

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/8/16

**Title:** 8th Infantry Brigade

March 1917



AWM4-23/8/16

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

8<sup>th</sup> AUST. INF BDE

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>DELVILLE VALLEY 1/3/17  2/3/17</p>			<p>A very clear day &amp; observation excellent. Preparations well in hand for an operation to gain the right portion of SUNRAY TRENCH tomorrow morning. GSO, visited Bde HQ. Bn. to forward Bn. HQs. &amp; Bde Order N° 81 issued for tomorrow morning's operation. A heavy mist settled at about 11 pm. after 2 minutes intense Stokes Mortar fire on the objective, 2 off + 3000 of the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. Raiding Team bombed along SUNRAY TRENCH from one block at N 22 (E 26 to about N 22 D 36, artillery formed a box barrage round the objective. The operation was successful and 14 prisoners were sent back - 9 un wounded &amp; 5 wounded. The enemy counter attacked at 6 pm but were driven off by infantry and MG fire, the SOS signal not being fired. From about 6.45 am till 8 am SUNRAY was heavily shelled in rapid fire and a number of casualties caused. Our casualties as far as at present known amount to 2 off K. 8 men K. 1 man M. believed K. 12 OR wounded 2 off W.</p> <p>The day was fairly quiet. The enemy counter attacked again at about 8 pm, an SOS rocket was fired &amp; our artillery opened on their SOS lines. The attack was successfully repulsed &amp; it is reported that a number of Germans were killed.</p>	<p>ph. Cassin 1/3/17</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DELVILLE VALLEY. 3/2/17.			Two hours shelling with heavy shell for about 3pm - 5pm today <del>made</del> destroyed a good deal of our trench - <del>SOMERBY</del> on the left - ETERNAL alley was knocked about in several places. Shells about 9.2" - some with delay action - for direction of RESTRANSELOX Cpt Bline in morning. Bn to 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Bde Hdqrs. moved into dugout vacated by 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Chert - joined up with our other Hdqs. GSO visited Bde Hdqs. Two gas alarms between 11.0 + 11.30 pm from 14 <sup>th</sup> Bde. on fight proved the grounders. Bn Bline in morning. - Heavy shelling again between 2 + 4 pm about 20 casualties caused. Our artillery, heavy field retaliated - but with little effect. Conference of Brigadiers and Div. Comdr. GSO, at the Hdqs. at 4.30 pm. to discuss the re-arrangement of Bdes in the line. Div Order on the subject received. The Bde is to be relieved on the 7 <sup>th</sup> inst.	
4/3/17.			Some shelling of SOMERBY and CAMERONS - Retief started by 54 <sup>th</sup> Bn. relieving 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn. in Intermediate line last night. They move up to take over front line tonight.	
5/3/17. 6/3/17. 7/3/17.			Considerable shelling & mine warfare activity on front system (54 <sup>th</sup> Bn) early this morning. One Vickers sorely blown out & some casualties	Relieved by 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7/3/17		<p>Command of the Bde. Sector passed to Lt Col [unclear] at 10 am this morning. Bde. Hqs. established at BERNARAY opposite Div Hqs. at 12 noon.</p>	
	8/4/17		<p>Proposed programme of specialist general training drawn up &amp; submitted to Div. Hqs. for approval. Arrangements for the re-establishment of Bde. Specialist School at MONTAUBAN - Capt W. SHARP 31<sup>st</sup> Bn as commandant. Bn went over the ground available for training with Bde.</p>	
	9/4/17		<p>Training commenced on the lines of proposed programme. Some snow rather affected outside work. 30<sup>th</sup> Range laid out for Bns. in CATERPILLAR VALLEY.</p>	
	9/4/17		<p>The 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. relieved the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. on "roads" at 0 pm last night. Weather cold with some snow. A course of instructional lectures by Div. Staff officers commenced last night with a lecture by G.O., at MONTAUBAN on the existing situation on the Western front. A second lecture was delivered this evening in the Church Army Hut at TOWNVILLE camp by G.O., on the exploitation of success. The Div. Bde. Commanders attended both the above lectures. Training continues satisfactorily.</p>	<p>Phil [unclear] about [unclear]</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BETONWAY CORNER	10/3/17		<p>Training continues. A D.W. messenger office has been appointed and has been posted to the Bde. for duty while the Bde is out of the line.</p> <p>Bde. Commander and Bn. with 1st Lt. with visited JAMMENS.</p> <p>On receipt of phone message from D.W. Commander, the Bde. Commander and Bn. visited D.W. Higgs and heard that the Bde. <del>is</del> is to go into the line again practically at once. Details were got for ESO.</p>	
	11/3/17		<p>Boy visited 5<sup>th</sup> Light Bde. Higgs with Cpl. Tork (31<sup>st</sup> Bn), Cpl. O'Neil (30<sup>th</sup> Bn) + Major Marden (8<sup>th</sup> Mtd Bn) to arrange the relief.</p> <p>Bde. Order relative to the relief issued at 9pm on receipt of D.W. Order on the subject. 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Bns. took over from Co B' Bn respectively of the 5<sup>th</sup> Light Bde. by 9pm this evening.</p>	
PIONEER BANK N30B32	12/3/17		<p>Bde. Higgs moved to PIONEER BANK (NORTH ROAD) N30B32, in afternoon.</p> <p>Boy visited 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Bns at FACTORY CORNER, and YARRA BANK respec. during the afternoon - also to forward Bn. Higgs. (20<sup>th</sup> Bn)</p>	
	13/3/17		<p>Just before midnight a message came this to say that it was exceptionally quiet on our front. Verified this from left flank.</p> <p>Command of the sector passed to 20<sup>th</sup> Bn 8<sup>th</sup> Light Bde. at 1 am.</p> <p>CO 20<sup>th</sup> Bn. remains with CO 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. until morning.</p> <p>Reliable 20<sup>th</sup> Bn. who know the country are remaining with companies of 8<sup>th</sup> Bn.</p>	<p>Reliability of 8<sup>th</sup> Bn</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PLOWBET BANK N 30 13 32	13/11/17	(continued)	<p>of the 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. by night patrols. Officers patrols were ordered out from left &amp; right Coy. (10 p.m. on) to ascertain if the enemy was holding his line on our front. 5<sup>th</sup> Lt Bde, on our left, state (1.30 a.m.) that they are occupying the GREVILLERS LINE over about 500-1000 yards. The 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. on our right state that there is apparent evidence of occupation of TILL TR. on their front. Hostile withdrawal may be taking place on the OLD FACTORY at H 32 D 95, in which case the enemy will probably withdraw to the GREVILLERS line on our left &amp; will remain in the occupation of TILL TR. for the present. The artillery, only Coy. were warned of possible eventualities. The position at dawn this morning was that both the 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Bdes. on our left had advanced without opposition and were occupying the GREVILLERS line, as well as the greater part of LOUPPERT wood and town of GREVILLERS. Arrangements were made during the afternoon for a strong patrol to enter &amp; occupy the GREVILLERS LINE opposite our sector as well as securing the BRICKFIELD &amp; TOP WORK. Artillery fire was brought down on these various objectives from 7 till 9 p.m. this evening. Bn. to 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. Hdqrs. <del>will</del> make the necessary arrangements this afternoon. Div. Commander &amp; Lt Col Stevenson (Comdng. 2<sup>nd</sup> FARDE) called on Bde. Commander this afternoon. A man (Pte Wm Walker) stating he belongs to 12 Bn. Middlesex Regt. wandered into our lines from direction of German trenches this evening. Was sent on to 8<sup>th</sup> MUST. INF. BDE. after brief examination at Bde. Hdqrs.</p>	

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PIONEER BANK	12/3/17.		<p>Report received at 12:30 am stating that we have the BRICKFIELD and are consolidating it with an advanced post about 150' in front &amp; have established 3 posts connecting back to our line at about nr central.</p> <p>Our left party have been in touch with the advanced post of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. on the BAPPAUME ROAD at H 31 D 56 &amp; are working on.</p> <p>Report received at 1 am states that we have posted along GREVILLERS TRENCH to about H 32 C 55 and that the Bde. Mainly Co. have started work digging a line of posts from the bomb block at the latter point to connect with the BRICKFIELD.</p> <p>New SOS line to cover our new front arranged with 2<sup>nd</sup> F.A. Bde.</p> <p>The situation at dawn was that we had occupied the GREVILLERS LINE from the BAPPAUME road at H 31 D 55<sup>1/2</sup> eastward to about H 32 C 7<sup>1/2</sup>. Our line from this point runs southerly (gap) to the BRICKFIELDS - thence to about nr central.</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Bde. on left rang about 3:45 am to say they had a post at H 32 A 00 - &amp; asked us to occupy the trench east of the BAPPAUME road = 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. were asked to do this - which they said they would try &amp; do. They rang at 4:30 am to say they didn't think they could do it as they wd. have no time before dawn.</p> <p>The position was obscure but it eventually transpired that they did occupy the trench up to about H 32 D 36.</p>	

*all cases left  
11/3/17 8<sup>th</sup> Aust Inf Bde*

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8<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN INF. BDE.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PIONEER BANK	14/2/17		<p>a curious situation arose at dawn. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. had sent some men to establish a post on the right zone block, at about H 32 C 85 - well out of their territory with one man in the trench between them &amp; their boundary. Bn. rang adjutant 31<sup>st</sup> to tell him to ask them to move. This was done &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. informed.</p> <p>Arrangements were made during the day &amp; order issued for operations tonight involving the taking of the northern end of TILL TRENCH and for making our line continuous thro' H 32 A 00 (join with 6<sup>th</sup> Bde) - H 32 D 55 - H 32 D 63 - H 32 D 32 1/2 - N 2 B 65 - N 2 D 06 - with about established as far south in TILL TR. as possible - as well as in TILL SUPPORT - Point H 33 C 07 1/2 to be gained and the immediate BAPAUME defences investigated.</p> <p>Col. Till moved his headquarters forward to his old left Co. HQ in the CHALK QUARRY at N 1 C 62 - Bn. to line in afternoon. Our artillery very active cutting wire in front of TILL TR. Our heavies active in square N 32 D.</p> <p>From reports received it appears likely that the enemy will very soon vacate the TILL - ATOY line. Bn. order received at 10pm relative to our "feeling" this line along the whole SW. front. Our operation stands - and the other side send fighting patrol held - to enter the region of reconnoitering patrols found to be withheld.</p>	

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PIONEER BANK	14/2/17		11.5 pm. Phone message from Lt Col. Tom state that we are on line approximately H32D37 - H32D24 - N2B53 - One casualty only reported.	
"	15/2/17		11.15 pm. Phone message from 5 <sup>th</sup> Div. to say that the Guards Div. have ST. PIERRE VAST WOOD and enemy front line in the vicinity. 1.45 am. little further to report. The night is very black and light rain is falling. very little enemy artillery fire and only a few flares. A tank is in action on our front.	
			1.55 am. SOS call 'phoned thru' from 31 <sup>st</sup> Bn. Enemy artillery opened up on our line with apparently 4.2" or 5.9" heavy bursts - heavy bomb falling in north end of THE TRENCH. Phoned arty group this Liaison officer at 2 am. Artillery fire a little slow in coming down. SOS phoned Col Stephenson. Liaison officer warned CCA (com). Our patrol against THE TR. in N3C was driven back by enemy who were laying outside then were with flame men in front. Patrol reports we killed several of the flame men. THE TRENCH trenches were found the strong held all along the line. The position at dawn was that we hold along H3A00 - H32D37 - D24 - N2B24 - N2 central - Our casualties were light - 2 killed + 3 wounded. all OK.	McLaver left at 11.30 8.1 B

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YARBA BANK (M 24 B 44)	15/17		<p>Both ADYS moved to YARBA BANK - M 24 B 44 - at 2 pm.</p> <p>The enemy shelled our WARLENCOURT TRENCH in H 32 C between 2+5 pm today &amp; caused considerable damage to the trench &amp; casualties. Enemy barraged behind WIGNY THALLOU and LE BARQUE at 3.15 pm for ten minutes.</p> <p>Received (at 6 pm) a secret document from the Division - copy of translation of captured German order for the retreat. This indicates withdrawal from the BATAUMÉ - ROCQUIGNY line by 5 am tomorrow morning.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> + 29<sup>th</sup> Bns warned to be ready to move forward at short notice.</p> <p>Orders for the operations (strong patrol activity to feel the enemy strength &amp; occupy with post any advantageous points) were carried out tonight were issued verbally to the CO 31<sup>st</sup> Bn - and confirmed by an order.</p> <p>The situation was quiet on our front up till midnight.</p> <p>Active instructions received from 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. Orders were issued for the dissolution of the Mining Coy and the return to their units of the personnel by noon tomorrow.</p>	

McCaskey  
at 8<sup>th</sup> A.I.B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YARRA BANK M 24844	16/2/17		<p>Report from all patrols received at 1.50 am indicate enemy's line still being held in <sup>apparently</sup> normal strength with abundant MG fire. Similar reports from Bde. on flanks.</p> <p>at about 2.30 am enemy made bombing attack on our block at H 32947 but were driven off.</p> <p>6 Bde. on our left made an attempt to enter &amp; hold enemy trenches in H 25407 at 1 am. Partially successful but were obliged to retire to 30<sup>th</sup> (Support) and 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. during morning.</p> <p>Very misty all the morning. Corps Comd. called Bde. HQs. 2 pm. 950, called 3 pm. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. were relieved in the line by the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. this morning. 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. moved up into support.</p> <p>Air reconnaissance reports that TILL IR. and BATAUME are apparently vacated - active patrols with orders to push on - in spite of our local opposition - went out at 7 pm - MG fire was apparently normally active and patrols - up till 10 pm - could not enter enemy trenches.</p> <p>Similar reports are to hand from flank bdes.</p> <p>10.20 pm. There has been practically no enemy arty. fire on our front in last hour. Everything very quiet.</p> <p>(St. Patrick's Day) Relief of 31<sup>st</sup> by 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. complete at 1 am.</p> <p>After "feeling" the enemy carefully all night we entered enemy trenches at the Northern end of TILL IR. at about 6.30 am and proceeded along</p>	

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10/2/17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHALK CUT NIC62	17/3/17		<p>trench to the rear of good factory - our three companies advanced and entered BAPAVUE at 7am. They were met by some sniping and my fire had 4 casualties but succeeded in gaining the town with little difficulty.</p> <p>an order was wired to 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. to occupy a line from H284m through BRIDGEFIELD from right boundary at about H3413m, as an outpost line with supports held in front &amp; in rear of BAPAVUE. This was carried out forthwith.</p> <p>Reports received during the day indicate that the enemy is holding various lengths of trench and strong points about 500-1000 yards from our line of front.</p> <p>Bde. Hqs. moved to CHALK CUT (NIC62) re-established there at 3.45pm.</p> <p>A Staff Capt. remains at PIONEER BANK (M30332).</p> <p>11pm. It appears probable that enemy has again moved back from our front as all my fire and flares have ceased.</p> <p>12 midnight. 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. is to say they are occupying FAUREUIL.</p> <p>Order for formation of an advanced guard &amp; re-adjustment of fronts (5<sup>th</sup> A.D. order 120) received just after midnight. Bde order issued.</p> <p>One four patrols entered BANCOUET at 11.30pm &amp; found it unoccupied and in flames.</p> <p>The advanced guard under Brig Gen ELLIOTT moved out through the line this morning.</p> <p>The 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. on our left - forming 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Div. Advanced Guard</p>	
	18/3/17			<p>please see app 82B</p>

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CHALK CUT			<p>Advanced during today thru BEUGNATRE into VAULX - altho' the retired from latter town on order from their Div<sup>n</sup>.</p> <p>Enemy have retired from our front - Regts. of Advanced Guard established in FREMPCOURT.</p> <p>We consolidated our line on the eastern side of BAPAUME - the advanced guard is attempting to keep touch with the enemy.</p> <p>No shells have fallen on our front since about 8 pm last night.</p> <p>Got info to line.</p> <p>Examination of trench line between WATHENCOURT &amp; TORVOUE trenches shows it to be a well built line - strongly organized for defence &amp; well wired.</p> <p>11pm received 'phone message from Div<sup>n</sup> to reconnoitre a line about 1500' in advance of our present line in front of BAPAUME.</p>	

Patrol left at 8<sup>th</sup> I.B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME (RAMPARTS)	19/3/17		<p>Instructions received by wire from Div. at 2 am to hold one Bn. ready at an hour's notice from 9 am to reinforce the advanced guard. 29<sup>th</sup> Detailed + 4 linkers (double) allotted to them for HQ transport.</p> <p>Bde HQs. moved from <u>CHALK CUT</u> to <u>BAPAUME RAMPARTS</u> at 10 am. 900 Bn. rode thro' BAPAUME to visit BQ Elliott at HQs. advanced guard at FREMICOVERT during the morning.</p> <p>A high velocity gun shelling BAPAUME at intervals during the day. Bn. units adj. 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. to the posts on new BARBAROSSA LINE this afternoon. Posts are being dug tonight. Rain commenced 5 pm.</p> <p>all quiet on our front. Phone message from 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. at 7:30 pm to say that the line of posts behind the BARBAROSSA mine has been occupied. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bde. had a reverse today were driven back. The 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. were counterattacked this afternoon were driven out of BEAUMETZ.</p> <p>An order from 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Div. was received by wire at 7:30 am detailing the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. to move forward at once to support the advanced guard. They assembled in BAPAUME at 2 pm (having had dinner &amp; companies marching to B. by most direct route) &amp; arrived at FREMICOVERT about 3:15 pm where they received orders that they had to relieve the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. in the outpost line at once.</p> <p>They received at 4:10 pm from 5<sup>th</sup> Div. detailing the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. to assemble &amp; reinforce in area BANCOURT - N35 + 34 ready to move</p>	
"	20/3/17			<p>McCarthy at Bn 8-110</p>

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BAPAUME RAMPARTS	10/3/17.		<p>forward to support advanced guard. Lt. Col. CLARKE ordered to report to SOE advanced guard for orders. Necessary orders issued for the above moves. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. were ordered to move up two cols. to take over the BARBAROSSA line posts &amp; supporting points at once from 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. Hdqrs. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. moved to Hdqrs. 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. at 9 am &amp; other 2 cols of 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. stand ready to move up to our old front line East of BAPAUME when the 30<sup>th</sup> move forward. The 30<sup>th</sup> have two cols. standing ready to move up in BANCOURT &amp; their other two cols. in their old front line ready to move. Arrangements made to send 4 limbers with about 140,000 rounds to move with the 30<sup>th</sup>. The balance of our transport is coming forward at earliest.</p> <p>THE SARRS - BAPAUME road is blocked - &amp; closed for traffic.</p> <p>The 7<sup>th</sup> Bde relieved the 5<sup>th</sup> Bde. on our left this afternoon.</p>	
	21/3/17		<p>30<sup>th</sup> Bn. received orders at about 9 am to move forward at once to relieve the Bn. in the outpost line on the right. This line can be relieved in daylight. The remaining two Cols. of the 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. were moved up before 11 am to occupy the old front line just East of BAPAUME.</p> <p>The question of rations &amp; transport is giving no little trouble.</p>	<p>little unpleasant up to 8<sup>th</sup> Bde</p>

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME RAMDARTS	21/17		<p>a German prisoner was taken yesterday in a cellar under the Torgue factory on the FRENICOVAT ROAD. He was of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Regt, and stated that he had been left behind to blow mine in FRENICOVAT but that mine had not been blown &amp; that he &amp; others had hidden in the mine shaft. He was taken FRENICOVAT but the mine was found &amp; have been blown 3 days before - He says he is suffering from his injuries.</p> <p>Prince Friedrich Karl of Saxe was taken prisoner today. His aeroplane fell in combat just N. of our left outpost boundary.</p> <p>Snow falling. 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. ordered to extend the line of posts on the BARBAROSSA line. Working parties detailed as follows for 31<sup>st</sup> Bn - 1 of 100 on clearing road on BAPAUME (Jilly) in crates. No or 20. bags, dead near BAVONET TR.</p> <p>Bn to line in afternoon.</p> <p>Enemy attacked BEAUMETZ just before dawn. The 29<sup>th</sup> Bn. were holding the village with the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. on their left - the junction being on the CAMBRAY road. The enemy attempted an enveloping attack around the town and partially succeeded but were driven out by a counter attack by the 29<sup>th</sup> assisted by a company of the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn. The enemy left 59 dead &amp; 11 wounded prisoners, 9 of whom have since died. The attack was made by special selected "storm troops" was preceded by some artillery fire.</p>	
	22/17			
	23/17			



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. EAST. INF. BDE.  
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BARRAME	23/2/17		Our casualties were 1 killed + 30 wounded. Bn with 02 8" mg Co, to BEAUMETS TRENCH. The 29 <sup>th</sup> + 30 <sup>th</sup> Bns. were relieved by Bns. of the 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. after dark. They marched back to BARRAME + again came under 800 8" mg fire.	
"	24/2/17	1/2 pm	Enemy counter attacked BEAUMETS again this morning before dawn but were successfully driven off by the 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Div. Commander visited Bde. Hdqrs during the morning.	
"	25/2/17 (SUNDAY)		Working parties surrounding trenches or detached for work under the Town major + 8" Field Co. Engineers. The Battalions are now disposed as follows - 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn. TILL TRENCH - 30 <sup>th</sup> + 31 <sup>st</sup> Bns. BARRAME with two cags each in the out post line East of the town. GSO, visited Bde. Hdqrs. Church parades were held at 11 <sup>am</sup> + 5 <sup>pm</sup> today for the 30 <sup>th</sup> + 31 <sup>st</sup> Bns. The Bde. Commander had a conference of Commanding Officers at Bde. Hdqrs. at 2 pm. A large mine was blown under the town hall in BARRAME at 11.30 pm. This is just outside our boundary. Casualties unknown. It is thought that there was a set mine with clockwork mechanism - now & last time our occupation. Tools were lent to parties of Engineers digging out buried men from Town Hall + 50 men of 30 <sup>th</sup> Bn. sent to town to assist in digging during morning. The 7 <sup>th</sup> mg Bde Hdqrs. were blown up this morning.	
	26/2/17			

A5534 Wt-W 4973 M687 730,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 8<sup>th</sup> AVST. INF. BDE.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME	26/2/17		<p>in north end of the town. They were in a good German dugout system it is thought that a similar clockwork mechanism had been left to spring the mine.</p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Avst. Div. attacked &amp; took LAUVICOURT &amp; the 13<sup>th</sup> by the counter appeared by advancing our line early this morning. The counter attack appeared imminent about midday &amp; 90<sup>th</sup> advanced guard asked for a Bn. of the Bde. to be placed at his disposal to support him. Div<sup>l</sup> were asked to compare which was done - &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Bn were detailed. They moved to FREMICOURT about 2.30 pm &amp; 29<sup>th</sup> were moved up from the TR. to occupy positions vacated by 31<sup>st</sup> Bn. When they had reached FREMICOURT the situation was again normal &amp; they were ordered to return again to BAPAUME. In the meantime the Div<sup>l</sup> had wired to hold the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn ready at any hour in the to reinforce the advanced guard. The 31<sup>st</sup> returned to BAPAUME. The 29<sup>th</sup> to TILL TR. &amp; the 30<sup>th</sup> Bn were not required. We were ordered later to hold the 31<sup>st</sup> Bn ready to reinforce at short notice.</p> <p>Bde. order issued regarding the Bde. taking over the BEUGNY line.</p> <p>Wire from Div<sup>l</sup> received just before midnight ordering the 8<sup>th</sup> Bde to send forward 2 Bns. at dawn to relieve the outpost line of advanced guard - arrangements to be made with H.Q. Div<sup>l</sup>. Arrangements with Bn: Book orders issued to 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> Bns for to move by 2 am.</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup> moved up to FREMICOURT &amp; HAUVICOURT respectively at noon. Got to town to a G. with - at dawn soon to site the posts on the DELSAUX BEUGNY line</p>	
	27/2/17			<p>W. L. L. L.</p>

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.

8<sup>th</sup> AVST. INF BDE

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME	27/31.7.		58 <sup>th</sup> & 59 <sup>th</sup> Bns. were relieved in the line by 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> Bns and came back to BAPAUME & took up locations vacated by 30 & 31. Order issued to 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn re taking of BEUGNY posts	
	28/31.7.		CWC to BEUGNY line in morning. 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn moved to dug post on the line from same this morning. 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Coy. assisted in the laying out of the work. The 58 <sup>th</sup> & 59 <sup>th</sup> Bns moved to VILLERS AU PLOS and RIENCOURT during the afternoon, to make room for the 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> Bns who come back direct to BAPAUME tonight.	
	29/31.7.		Bns to BEUGNY line this afternoon. The 30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> Bns returned to BAPAUME early this morning. The 29 <sup>th</sup> Bn took over the Advanced Guard at 8 am today for the 15 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Bns to BEUGNY line in afternoon.	
	30/31.7.		Staff Captain & all rear HQs. came up to BAPAUME today. Bde HQs. is now all established in the RAMPARTS. a quiet day. The Cinc. moved through BAPAUME and out from rear this morning. Bns to BEUGNY line in afternoon.	H. L. [unclear] at 10 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> B.

S. Div

07

WAR DIARY

Head Quarters 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.

8<sup>th</sup> AUST. INF. BDE.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME	31/17		<p>900 AM round BEUGNY line in morning. Am 10:30 AM when instructions were received from Ben. to move up tomorrow to take over half the front now held by the advanced guard prior to an attack by the advanced guard on JOIGNIES &amp; LOUVERVAL - necessary orders issued to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn</p>	<p>- All last night 9 PM 8<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde</p>

8th Australian Infantry Brigade.

ORDER No. 81.

Reference  
1/10,000 Trench Map.

1st March 1917.

1. At an early hour tomorrow morning, the 29th Battalion will bomb along and hold the portion of SUNRAY Trench between our present block and about N 22 d 3 1/2 6.  
Zero hour will be notified to all concerned.
2. A block will be established as far along SUNRAY towards the right as the state of the trench allows and as far as possible down BOOMERANG Trench.
3. (a) The attack will be preceded by 2 minutes intense bombardment of the objective by two medium T.M.'s and two L.T.M.'s situated in CAMERON'S SAP. Trench Mortar fire will start at Zero hour.  
(b) Artillery fire will be directed against the following targets from Zero until Zero + 20 minutes:-  
ATOM Trench from N 22 b 1 8. to N 23 c 2 5  
BOOMERANG Trench from junction with ATOM to about point N 22 a 8 1/2 1. (N 22 b 1 5)  
MOONRAY Trench from about N 22 d 7 4 to d 8 2.  
(c) The bombing attack will be launched at Zero + 2 minutes.
4. L. and M.T.M.'s will register on the objective during today. The M.T.M.'s will fire on the objective and on BOOMERANG Trench at intervals throughout the night.
5. O.C. 8th Machine Gun Co. will arrange for direct fire to be brought to bear on ATOM and MOONRAY Trenches where possible from Zero onwards as well as indirect fire on ATOM Trench in N 22 a and B and on MEBBOR Trench in N 23 c.
6. At Zero + 2 minutes the L. and M.T.M.'s will elevate and register on ATOM and BOOMERANG Trenches in N 22 b, within the limits their ranges, and then stand by to engage hostile T.M.'s or other targets throughout the day.
7. O.C. 8th Bde Mining Co. will arrange for CAMERON'S Sap to be pushed through to join with SUNRAY at the earliest opportunity.
8. Identifications will be wired to Bde H.Qrs at earliest.
9. Watches will be synchronised from Bde H.Qrs at 8 p.m. this evening.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*A. Casey*

Capt.

A/Brigade Major 8th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 2.30 p.m.

Copy No. 1	5th Aust. Division.
2	G.O.C.
3	29th Battalion.
4	32nd "
5	8th Machine Gun Co.
6	8th L.T.M. Battery
7	8th Bde Mining Co.
8	14th Infantry Brigade.
9	16th Infantry Brigade.
10	Centre Group, Artillery.
11	5 c M.T.M. Battery
12	FILE
13	WAR DIARY
14	SPARE

## 8th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Order No. 82.

5th March 1917.

Reference  
1/20,000 Map

1. The 8th Infantry Brigade will be relieved in the line on the night of the 6th/7th inst. by the 14th Infantry Brigade who will extend their line to include our present front as far West as N 23 0 1 0.

The 15th Inf. Bde on our left, will extend their line to the right to join with the 14th Bde, at the above point on the same night.

2. The relief will be conducted by the G.O.C. 8th Inf. Bde and will be in accordance with attached relief table.

3. Details of the relief will be arranged between unit commanders concerned.

4. No movement in relief will take place forward of SWITCH Trench before 5.30 p.m. each day.

GREAT CENTRAL WALK will be used for forward traffic and ELLIOTT WALK for traffic towards the rear.

5. All trench stores, tools, ammunition, engineer and forward reserve ration dumps, Stokes mortar beds, Primus stoves, local maps, papers and air photographs, will be handed over to incoming units and receipts obtained, copies of which will be forwarded to reach Brigade Head Qrs. by noon on 8th inst.

6. The 8th M. Gun Coy. and 8th L.T.M. Btty. will be relieved in the line by corresponding units of the 14th Inf. Bde. on the night of 6/7th.

The 8th M. Gun Coy. will be required to garrison certain M.G. Nests in SWITCH and NEEDLE Trenches subsequent to relief, for which separate orders will be issued.

7. The Brigade Mining Coy. and the following permanent parties will be relieved as under :-

(a) The 3de. Mining Coy will cease work in the forward area at 8 a.m. on 6th inst and will be clear of MILLERS SON by 12 noon on that day.

(b) Mining Coy. Working party of 1 Off. and 50 men (30th Bn.) will cease work in the forward area at 8 a.m. on 6th inst. and will report back to 30th Bn. by 2 p.m. on 6th inst.

(c) Mining Coy. carrying party of 1 Off. & 50 O.P. (30th Bn.) will cease work at 8 a.m. on 6th inst. and will be clear of EMBASSY DUGOUT by 10 a.m. on that day; they will report back to 30th Bn. by 12 noon.

(d) The following parties working under the 15th Field Coy will cease work at 4 p.m. on 6th inst. :-

25 O.R.	(1st Bn)	on Decauville
24 O.R.	32nd Bn	on Decauville
30 O.R.	31st Bn	on duck-walk maintenance
24 O.R.	29th Bn	on ROSE Dugout
16 O.R.	21st Bn	Carpenters.

The following will not be relieved at present :-

1 Off.	30 O.R.	29th Bn.	258th Tunnelling Coy.
	13 O.R.	29th Bn	Church Army Hut, Montauban.
	20 O.R.	29th Bn.	Henencourt Pump House.
	15 O.R.	30th Bn.	Henencourt Hood Camp.

Continued -

- 3 -

8. All dugouts now occupied in the Brigade area will be left in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The Brigade Bombing Officer will ensure that MILLERS SON Dugout is left in good order.

9. Completion of unit reliefs will be wired to Bde.H.Qrs. in code.

10. Command of the Brigade Sector will pass to G.O.C. 14th Inf. Bde. at 10 a.m. on 7th inst.

11. On completion of relief the Brigade will be disposed as follows -

Brigade Head Qrs.	BERNAFAY TERMINUS
29th Battalion	TRONES CAMP
30th "	TRONES 'E' CAMP ("Roads" under C.R.E.)
31st "	MONTAUBAN CAMP
32nd "	TOWNSVILLE CAMP
8th M.Gun Coy	BERNAFAY CAMP
8th L.T.M.B.	" "
8th Bde Mining Coy	MONTAUBAN CAMP

The 30th Bttn. will be relieved by the 32nd Bttn on Roads work under the C.R.E. at 8 p.m. on 8th inst. G.O. 32nd Bn. will arrange for the Bn. to be bathed before that date.

12. Supplies will be drawn as at present.

13. Brigade H.Qrs. will close at DELVILLE VALLEY at 10 a.m. on 7th inst. and open at BERNAFAY TERMINUS at 11 a.m. on the same day.

14. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*R. Casey*

Captain,  
A/Brigade Major, 8th Inf. Bde.

Issued at 9.30 a.m.

Copy No. 1	5th Aust. Iv.
2	Brigade Commander
3	File
4	War Diary
5	39th Bttn
6	30th "
7	31st "
8	32nd "
9	8th M.G. Coy
10	8th L.T.M.B.
11	Bde Mining Coy
12	15th Fld. Engrs.
13	C.R.E.
14	A.D.M.S.
15	Camp Commandant TRONES
16	" " MONTAUBAN
17	14th Inf. Brigade
18	15th Inf. Brigade

**RELIEF TABLE to accompany 8th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Order 82  
Dated March 5th 1917.**

Date	MONTAUDAN CAMP	TOWNSVILLE CAMP	TRONES 'E' CAMP (Road work under C.R.E.)	TRONES CAMP	NEEDLE and SWITCH	FRONT LINE	Remarks
Mon. 4/5th			30th Bn	31st Bn	29th Bn	32nd Bn.	
5/5th	31st Bn		30th Bn	29th Bn	54th Bn	32nd Bn 8th M.E.Co. 8th L.T.M.B.	
6/7th	31st Bn	32nd Bn	30th Bn	29th Bn	55th Bn	54th Bn	8th M.Gun Coy Head Qrs. and the 8th L.T.M.Bty. move to BERNAFAY CAMP on 6th inst.
7/8th	31st Bn	32nd Bn	30th Bn	29th Bn			
8/9th	31st Bn	30th Bn	32nd Bn	29th Bn			32nd Bn. to come under the orders of C.R.E. for roads work from 3 p.m. on 8th inst.

APPENDIX



5th Australian Infantry Brigade. **APPENDIX**

Order No. 83.

Reference

Map - LE BARQUE 1/20,000

11th March 1917.

1. The 8th Infantry Brigade (less 32nd Battalion) will relieve the 5th Infantry Brigade (2nd Aust. Division) in the line on the nights 11/12th and 12/13th instants, in accordance with attached relief table.
2. Details of the relief will be arranged between Commanding Officers concerned.  
The dispositions of the 5th Inf. Bde will be taken over as they stand. Any redistribution of troops will be effected on 13th inst. under Ede arrangements.
3. The relief will be carried out under the orders of the G.O.C. 5th Infantry Brigade. Command of the sector will pass to G.O.C. 8th Infantry Brigade on completion of relief.  
The Brigade will come under the orders of the G.O.C. 2nd Aust. Division until 8 a.m. on 13th March, at which time control of the new front passes to G.O.C. 5th Aust. Division.
4. Completion of unit reliefs will be wired to Bde H.Q in code.
5. Boundaries of the new sector will be as follows :-  
Left Boundary. N 1 a 6 4 following the road (RED CUT) through N 7 a 1 9 and N 7 a 1 1 (through LIGNY THILLOY and LE BARQUE) thence following the road (BLUE CUT) through M 12 d 5 0 to M 18 c 0 3, thence due South M 36 a 0 0.  
Right Boundary. N 8 b 0 2 1/2 to N 8 c 5 0 to N 13 b 9 0 to N 19 b 1 0 to N 25 a 0 2 1/2 to M 36 a 0 0.
6. All trench stores, dumps, photographs, local maps and information will be taken over from units relieved and receipts given; copy to be forwarded to Bde H.Qrs by noon on 13th inst.  
All Stokes guns in position in the new line will be taken over. A similar number of guns will be handed over to O.C. 5th L.T.M. Battery at S 18 Central on 13th instant.
7. O.C. 8th M.G.Co. will arrange to take over all existing Vickers M.G. positions now occupied by the 5th M.G. Co. in the forward area on the night 12/13th inst. 5th M.G.Co. will take over 8 M.G. positions (Nos 8, 9, 9(b), 10, 13a, 14 to 16 inclusive) from 3th M.G.Co. in the Intermediate Line on night 12/13th inst.
8. No movement in relief, except in parties of not more than 5 at 200 yards distance, will take place on GLISSADE WALK forward of HIGH WOOD before 5 p.m. each day.
9. The 32nd Battalion will be in Divisional Reserve and will be employed on road work under C.R.E. Its rendezvous will be DELVILLERS WOOD Camp (S 18 c).
10. Separate orders will be issued to the Brigade Mining Co.
11. Brigade H.Qrs will close at BERNAFAY at 3.30 p.m. on 12th inst. and open at PIONEER BANK (M 30 b 3 2) at 5 p.m. on same day.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE&

*M. Casey*

Capt.

A/Brigade Major 8th Aus. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 7 p.m.

Copy No. 1	5th Aust. Division.	13	5th Inf. Brigade
2	G.O.C.	14	C.R.E.
3	Staff Capt.	15	A.D.K.S.
4	2nd Signal Sect.	16	File
5	29th Bttn.	17	War Diary
6	30th "		
7	31st "		
8	32nd "		
9	8th M.G.Co.		
10	8th L.T.M.B.		
11	Bde Mining Co.		
12	15th Inf. Brigade.		

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## RELIEF TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 8th INF. BRIGADE ORDER No. 83 dated 11.2.17

Date	Unit	from	to	Unit relieved.
March 11/12th	31st Btn	MONTAUBAN Camp.	Support Line. (H.Qrs M 24 b 4 4)	18th Bn.
"	30th "	TOWNSVILLE Camp	Reserve Line. (H.Qrs N 19 a 9 1)	19th Bn.
March 12/13th	31st Btn	Support Line	Front Line. (H.Qrs M 18 d 6 8)	20th Bn.
"	30th "	Reserve Line	Support Line	31st Bn.
"	29th "	TRONES "B" Camp	Reserve Line (H.Qrs N 19 a 9 1)	30th Bn.
"	8th M.G.Co., 8th L.T.M.B.	TRONES "E" Camp	Front Line. (H.Qrs N 31 a 1 3)	5th M.G.Co. 5th L.T.M.B.
"	8th Bde H.Qrs, 2nd Sig. Sect.	BERNAFAY	PIONEER BANK (M 30 b 3 2)	5th Inf. Bde Headquarters.

APPENDIX

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Head Qrs.,  
5th Australian Division.

SUMMARY of OPERATIONS of 8th Aust. Inf. Brigade, for the period 16th to 21st March 1917, involving the Occupation of BAPAUME.

The 30th Bttn. relieved the 31st Bttn. in the line on the night of 16/17th inst. after the latter had successfully kept close touch with the enemy for four days by means of constant active patrolling and harassing tactics.

Our Heavy and Field Artillery fire was directed against enemy's trenches and wire in squares H 32 d and N 2 b during the afternoon and up till 9 p.m. on 16th inst.

At 5 a.m. on the 17th inst. a bombing attack, supported by a Stokes Mortar, was organised and carried out from our bomb block in WARLENCOURT TRENCH at H 32 D 1 4; TILL TRENCH was entered and the enemy were followed up along the trench for a distance of 200 yards; sniping and Machine gun fire were active during this phase.

By 6.30 a.m. another entrance into TILL Trench had been made through the wire in the vicinity of TONGUE TRENCH (N 2 b Central) and an advance was made by our whole line - preceded by reconnoitring patrols - in a North Easterly direction from the line of TILL Trench.

BAPAUME was entered practically simultaneously by the three forward companies of the 30th Bttn. at 7 a.m. and by 7.15 a.m. we had established ourselves on the line of the main BRAULENCOURT Rd. through BAPAUME with our left post on the cross roads at H 27 a 7 1.

Some sniping and machine gun fire was encountered in the Northern end of the town, and we suffered some casualties (1 o.r. killed and 4 wounded).

A temporary boundary was arranged with the 6th Inf. Brigade on our left at 8 a.m. on the line H 27 a 7 1 - H 27 b 4 2 - H 28 a 2 4, and the 30th Bttn. were ordered to take up a line from the latter point through and including the BRICKYARD at H 28 c 6 2 to the CONCRETE RESERVOIR at H 34 c 7 2, at which point connection was to be made with the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade on our right; this was carried out before 12 noon, and this was consolidated during the day.

Connection with the 6th Inf. Brigade on our left was made at the cross roads at H 27 a 7 1 at about 9 a.m., at which time their line ran northerly from this point. They were unable to make connection with our left post at H 28 a 2 4 during the daylight of 17th inst. owing to hostile machine gun fire from a North Easterly direction.

During the 17th inst the enemy were located on a line approximately 500 to 1000 yards from our line of posts and sniping and m.g. fire was kept up from this line until about 10.30 p.m. when hostile activity appeared to die down.

Hostile artillery fire was fairly active on H 27 d and 28 a, as well as behind the town in squares H 32 a, 33 a, c, and d throughout the day.

At dusk our patrols moved forward and established standing patrols several hundred yards in advance of our line; Reconnoitring patrols moved along the PREMICOULT and BANCOURT ROADS. At 11.30 p.m. it became apparent that the enemy had again retired from our immediate front. One of our patrols entered BANCOURT at this hour and found it clear of the enemy and in flames.

Brigade Head Quarters moved forward from YARRA BANK (N 24 b 4 4) to the CHALK CUT (N 1 c 6 2) and was established at the latter place at 3.45 p.m. The Head Qrs. of the 30th Bttn moved forward to H 32 a 7 1 during the afternoon.

The Divisional Order for the readjustment of Brigade frontages and the formation of an advanced guard was received at 12.30 a.m. on 18th inst. In accordance with the order our front was extended to the right to N 5 d Central by 10 a.m. on 18th inst. This was occupied as a line of posts by the four companies of the 30th Bttn, finding their own supports, which were situated in the Eastern outskirts of BAPAUME.

The 29th Bttn. were ordered to occupy TILL TRENCH within the Brigade boundaries by 10 a.m. on the 18th, and the 31st Bttn. were ordered forward to the RYE-BARLEY line during the afternoon.

Brigade H. Qrs. moved forward from CHALK CUT to BAPAUME RAMPARTS (H 33 a 4 6) and were established at latter point at 11 a.m. 18th inst.

continued -

In accordance with Divisional Order No. 129 a line of posts was sited and dug behind the existing German wire in squares H 28 B, 29 A and B, 30 C, and 30 B (The German BARBAROSSA line) on the afternoon of the 19th inst. and the line occupied by 11 p.m. on that date.

The 29th Bttn. were ordered to relieve a Battalion of the Advanced Guard in the Outpost line on the left, on the 20th inst. and came under the orders of the G.O.C. Advanced Guard from 3 p.m. on that date.

The 30th Bttn were ordered to relieve the right outpost Bttn. of the Advanced Guard on the morning of the 21st inst.

The 31st Bttn. took over the line of posts and supporting points in Squares H 28 B and 30 B by 11 a.m. on 21st inst.

In addition to the work done by the 30th Bttn. I would like to place on record the fine work carried out by the 31st Bttn. during their period in the line just prior to the occupation of BAPAUME.

The casualties for the period under review were :-

Killed . . . . . 8 Other ranks

Wounded 32

BAPAUME was entered practically simultaneously by the three forward companies of the 8th Bttn. at 7 a.m. and by 7.15 a.m. we had established ourselves on the line of the main BAPAUME ROAD through BAPAUME with our left post on the cross roads at H 27 A & B.

Some sniping and machine gun fire was encountered in the northern end of the town, and we suffered some casualties (1 O.C. killed and 2 wounded).

Brigadier General,  
G.O.C. 8th Australian Inf. Brigade.

13/3/17.

through and including the BRICKYARD at H 28 C & D to the BAPAUME ROAD at H 24 C & D, at which point connection was to be made with the 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade on our right; this was carried out before 12 noon, and this was consolidated during the day.

Connection with the 6th Inf. Brigade on our left was made at the cross roads at H 27 A & B at about 7 a.m., at which time their line ran northwards from this point. They were unable to make connection with our left post at H 28 A & B during the daylight of 19th inst. owing to hostile machine gun fire from a North Westward direction.

During the 19th inst. the enemy were located on a line approximately 500 to 1000 yards from our line of posts and sniping and machine gun fire was kept up from this line until about 10.30 p.m. when hostile activity appeared to die down.

Hostile artillery fire was fairly active on H 27 B and 28 A, as well as behind the town in squares H 28 A, 28 B, C, and D throughout the day.

At dusk our patrols moved forward and established standing patrols several hundred yards in advance of our line; Reconnoitring patrols moved along the BAPAUME ROAD and BAPAUME ROAD. At 11.30 p.m. it became apparent that the enemy had again retired from our immediate front. One of our patrols entered BAPAUME at this hour and found it clear of the enemy and in flames.

Brigade Headquarters moved forward from YAKKA BARR (H 24 D & E) to the GRASS CUT (H 1 C & D) and was established at the latter place at 8.45 p.m. The head quarters of the 8th Bttn moved forward to H 28 A & B during the afternoon.

The Divisional Order for the readjustment of Brigade frontages and the formation of an advanced guard was received at 12.30 a.m. on 18th inst. In accordance with the order our front was extended to the right to a 500 yard line on 18th inst. This was occupied as a line of posts by the four companies of the 30th Bttn. Finding their own reports, which were situated in the eastern outskirts of BAPAUME.

The 31st Bttn. were ordered to occupy TILL TRENCH within the Brigade frontages by 10 a.m. on the 18th, and the 31st Bttn. were ordered forward to the BRICKYARD line during the afternoon.

Brigade Headquarters moved forward from GRASS CUT to BAPAUME BARR (H 28 A & B) and was established at latter point at 11 a.m. 19th inst.

- continued -

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SECRET.

APPENDIX

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Copy No. ....

8th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Reference :-  
57c N.W. and N.E.  
1/20,000.

Order No. 86.

26th March 1917.

1. The Advanced Guard of the Corps now hold a line VELU WOOD - J 20 d 0 3 - BEAUMETZ - FARM at J 8 c 6 3 - LAGNICOURT inclusive, and are in touch with the enemy's rearguard.  
The enemy appear to be intending to stand on the HINDENBERG LINE.
2. The forward limits of the main defensive front of the Corps is to be advanced to the line 05 Central - I 27 central - I 14 d - H 12 central - H 4 d (the BEUGNY-YTRES line). The date and time that this line will be taken up will be notified later.
3. The 29th Bttn. will dig, consolidate and occupy a series of defended localities (to be sited under Brigade arrangements) forming the front system on and behind the line between I 27 b 7 3 and I 8 c 2 5. The front system will extend for 1200 yards in rear of this line within the Brigade Boundaries.
4. The 29th Bttn will reconnoitre this line and will be ready to move to and construct these posts at short notice.  
The 30th and 31st Bns. will be familiar with this line when constructed and will reconnoitre routes to the various sectors.
5. The 30th and 31st Bns. will be responsible for the line I 31 central - H 30a 00 - H 22 d 0 2; work on deepening and improving this line will be carried on by these Battalions.  
The line will be occupied normally by only a skeleton garrison; the remainder of these two Battalions will be definitely told off to sectors of the line, and will know their posts in case of alarm, but will be quartered in shelters with the Bttn boundaries in the Eastern outskirts of BAPAUME and in BANCOURT.
6. Boundaries are as follows :-  
(a) Brigade Left Boundary :- H 32 b 8 6 - H 27 d 0 2 - H 28 a 0 0 -  
H 22 c 8 2 - I 8 central.  
(b) " Right " :- N 10 central - I 31 central - I 23 central.  
(c) Inter-Bttn Boundary :- H 33 d 0 0 - H 33 b 8 2 - H 34 central -  
H 30 a 0 0.
7. O.C. 8th M. Gun Coy. will site and occupy six machine gun positions on posts in the BEUGNY line. The balance of the 8th M. Gun Coy will be quartered in FREMICOURT.
8. The 8th L.T.M. Battery will be quartered in FREMICOURT.
9. The cellars and dugouts in ruined houses in BAPAUME, BANCOURT and FREMICOURT will be investigated and the accommodation developed to the fullest extent. All such accommodation will be carefully inspected by an officer before use, and every precaution taken to avoid traps and mines.  
The bulk of the accommodation for troops will be made in shelters constructed in the outskirts of villages and near the defensive lines from such material as can be salvaged on the spot.
10. Brigade H.Qrs. will move to FREMICOURT on the BEUGNY line being taken over.
11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Mulcahy*

Issued at 11 p.m.

Captain,  
A/Brigade Major, 8th Inf Bde.

- Copy No. 1 to 5th Aust. Div.  
 2 Bde. Commander  
 3 File  
 4 War Diary  
 5 29th Bn  
 6 30th "  
 7 31st "  
 8 32nd "  
 9 8th M.G. Coy  
 10 8th LTMB  
 11 Left Brigade  
 12 Right "  
 13 Staff Captain  
 14 2nd Sig Section  
 15 Town Major, Bapaume.

SECRET.Copy No. 4.....8th Aust. Infantry Brigade:Reference -  
57c N.W. & N.E.  
1/20,000.Order No. 87.

31st March 1917.

1. The Advanced Guard is attacking DOIGNIES and LOUVERVAL on 2nd April in co-operation with further operations on our left.
2. The 31st Battalion will take over portion of the front now held by the Advanced Guard on 1st April in order that the troops of the Advanced Guard may be concentrated for the operation.  
  
A Battalion of the 15th Inf Brigade will take over the remainder of the front now held by the Advanced Guard.
3. The 31st Bttn. will come under the orders of G.O.C. Advanced Guard on reaching PREMICOURT.
4. The 29th Battalion will remain in the BEUGNY line of posts and will continue the work of improving the posts and shelter accommodation in rear, as well as the construction of forward posts in the old German trench east of the wire, connected to our posts by saps under the wire.
5. The 30th Bttn. will take over the portion of the Intermediate line now held by the 31st Bttn. at 9 a.m. on 1st April.  
  
The 30th Bttn. will detail two companies for work on the extension and deepening of the existing posts in this line.
6. The 8th Machine Gun Coy. will hold one section of guns under an Officer in PREMICOURT ready to move forward at short notice to reinforce the Advanced Guard in case of necessity. This detachment will come under the orders of G.O.C. Advanced Guard from 8 p.m. on 1st April, and will have a runner at Advanced Guard H.Qrs. from that hour.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 7 p.m.

*Mulcahy*

Copy No. 1 to 5th Aust. Div.  
 2 Brigade Commander  
 3 File  
 4 War Diary  
 5 29th Bttn  
 6 30th "  
 7 31st "  
 8 32nd "  
 9 8th M. Gun Coy  
 10 8th L.T.M.B.  
 11 Advanced Guard  
 12 15th Inf Brigade  
 13 4th Inf Brigade

Captain,  
 A/Brigade Major, 8th Inf. Brigade