patrols heard transport movement on the BAPAUME road between 12 midnight and 3.30 a.m. A train was also heard.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A large fire was seen in BAPAUME at 3.30 p.m. Smoke was seen rising from N.6.A.6-7 at 1.20 p.m.; H.35.D. at 2.4 p.m. and REINCOURT and BEULENCOURT at 3.15 p.m.

AIRCRAFT.

At 11.30 a.m. a contact patrol flew over our lines and TILL trench continuously blowing his Klaxon horn. Enemy planes were flying over our lines at 2.55 p.m., over T.8.A., 3.5 p.m., over FLERS, 3.10 p.m., and 4.25 p.m. over LESBOUEFS, 4.10 p.m. over GINCHY, at 4.30 p.m. a hostile balloon was up in rear of BAPAUME.

WORKS.

Extension of Decauville Railways.
Construction of road to GUEUDECOURT.
Extension of dug-guts at Chalk Cliffs.
130 yards of EEL alley dug.
Maintenance of tracks and salvage work.

DISPOSITIONS.

15th Brigade H.Q. . S.12.B.6-7.
57th Bn. Front Line, Right Bn. Sector H.Q. N.26.A.2-9.
58th Bn. Front Line, Left Bn. Sector H.Q. N.13.D.65-90.
59th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH CAMP) Intermediate Line
Left Bn. Sector
60th Bn. (less 1 Coy. PERTH CAMP) Intermediate Line
Right Bn. Sector H.Q. N.32.B.4-1.
15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line HQ. S.12.B.64-65.
15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " S.12.B.60-65.

FORECAST.

59th Bn. relieving 58th Bn. in Front Line, Left Bn. Sector on night 17th/18th inst.
58th Bn. moving to Intermediate Line. (1 Coy. to PERTH CAMP)

Robert Street
MAJOR
BDE. MAJ.
152ND AUS. INF. BRIG.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 16/3/17 to 6 a.m. 17/3/17.

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Reference Map-LE BARQUE.WEATHER.

Wind S.W. mild - Weather fine, slight haze -
Visibility moderate.

GENERAL.OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery - Our artillery was fairly active during the day firing chiefly on TILL trench.

Machine Guns - Active & sweeping enemy parapet and tracks.

Patrols -

Right Sector - At 6 a.m., 16/3/17 a patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men left our lines and reached N.15.B.9-9 and then moved N.W. to N.9.D.60-15. The enemy were very quiet but the wire in this part was very thick. This patrol returned at 8.45 a.m.

At 8.30 p.m. 1 Officer and 6 men proceeded to inspect the enemy trench at N.16.A.0-9 where they found it occupied and the wire strong. This patrol was bombed. The trench was then occupied by posts approx. 60 yards apart.

At 12.30 p.m. 3 strong patrols of 1 Officer and 20 men each left our lines with their objectives N.16.C.7-1, N.16.A.2-3 and N.15.B.9-9. All patrols found the enemy trench occupied and failed to find any gap in the wire. The centre patrol was fired on by a machine gun and bombs were exchanged. These patrols returned at 3 a.m.

At 3.20 a.m. 2 patrols of 1 Officer and 20 men each left our lines, established advanced posts at N.9.D.2-1 and N.15.B.5-4.

Left Sector - At 7 p.m. patrols were out to inspect TILL trench which they found to be occupied as usual and the wire intact. The patrols returned and the artillery was put on to the wire which they fired on for an hour.

At 1.30 a.m. 3 strong patrols went out from our lines. Their objectives were N.9.A.4-7, N.9.C.5-4 and N.9.C.7-5. Flares were frequent but M.G. fire gradually slackened. At daybreak 1 officer and 9 men entered TILL trench at N.9.A.9-4 and reported the trench evacuated.

4 Platoons were then sent to occupy the trench and patrols pushed forward to keep in touch with the enemy movements. These reached the line of the BAPAUME-PERONNE road without opposition.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Quiet during the day. Occasional bursts were fired on our front line system from the direction of REINCOURT. At 10.15 a.m. THILLOY was shelled with 5.9". The rear area was only lightly shelled. GUEUDECOURT and N.26.C received a little shelling.

Machine Guns - Enemy M.G. were active until 1.30 a.m. when they gradually quietened.

Sniping - ActiveMOVEMENT.

At 12.45 a.m. 6 Germans were seen by our patrols walking in rear of TILL trench in N.9.A. I (one) was carrying a jar and the others were carrying sand bags slung over their shoulders.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Numerous fires were seen burning in BAPAUME and VILLERS-AU-FLOS.

SIGNALS.

Flares were extensively used during the night.

AIRCRAFT.

Both sides were very active during the day.
The enemy made several excursions over our lines.

WORKS.

Extension of Decauville Railways.
Building new road to GUEUDECOURT.
135 yards of trench dug in N.14.B.
Extension of dug-out at CHALK Cliffs.
Maintenance and salvage work.

BISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. | N.27.A.8-2. CHALK Pits. |
| 57th Bn. Support Line | -BARLEY & PORK trenches |
| 58th Bn. " " " " | " " " " |
| 59th Bn. Front Line System | |
| 60th Bn. POSSUM RESERVE and SWITCH trench. | |
| 15th M.G. Coy. Front & Intermediate Line | |
| 15th A.L.T.M.B. " " " | |

Geo. F. Wickett

Major.
Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Bde.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 17/3/17 to 6 a.m. 18/3/17.

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Reference Map 57 C.S.W.
57 C.N.W.

WEATHER. Wind. West. - Visibility good.

GENERAL. OUR OPERATIONS.
Artillery - Our Artillery quiet during period.
A little shelling was directed in rear of REINCOURT.

Machine Guns - Inactive.

Sniping - Nil.

Patrols - Our patrols were very active. At 5.45 a.m. two patrols moved out in the direction of N.10.D. Central thence on to BAPAUME - BEAULENCOURT road at N.11 Central. The patrols remained in these positions until 1.15 p.m. when the Battalion moved up, established itself in the REINCOURT - BAPAUME line of trenches from N.12.A.1-2 to N.5.A.2-5. Patrols were again pushed forward from this line but enemy could not be located, though snipers were active from vicinity of BANCOURT.

A standing patrol of 1 Officer and 20 other ranks moved forward at 12.15 a.m. and took up position at N.6.A.4-5. No signs of enemy was seen.

At 12.10 a.m. a patrol of 1 Officer and 12 other ranks moved forward from N.11.B.25-95 to BANCOURT. This patrol thoroughly searched the defences and village but no enemy could be located.

A mounted patrol of 1 Officer and 7 O.R. examined road to FREMICOURT.

ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery - Enemy shelled our new line of advance with occasional bursts of 4.2" shrapnel.

Machine Guns - A few scattered bursts up to midnight then quiet.

Sniping - Occasional shots during morning.

Patrols - Nil.

AIRCRAFT. Active on both sides, two indecisive combats being fought.

MISCELLANEOUS. At 1 p.m. large fires were observed burning in the vicinity of FREMICOURT also loud explosions heard and about 15 large clouds of smoke were observed.

NOTE:- Attached are papers found in enemy line.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 15th Brigade H.Q. |) | |
| 59th Battalion |) | Moving with vanguard |
| 60th Battalion |) | and Mainguard. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ - 15th M.G. Coy. |) | |
| Staff Captain - BULLS ROAD. | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 57th Battalion |) | |
| 58th Battalion |) | Divisional Reserve |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ - 15th M.G. Coy. |) | POSSUM RESERVE and |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ - 15th A.L.T.M.B.) |) | SWITCH TRENCH. |

A. Lovell
Brig-General.
Commanding 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.

BEAUMETZ-lez-CAMBRAI.

282
 Details of its capture by the 15th Infantry Brigade A.I.F. and subsequent hostile attempts to retake it.

Reference - Sheet 57 C 1/40000.
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On the 19th March 1917 our outposts were established on the line BEUGNY-LEBUCQUIERE-VELU. Our right flank was much exposed owing to the slow advance of the Division on our right.

The advance was continued at 11 a.m. on 20th March and to the 60th Battalion, operating south of the BAPAUME-CAMBRAI Road (exclusive) fell the task of taking BEAUMETZ.

Two Companies (each about 140 rifles) in artillery formation covered by a screen of patrols, advanced from LEBUCQUIERE directly against BEAUMETZ; One Company occupied VELU WOOD as a Right Flank Guard, and one Company was in Reserve. A 13th Light Horse observation post was stationed on the ridge in J.32.D.

When the patrols arrived within 1000 yards of the village they came under brisk ~~rifle~~ fire from two Machine Guns and from 90 to 100 rifles most of which appeared to be posted in three short trenches 100 yards from the village on the western side. At the same time our Light Horse patrols on the BERTINCOURT Ridge were shelled by hostile field guns.

At 1 p.m. the hostile fire was very intense and our patrols were forced to halt 500 yards from the village. The enveloping tactics found successful against other villages were adopted and leaving the chain of patrols to contain the hostile posts the Company Commanders, taking advantage of undulations, moved up on the flanks of the village at a distance of 800/900 yards and as they proceeded, establishing posts to keep connection. The Reserve Company moved up and occupied the Central position in support of the chain of patrols.

The intention was, if possible, to capture the garrison rather than drive him out, therefore, the operation was permitted to develop without undue haste.

At 3.30 p.m. this movement had made good progress and the 4th Battery A.F.A. directed effective fire on the village with the result that the enemy attempted to withdraw under difficult conditions.

At 4.30 p.m. when we had practically surrounded BEAUMETZ our Light Horse Observation Post (specially posted to watch this flank) reported a strong hostile counter-attack developing along the railway line from the direction of HERMIES. A reconnaissance reported the enemy to be from 300-400 strong and within easy reach of a position from which he could attack our right Company in reverse. The position was serious for on the one hand there were no formed bodies of Infantry to meet this attack and on the other hand the enemy was still resisting within BEAUMETZ. The mist prevented the Artillery from locating the advancing enemy and interfered with communications.

The Senior Infantry Officer cleverly withdrew his enveloping Companies and established a line along the western edge of the village.

By 7 a.m. on 21st March our Field Artillery had been brought up to close range and under cover of its fire the enveloping movement was again launched and, profiting from the knowledge of the ground gained on the previous day, moved so rapidly that the enemy scattered and retreated in disorder. By 7.30 a.m. we were consolidating the position.

FIRST COUNTER-ATTACK - 23rd March.

After BEAUMETZ was captured its Eastern edge was incorporated in our outpost line. One outpost Company held the line from J.13.A.7-7, along the edge of the village to J.20.A.8-5; another Company extended the line from J.20.A.8-5 to VELU WOOD. One Company was in support in BEAUMETZ and another in LEBUCQUIERE.

The outpost line consisted of platoon picquets with sentry groups thrown forward. Owing to the misty weather active patrolling was necessary.

At 4.30 a.m. (winter time) ^{on 23rd March} the enemy opened a vigorous bombardment against BEAUMETZ. This fire was to some extent a surprise for the night had been fairly quiet. At 4.45 a.m. under cover of a thick mist the enemy approached our line in 3 columns, separated from each other by about 1000 yards. The Germans were specially trained men of STURM-TRUPPEN-; they were lightly equipped and carried the Cavalry Carbine and bayonet as well as bombs. The left column came into contact with the right Company of the Battalion NORTH of the road but owing to the

measures taken by the latter when the bombardment commenced the Germans were attacked with Mills grenades and Lewis Guns and quickly defeated.

The centre column appears to have waited for the development of the right column's attack and did not act vigorously.

The right column (300 strong) evidently passed between the flanks of the Companies at J.20.A.8-5 and was not seen until it reached the rear of the village. Here its sudden appearance caused much confusion and the Support Company in BEAUMETZ had to rally on the NORTHERN edge of the village where it was joined by the elements of the outpost Company.

The right support Company of the left Battalion, having ascertained the situation by an officers patrol launched a vigorous counter-attack from CHAUFORS WOOD obliquely against the Germans who were still disorganised by their own advance and with the Lewis Guns well in front soon drove the enemy out of our position. As the disorganised German troops fled from the village they came under the cross-fire of two of our Vickers Guns which had been placed in anticipation when the N.C.O's judged the fight to be progressing in our favour.

At 6.30 a.m. the position had been entirely restored.

The success of our troops was due largely to the initiative of the Company Commander who delivered such an effective counter-attack outside of his own Battalion sector. The action illustrated the ease with which, under certain conditions such as weather and knowledge of the ground, the enemy can penetrate an outpost line. In this case our patrols were active close to and on our line but not well out in front (the mist was very thick and some of the patrols would certainly have lost themselves).

SECOND COUNTER-ATTACK - 24th March.

Our line was approximately the same as on the 23rd but the incoming fresh Battalion had advanced the posts, after dusk, to 300 yards in advance of the buildings.

At 3 a.m. 25th March a heavy bombardment opened, not on BEAUMETZ alone as was the case on 23rd March, but also on LEBUCQUIERE, our gun positions, and on certain points in our front line such as Sunken roads, cross roads (we learned to keep away from these later) etc.

At 4 a.m. a party of 50 attacked our posts in front of BEAUMETZ - these posts fell back on the picquets. A few minutes later a body of 300 Germans attacked the NORTH EAST corner of BEAUMETZ and two picquets were driven in. Our Support Company which was standing to arms having ascertained the position attacked the enemy who resisted strongly but had to retire. Our Vickers Gunners acting under previous instructions had two guns waiting and inflicted heavy loss.

The enemy left a few snipers in the last house of the village and before they could be located they caused us eight casualties. Our Artillery was acquainted with the position and the house was demolished.

These attacks were delivered by the enemy with specially trained troops brought from a distance and were carried out with energy. It is likely that German night attacks will nearly always be carried out by specially trained troops and the need for good organisation of our outpost lines is apparent.

The following is an instance of what might be done by a careful picquet Commander.

After the second attack it was noticed that the enemy used certain sunken roads on both occasions. These were at once blocked with wire obstacles and a Lewis Gun posted to cover the obstacles; had the precautions been taken in time the enemy's attempts might have been still more disastrous to him.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 24/3/17 to 6 a.m. 25/3/17.

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25th March 1917

Reference Map 57 C.

OUR OPERATIONS.

At 4 p.m. a line J.20.Central - J.26.D.3-2 and J.32.A.1-7 was attacked by the 59th Battalion. The enemy about 150 strong fled without putting up any opposition. The line was captured and consolidated. The enemy in their flight were caught by our artillery and M.G. fire and very few reached their lines.

At 9 p.m. 2 platoons of the 57th Battalion attacked the Farm on the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI Road - J.8.C.7-5. No opposition was met with and the Farm is now occupied by us. The 58th Battalion moved up to a line along the road J.7.A and B, J.8.C. without opposition.

Artillery - Our Artillery very successfully co-operated with the attack at 4 p.m. HERMIES, DOIGNIES and the Farm at J.8.C. were fired on during the day. Several parties of the enemy were seen in the open near HERMIES and dispersed.

Machine Guns and Snipers - Very Active.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Attack - At 4 a.m. the enemy attacked BEAUMETZ with 4 Companies of the 95th I.R. and 50 Sturmtrupp. The attacking force was divided into 2 parties and attacked on both flanks of the village. A temporary lodgement was made in the North outskirts but was promptly driven out. The attack on the S.E. flank was stopped before reaching our lines. The enemy suffered heavily. Five unwounded and two wounded prisoners were taken and at least 80 casualties were caused. Our casualties were slight.

Artillery - The enemy artillery were active and distributed their fire over our forward area. MORCHIES and vicinity were shelled by 77 m.m. from the direction of PRONVILLE. VELU, LEBUCQUIERE and BEAUMETZ were shelled by 77 m.m. from the vicinity of HERMIES and DEMICOURT. 4.2" and 5.9" guns were also used but were firing at a long range and the positions from which they were firing could not be located.

Machine Guns - Quiet.

Sniping - Active.

MOVEMENT.

Small parties were seen doubling along the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI road towards RAPERIE in J.9. at 1 p.m.

At 3.5 p.m. a party of 6 were seen moving N.E. at O.29.C.5-4.

Movement was also seen in HERMIES.

Trains were seen D.1.A and D.2.D. at 12.40 p.m. 1.40 p.m. and 2.45 p.m.

Active . - Enemy planes were over our lines at 10.20 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

One of our Bristol planes No.7254 was brought down in E.16.A. at 3.15 p.m. The pilot was killed and the observer wounded. The plane was smashed.

SIGNALS.

At 4.20 p.m. a white flare was sent up from J.29.C.5-5- The enemy opened fire on our troops advancing.

DISPOSITIONS.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 57th Battalion, | Front Line, Right Sector. |
| 58th Battalion | " " Left " |
| 59th Battalion | Right flank Guard. |
| 60th Battalion | Reserve. |

Clive ...
P.O.

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX

Summary of Intelligence
6 a.m. 26/3/17 to 8 a.m. 27/3/17.

Reference Map 57 C.

27th March 1917.

OUR OPERATIONS.

At 5.15 a.m. 26/3/17 the left Battalion advanced from the outpost line and occupied the line J.8.C.7-5 - J.8.A.0-0 then along the road to G.30.A. Central. Posts were established on the road D.19.C.1-0 to J.2.A.8-8. The main line was reached without resistance but the enemy vigorously resisted the pushing out of posts. The task was completed at 7 a.m.

At 11.15 a.m. the Brigade on our left reported hostile counter-attacks on their right flank and required Co-operation by us. Two Companies of the support Battalion were directed on a front 300 yards E of LAGNICOURT, the counter-attack was repulsed.

At 1.15 p.m. at the request of the Brigade on our left two Companies of the support Battalion carried out a counter-attack against a second body of enemy advancing over the same ground as on the first occasion.

This counter-attack was successful.

The Battalion in its advance captured 2 wounded and 6 unwounded prisoners of the 15th R.I.R. and 91st R.I.R. and 1 machine gun.

Posts which were pushed out to J.2.A.8-8- were abandoned at 4 p.m. owing the heavy M.G. and Artillery fire, after several casualties had been sustained.

At 10.45 p.m. under cover of a heavy bombardment which practically demolished the post the enemy recaptured the FARM in J.8.C.7-5 but it was recaptured again by us an hour later.

Our line now runs from the FARM in J.8.C. across to the road in J.7.B. then along the road to J.1.Central through D.25.C to the road at approx. D.25.A.8-2 then along the LAGNICOURT ROAD where we connect with the Brigade on our left in C.24.D.

The portion of our line from the main CAMBRAI - BAPAUME road to the right has not been altered.

Artillery -

Our Artillery co-operated in all operations during the day. QUEANT, PRONVILLE, the vicinity of HERMIES and the road in D.13 were shelled by our heavies.

Machine Guns and Sniping - Advantage was taken of all targets which were offered but the shooting was mostly at long range.

Patrols - Several patrols were out in front of our right sector during the night. A trench at J.20.D.85-58 was entered and examined for 200 yards but no enemy were encountered. This trench is 5 feet deep, revetted in places and traversed. Other patrols did not come in contact with the enemy and nothing unusual was discovered.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

ARTILLERY.- The enemy were very active throughout the day. Shelling was distributed over the whole of our forward area. MORCHIES, BEAUMETZ, VELU WOOD and LEBUCQUIERE received most attention and were shelled with 77 m,m, 4.2" and 5.9" guns.

MACHINE GUNS.- The enemy are using a number of Machine Guns but do not fire much unless attacked.

SNIPING.- Active.

MOVEMENT.

A few odd men were seen in vicinity of J.21.A.4-3. They appeared to be entering a post.

At 4.30 p.m. a party of 30 men were seen working on

P.T.O.

APPENDIX

15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Summary of Intelligence
2.2.42 to 2.3.42

LOUVERAL defences. The party was digging a trench from about J.9.3-3. in a S.E. direction towards J.9.3-4*-60.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

Prisoners captured on our ^{left} right belonged to the 15th R.I.R. and 91st R.I.R. All prisoners of the 91st R.I.R. were machine gunners.

DISPOSITIONS.

57th Battalion, Front Line, Right Sector.
58th Battalion, " " " " Left " "
59th Battalion, Support Battalion.
60th Battalion, Right Flank Guard.

At 1.15 p.m. at the request of the Brigadier on our left two companies of the support battalion carried out a counter-attack against a weak body of enemy advancing over the same ground as on the first occasion.

This counter-attack was successful. The Battalion in its advance captured 2 wounded and 2 wounded prisoners of the 15th R.I.R. and 91st R.I.R.

M. J. McAlister Lt Col

Brigade Major 15th Australian Infantry Brigade. Major.

At 1.45 p.m. under cover of a heavy bombardment which practically demolished the post the enemy reoccupied the post in J.8.3-5 but it was recaptured again by us 4 hours later.

Our line now runs from the post in J.8.3-5 across to the road in J.7.8. Then along the road to J.1. Central J.8.3-5 to the road at approx. J.8.3-8 then along LACHRYMOS ROAD where we connect with the Brigade left in J.8.3-5.

The portion of our line from the main CAMBRIE - B road to the right has not been altered.

Artillery - The artillery co-operated in all operations during the day. QUART, WOODS, the vicinity of HENRIE road in J.12 were shelled by our heavies.

Machine guns and sniping - Advantages were taken of targets which were offered but the sniping was not at long range.

Patrols - Several patrols were out in front of our sector during the night. A patrol at J.9.3-5 entered and examined for 300 yards but no enemy was encountered. This trench is 5 feet deep, levelled places and traversed. Other patrols did not come contact with the enemy and nothing unusual was discovered.

ARTILLERY - The enemy were very active throughout the night. The enemy was distributed over the whole of our front area. WOODS, CAMBRIE, VILLI WOOD and LACHRYMOS received most attention and were shelled with 4.2" and 6.9" guns.

MACHINE GUNS - The enemy are using a number of machine guns but do not fire much unless attacked.

SNIPING - Active. A few odd men were seen in vicinity of J.8.3-5-8 reported to be entering a post.

At 4.30 p.m. a party of 30 men were seen working.



15th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Summary of Intelligence
8 a.m. 27/3/17 to 8 a.m. 28/3/17.

Reference Map 57 C.

28th March 1917OUR OPERATIONS.

At 8 p.m. 4 Platoons of our left Battalion attacked the line from D.25.B.4-8 along the road to J.2.A.8-7 thence South along the road through J.2.A. & C. and J.3.A. & C. The attack was successful and the objective gained after a short bomb fight. Two Searchlights, One Machine Gun and one bomb thrower were captured. The enemy were surprised and most of them fled, when our troops got close to them a German stood up on the parapet and called out "Retire" but the ruse was not successful.

Artillery - Our artillery was active and fired on any targets which presented themselves.

Machine Guns and Sniping - A few targets were seen but these were mostly at a long range.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery - Not so active as on the previous 3 days. there was a marked absence of shelling by 77 m.m. guns on our left sector. MORCHIES and vicinity was shelled intermittently with 4.2" Shrapnel from the direction of QUEANT and PRONVILLE.

Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. J.20.C. was shelled with 77 m.m. guns from the direction of DEMICOURT 180 rounds were fired. About 200 rounds of 4.2" and 5.9" were fired on BRAUMETZ from DEMICOURT and HAVRINCOURT.

At 8 p.m. LEBUCQUIERE was shelled with a battery of 4. 77 m.m. guns from the direction of BOURSIES. Some 8.2" were fired on J.31.B. from HAVRINCOURT.

Machine Guns - Quiet

Sniping - Active

MOVEMENT.

A good deal of transport movement was seen in D.S. during the day. Owing to difficulties of communication this movement was not fired on.

At 11 p.m. waggons were seen moving from LOUVERAL towards BOURSIES, our 60 pounders were notified.

Movement of men and horses were seen at various times during the day in D.7.D. - D.15.A. - D.7.C. and C.12.B.

At 10.20 a.m. 8 men were seen working in J.26.C.8-2.

At 10.30 a.m. about 80 men were seen moving N.E. from J.28.C.9-3. They were fully equipped and wearing great-coats.

AIRCRAFT.

Our planes were active. No enemy planes were seen.

IDENTIFICATION.

Nil. - No prisoners taken during the day.

DISPOSITIONS.

Our line now runs - Around the Southern and Eastern outskirts of VELU WOOD to J.31.B.8-9 through J.26.C. & A. to junction of road and Railway in J.20.C. along the road to J.20.A.9-1 around BRAUMETZ through J.20.B. J.14.D. & B to the FARM in J.8.C. north along the road to J.2.A.8-7 thence along the BIGNIES - LAGNICOURT Road to C.24.D.8-4.

Front Line -

Right Sector - 31st Battalion - LEBUCQUIERE.

Left Sector - 30th Battalion - MORCHIES

Support Battalion - 57th Battalion - PREMICOURT.

Right Flank Guard. - 60th Battalion - BARCOURT.

The 58th and 59th Battalions have taken over the billets of the 50th and 31st Battalions in BAPAUME.

Leswick

Major.

Brigade Major 15th Australian Inf. Brigade.