

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/3/27

Title: 3rd Infantry Brigade

January 1918



AWM4-23/3/27

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd AUST. INF. BRIGADE H.Qrs.

FOR

JANUARY

1918.

[Handwritten signature]
Major.

Signature of Officer compiling

Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

[Handwritten signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

Lieut. Colonel.
Commanding 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 33

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.

of
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

3rd Aust. Inf. Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MESSINES	1918 Jan - 1		A very quiet day in the line. During the night 1/2 the 10 th + 9 th Bns relieved the 12 th and 11 th Bns in the line, the relief being effected without incident.	Appendix 1.
do.	2 nd		Major Kutchin (Bde Major) resumed duty from hospital. Casualties <u>offs.</u> 2. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	3 rd		Quiet day in the line. Visibility good. Enemy artillery registered on tram routes. Usual works policy carried out at night. Casualties <u>offs.</u> 9. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	4 th		Quiet day. Visibility good. Guns and Aircraft more active than usual. Much enemy front movement opposite our front. Casualties <u>offs.</u> Nil. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	5 th		Situation remains normal. Visibility indifferent. Casualties <u>offs.</u> 5. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	6 th		do do do do. Weather cold & misty. Casualties <u>offs.</u> 2. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	7 th		Enemy appeared nervous opposite right (10 th Pm) Forward area intermittently shelled all day. Otherwise nothing to report. Weather fine & cold. Visibility good. Casualties <u>offs.</u> 3. <u>ORs.</u>	
do.	8 th		Continued intermittent shelling of right Batta forward area. Otherwise situation normal. Casualties Nil.	
do.	9 th		Enemy active with artillery by day and T.F.'s by night. Our counter battery work effective. Casualties <u>offs.</u> nil. <u>Other Ranks.</u> 5.	
do.	9		Situation extremely quiet. During night 9/10 12 th + 11 th Bns relieved 10 th + 9 th Bns. Relief completed by 2345 without incident. Casualties <u>offs.</u> nil. <u>Other Ranks.</u> 15 Kutchin major.	Appendix 2.

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
MESSINES	1918				
	Jan				
	10		Situation quiet. Works carried on. Thaw set in train.	Casualties off. nil. Other Ranks. 8.	
	11		Nothing of interest or value to record. Thaw continues. Sector in very muddy state.	Casualties off. OR. 4.	
	12		Situation quiet. Works continued.	Casualties. Nil.	
	13		Situation quiet. do.	Casualties off. nil. Other Ranks. 3.	
	14		Situation quiet. 4" of snow fell. Heavy rain set in. Working parties cancelled for night 14/15	Casualties off. OR. 6.	
	15		Situation quiet. 7 th Bde relieved 11 th Bde. ^{which moved to RAMILLIES CAMP} Very wet night. River DOUVE in flood.	} Appendix 3.	
	16		Situation quiet. 8 th Bde relieved 12 th Bde which moved to WULVERGHEM CAMP. BDE HQ relieved at 2030 and moved to RAMILLIES CAMP.		
	17		Battalions bathing. Casualties off. ORs. 5.		
	18		} Brigade lying in Divisional Reserve found all duties, including 1 Battalion working nightly on RESERVE LINE and 1 on CORPS LINE. One Company cable burying, one Company on ROAD repair. One Section mining Company remained on pill box reclamation at MESSINES and 3 sections on reclaiming dug outs at IRISH HOUSE.		
	19				
	20				
	21				
	22				
	23	2030		Relief of 2 nd Brigade by 3 rd Brigade Completed. Brigade is now in the MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE sector with 4 Battalions in the line 9 th 10 th 11 th - 12 th being in that order from L to R. The 3 rd LTMB relieved the 2 nd LTMB and the 3 rd MG Coy remained on Barrage work on the sector WAMBEEK-DOUVE. Casualties off. ORs. 4.	Appendix 4.

AUSTRIAN MARY

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MESSINES	1918 Jan 24		Patrol activity maintained during night 23/24. No enemy encountered. Enemy activity with artillery very small. Weather dull and rain threatening. Visibility indifferent. G.D. 6 proceeded to England on 1 months leave. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 1.	
	25		Weather remains mild and dry. Enemy activity of all kinds remarkably small. Casualties. nil. Reconstruction and improvement of front line and support posts proceeded with	
	26		Weather mild dense fog. Under cover of fog much work and salvage carried out. Enemy activity abnormally low. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 3.	
	27		Still foggy and nothing of military interest to report. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 6.	
	28		Beautiful weather. Troops in good form. Enemy activity still very small. We have control of NO MANS LAND as for some time. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 2.	
	29		Bright frost. Fine day. No military happenings to record. Works still going on well. Representatives of incoming Brigade begun to arrive. Casualties. Offs. 1.	
	30		Quiet day. Weather fine & clear, gradually freezing. No matters of military value to record. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 4.	
	31		Weather cold. Dense Fog. 3rd Bde relieved by 8th A I Bde, Relief complete at 10.30pm without incident. Brigade moved to NEUVE-EGLISE — RAVELSBURG area. to billets and hotted camps. Casualties. Offs. nil. Other Ranks. 3.	Appendix 5
	Night Jan 31 Feb 1		Appendix 6 is a Summary of defensive works performed by the Brigade during the hour in the line. <i>J. W. Curran</i> Major	

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4

18,000-12/17-872

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade H.Qrs.

FOR

JANUARY

1913.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Inter. Battalion Relief.
2.	do.
3.	Brigade Relief.
4.	do.
5.	do.
6.	Works carried out whilst in line.

SECRET.

Copy No. 20.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 76.

Brigade Headquarters,
Booth Moor, 1917.

Reference map: Sheet 23, 1/40,000.

1. Inter-battalion Reliefs will be carried out as under on the night 1/2nd January 1917.
 9th Bn. will relieve 11th Bn.
 10th Bn. will relieve 12th Bn.
2. In order that there will be no interruption in works the following details will be observed.
 Companies in the Outpost System will be relieved as early as possible, and the work carried on by the relieving Units.
 Companies in the Support and Reserve Systems will carry on their usual works before being relieved on the night 1st January.
 Double quantities of material will be requisitioned from the dumps and carried forward on the night 31st Dec. /1st Jan.
3. On Relief, the 10th Bn. will hold its Reserve Company in the vicinity of Bn. H. Q. and the accommodation at BETHLEHEM Road. will be utilized by one Coy. 12th Bn.
4. All works will be handed over by relieving Units so that they will continue on the 2nd January without interruption. The following duties will not change over:-
 Personnel on, Dumps, Waterpoints, Baths and Comforts Stalls.
5. Copies of Receipts for trench stores will be forwarded to Brigade H. Q. by 1st D.R. on 3rd instant.
6. The original Company Commanders' sketches will be forwarded to Brigade H. Q. by 1st D.R. on 3rd January (vide this Office G. 1527).
7. Subject to the above all details of relief will be made mutually between Commanding Officers concerned.
8. Completion of Relief will be notified to Brigade H. Q. by priority wire in code.

Acknowledge.

R. R. Agnew

Capt.
Actg. Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1700.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1	9th Bn.	Copy No. 2	10th Bn.
3	11th Bn.	4	12th Bn.
5	3rd A.G. Coy.	6	3rd A.L. Coy.
7	1st Aust. Div.	3	1st A.L. Bde.
9	2nd A.L. Bde.	10	7th A.L. Bde.
11	3rd Field Coy. Engrs.	12	3rd Bde. Mining Coy.
13	MESSINES Group Artly.	14	G.O.C.
15	Brigade Major.	16	Staff Captain.
17	Bde. Int. Officer.	13	Bde. Sig. Officer.
19	File	20/21	War Diary.
22/24	Spares.		

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SECRET.

Copy No. 196

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 77.

Brigade Headquarters,
6th January 1913.

1. The 12th and 11th Battalions will relieve the 10th and 9th Battalions in the Line on the night January 9/10.
2. To obviate interruption in the Works Programme the following details are ordered:-
 - (a) Companies in the Outpost System will be relieved not later than 2000, and incoming units will do the usual work on the (nights) wire and in the posts. Commanders of outgoing Companies will hand to opposite numbers a working party table for such work, setting out task, location, men and material.
 - (b) Companies in the Support and Reserve Lines and the Companies which relieve them will do the usual night's work, and change over at midnight.
 - (c) Double quantities of R.E. stores will be sent up from the Dumps on the night January 8/9, and carrying parties will distribute these stores on the jobs.
3. On relief one Company 10th Bn. will be stationed at BETHLEEM FH.
4. Works and duties (less dump, Waterpoint, Bath and Coffee Stall duties) will be exchanged, and care taken that the detail of these duties is properly explained to relieving Units.
5. Copies of receipts for trench stores will be forwarded to Bde. H.Q. by 1st D.R. on 10th instant.
6. Original Company Commanders' sketches will be forwarded to reach Bde. H.Q. by 1st D.R. 11th instant.
7. Subject to the above orders, all details of relief will be mutually arranged by Commanding Officers.
8. Completion of relief will be notified by code words "Rations arrived".

Acknowledge.

Handwritten signature

Major.
Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1700.

Distribution.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | 9th Battalion. | Copy No. 8 | 10th Battalion. |
| 3 | 11th Battalion. | 4 | 12th Battalion. |
| 5 | 3rd M.G.Coy. | 6 | 3rd A.L.T.M.Bty. |
| 7 | 1st Aust. Division. | 9 | 1st A.I.Bde. |
| 9 | 2nd A.I.Bde. | 10 | 7th A.I.Bde. |
| 11 | 3rd Field Coy. Engrs. | 12 | G.O.C. |
| 13 | Brigade Major. | 14 | Staff Capt. |
| 15 | Bde. Intelligence Off. | 16 | Bde. Sig. Officer. |
| 17 | File | 19/19 | War Diary. |
| 20/23 | Spares. | | |

33

appendix 3

APPENDIX 3⁷

SECRET.

Copy No. 19

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 79.

Brigade Headquarters,
14th January 1918.

Ref. Sheet. WYTSCHAETE 1/10,000.

1. Units of the 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. will be relieved by those of 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. on the nights 15/16th and 16/17th January in accordance with Relief Table overleaf.
2. Advanced parties of the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. will be sent into all advanced posts and will take part in all patrols the night before the relief takes place. They will remain in and rejoin their Units on arrival.
3. No movement of troops forward of the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE ridge will take place before 1645.
4. All maps, aerial photographs, defence schemes, log books, plans of work, documents of value to incoming troops, also area and trench stores, will be handed over and receipts taken.
5. A certificate will be furnished by each Unit that defence schemes have been handed over and orders for action in accordance with the respective schemes, have been promulgated to all concerned.
6. Details of relief not provided for in this order will be arranged mutually between C.Os. concerned.
7. Details of relief of 3rd M.G.Coy. and 3rd Bde. Mining Coy. will be arranged later.
8. Completion of Relief will be notified to this Office in code by priority wire.
9. On completion of Relief the Command of the Sector will pass to G.O.C. 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

W. C. Clarke
Major.
Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1700.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1	9th Battalion	Copy No. 2	10th Battalion.
3	11th Battalion	4	12th Battalion.
5	3rd M.G.Coy.	6	3rd A.L.T. Coy. Bty.
7	1st Aust. Div.	8	1st A.I. Bde.
9	2nd A.I. Bde.	10	6th A.I. Bde.
11	3rd Field Coy. Engrs.	12	3rd Bde. Mig. Coy.
13	MESSINES Group Artillery	14	G.O.C.
15	Brigade Major.	16	Staff Capt.
17	Bde. Int. Officer	18	Bde. Sig. officer.
19/20	War Diary	21	File.
22/24	Spares.		

211-11

Issued with 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde Order No. 71.

Serial No.	Date	Unit	From	To	Unit Relieving	Remarks.
1	Jan'y. 15/16	11th Battalion	Front Line Left	RAMILLES Camp	7th Battalion	shortest route.
2	15/16	3rd A.L.T. B. Dty.	Line	KIMMEL	2nd A.L.T. B. Dty.	
3	16	10th Battalion	WULVERGHEM	IRISH HOUSE H 23 0 8 9		To be clear of WULVERGHEM Camp by 1100.
4	16/17	12th Battalion	Front Line Right	WULVERGHEM	3th Battalion.	Shortest route.

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SECRET.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 79.

Ref. sheet: 29 S.W.

Brigade Headquarters,
21st January 1918.

1. The 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. (less G.C.Oy.) will relieve the 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde. (less A.I.Coy.) in the line on the night 23/24th instant, opposite numbers being:-

- | | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| 6th Bn. | - | 9th Bn. |
| 5th Bn. | - | 10th Bn. |
| 7th Bn. | - | 11th Bn. |
| 3th Bn. | - | 12th Bn. |

2. Relieving troops will not cross the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE Ridge before 1645.
3. The usual procedure with regard to maps, defence schemes, trench stores, Company Commanders' sketches etc. will maintain.
4. Advance Parties will be sent to the line on the night 22/23rd.
5. Completion of relief will be reported to Brigade H.Q. in code.
6. Brigade H.Q. will close at KEMMEL at 1800 on day of relief, and open at NORTH RIDGE FARM at the same hour.

Acknowledge.

A. J. Hutchins
Major,
Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1300.

<u>Distribution.</u>	Copy No.	
	1	9th Battalion.
	2	10th Battalion.
	3	11th Battalion.
	4	12th Battalion.
	5	3rd G.C.Oy.
	6	3rd A.I.Coy.
	7	3rd Field Coy.
	8	3rd Bde. Mining Coy.
	9	1st Aust. Division.
	10	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
	11	2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
	12	MESSINES Group Artillery.
	13	G.C.O.
	14	Brigade Major.
	15	Staff Captain.
	16	Bde. Intelligence Officer.
	17	Bde. Signal Officer.
	18	File.
	19/20	War Diarr.
	21/23	Maps.

SECRET.Copy No. 27THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 90.Brigade Headquarters,
23rd January 1913.

Reference Map: Sheet 23 S.W.

1. The 3th Aust. Inf. Brigade will relieve the 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade in the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE sector of the line on the night 31st Jany./ 1st February 1913 in accordance with roll of table overleaf.
2. On relief the Brigade will move to the RAVENSBURG training area, and go into training in accordance with G.S. Memo. 39 issued separately.
3. Defence schemes, Maps, photographs, works policy and all documents and information of use to incoming Units will be handed over. Certificate to this effect will be forwarded by 1st D.R. on 1st prox.
4. NO movement of troops forward of the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE Ridge will take place before 5 p.m. unless, owing to mist, Battalion Commanders can with safety move earlier. Movement forward of the KEMMEL-NEUVE EGMISE road will be by platoons at 100 yards distance. In rear of that road distances as per Standing Orders Fourth Army will be maintained.
5. Administrative instructions are issued separately.
6. Details of relief not herein provided for will be arranged mutually between Unit Commanders concerned.
7. Completion of relief will be notified to Brigade H. Qs. by "PRIORITY" wire, in code.
8. Command will pass on completion of relief to G.O.C. 3th Aust. Inf. Bde. and 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde. Headquarters will open at new location at same hour.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. J. ...
Major.
Bde. Mjr. 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 1100.Distribution.

Copy No. 1	9th Battalion	Copy No. 2	10th Battalion.
3	11th Battalion	4	12th Battalion.
5	3rd M.G. Coy.	6	3rd A.L.T.M. Bty.
7	2nd M.G. Coy.	3	3rd Field Coy.
9	3rd Bde. Min. Coy.	10	3rd Brigade School
11	4th Coy. A.A.S.C.	12	1st Aust. Div. "G"
13	5th Aust. Div.	14	1st Aust. Div. "Q"
15	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.	16	2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
17	3th Aust. Inf. Bde.	13	10th Aust. Inf. Bde.
19	14th Aust. Inf. Bde.	20	G.O.C.
21	Brigade Major	22	Staff Captain.
23	Brigade Int. Officer	24	Brigade Sig. Officer.
25	File	26/27	War Diary.
23/30	Spares.		

RELIEF TABLE

To accompany 3rd A.I. Bde. Order No. 30.

Serial No.	Unit	Relieving Unit.	Sector.	On relief move to.	Route.	Remarks.
1	12th Bn.	30th Bn.	Line - Right	T 15 B 4 5	WULVERGHEM- NEUVE EGLISE Rd.	
2	11th Bn.	32nd Bn.	" - Right Centre	T 14 B 9 4	do	
3	10th Bn.	31st Bn.	" - Left Centre	T 20 A 1 1	do	
4	9th Bn.	29th Bn.	" - Left	T 15 A 4 2	do	
5	3rd M.G. Coy.	3th M.G. Coy.	Line	KENT CAMP (T 25 D 2 0)	do	
6	3rd A.L.T. Bn.	3th A.L.T. Bn.	Line	T 20 A 1 0	do	
7	3rd Bde. School		LINDENHOEK	SHOVEL CAMP (T 13 D 1 5)	do	Move on 31/1/14.
8	3rd Bde. Min. Coy.		Line	do	do	do
9	Bde. H. rs.	H. & 3th A.I. Bde.	Line	S 19 D 2 1	do	

THIRD AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

3rd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
No. G. 1395
Date.....

First Australian Division.

I am able to give you a fairly accurate idea of the nature and amount of work put in by the Brigade during the tour of the line 16th December to February 1st. This is of course exclusive of one week's work on the Divisional and Corps Lines under other than Brigade Supervision, and cable burying and water supply jobs which were finished.

I cannot give the actual measurement of wiring done, but the amount put out is stated below.

In passing I should like to state that the help and advice of the 3rd Field Company throughout the tour was most valuable and that the supply of stores by the C.R.E. left nothing to be desired.

Length of trench dug	1769 yards.
Revetment lower	503 yards.
Revetment lower and upper	1931 yards.
Duckwalks laid	1696 yards.
Shelters constructed	113 yards.
Drains and trenches cleaned and deepened.	1105 yards.
Parapet (built 3')	1373 yards.
Parados	560 yards.
Bunking of pill-boxes :-	Pill-boxes drained and cleaned and 137 bunks put in at MESSINES.

Summary of R.E. Stores actually put into works.

Duckwalks	1132
'A' Frames	1433
Revetting panels	996
Gal. iron sheets	1569
Windles	1225
Cupola iron sheets	239
Sandbags	53535
Angle irons	3107
Wire barbed coils	692
" French "	143
Pickets "	4053

2nd February 1913.

Lieut. Colonel.
Temp. Commanding 3rd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Outpost System of Right Bn. and Right Centre Bn.

Report on and work done on Posts from 16/12/17 to 31/1/18.

S.P. 1.U.5.

Situated at U.5.C.35.20, facing S.E. commanding the DOUVE Valley, with a good defensive belt of wire in front of post. The following work has been done on the post and C.T. leading up to it:-

- 110 yards sap dug.
- 250 yards sap deepened converting sap to C.T.
- 60 yards trench 6' deep dug for S.P.
- 270 yards lower revetment of post and C.T.
- 295 yards upper revetment of post and C.T.
- 203 yards duckwalks laid.
- 11 shelters constructed.
- 105 yards drain cleared.
- 195 yards parapet built up to width of 3'.

Material used.

Duckwalks 230: 'A' Frames 275: Cupolas 14: corr.iron 114 sheets: sandbags 2010: panels 123: angle irons 243:

S.P. 2.U.5. (U.5.D.4.3.).

This post faces S E and commands the Valley of the DOUVE and No Mans Land in front of the right posts, The post is only partly occupied.

Work done:-

- 10 shelters constructed.
- 60 yards trench dug.
- 62 yards trench revetted, parapet and parados sandbagged.
- 70 yards duckwalks laid.
- 220 yards of wire across front of post.

Material used:-

72 duckwalks: 63 'A' Frames: 47 sheets corr.iron: 13 cupolas: 1030 sandbags: 173 corkscrews: 43 coils barb. wire: 13 panels: 40 windles: 6 coils French wire.

S.P. 4.U.5. (U.5.B.4.3.).

This post is being constructed in an old trench which joins up with Coy. H.Q.

Work done.

- 77 yards trench revetted.
- 70 yards parapet and parados complete, parapet 3' thick.
- 42 yards trench duckboarded.
- 7 cupola shelters.

Work continuing.

Material used:-

19 cupolas: 2250 sandbags: 49 sheets corr. iron: 73 Panels: 56 'A' Frames: 42 duckwalks: 229 angle irons: 70 windles.

- 2 -

S.P. 5.U.5. (U.5.B.4.7).

This post faces eastwards and is under construction.

Work done.

42 yards trench dug for revetting.
 34 yards trench 'A' Framed and duckboarded.
 57 parapet strengthened.
 5 chelters completed.
 90 yards barb. wire in front of post.

Post is not occupied and all work is camouflaged.

Material used.

660 Sandbags: 31 corkscrews: 13 coils barb. wire.
 6 cupolas: 13 duckboards: 23 'A' Frames: 15 panels.
 6 sheets corr.iron.

S.P. 1.0.35. (0.35.D.2.0.).
S.P. 2.0.35. (0.35.C.35.30).
S.P. 3.0.35. (0.35.A.7.1.).
S.P. 4.0.35. (0.35.A.3.0).
S.P. 5.0.34. (0.34.B.9.3.).

These posts are undergoing construction and in each case they are garrisoned by 1 platoon, excepting S.P. 3.U.35 and S.P.4.0.35, which have accommodation for a Company H.Q. in addition.

These posts have a continuous strong belt of wire across their fronts.

In addition to the Strong Posts undergoing construction in the Outpost System. The front is held by a series of groups of sectional posts, built in an old trench 200 to 300 yards in advance of the line of S.Ps. The wire across the front is now thick and continuous and forms a good obstacle. The occupied posts are mostly revetted and duckboarded; shelters are not good, but are being improved and new ones constructed daily.

All garrisons are engaged by night on maintenance work. On the left four Bomb Steps have been constructed. Drainage is not yet complete, but has been greatly improved.

Accommodation in re-claimed dugouts in MESSINES is being carried on by 3rd Field Coy. Engineers, and will be handed over to relieving Unit.

Outpost System of Left Centre and Left Bn.Report on and work done on posts from 23/1/13 to 31/1/13.S.P. 1.0.29. (0.29.C.2.5.).

This post has an Easterly field of fire and is garrisoned by one platoon. Wire has been improved and forms a good onstacle.

Work done.

32 yards ^{duckboard} raised and trench cleaved.
 25 yards parapet thickened to 3'.
 6 yards trench excavated and revetted.
 1 shelter rebuilt.

Material used.

55 coils barb. wire.
 6 coils French wire.
 210 corkscrews.
 6 'A' Frames.
 6 sheets corr.iron.

S.P. 2.0.29. (0.29.A.2.0.).

This post faces slightly N E and is manned by one platoon.

Wire in front of this post is a good onstacle and has been considerably strengthened.

Work done.

43 yards parados revetted and strengthened.
 6 yards lower revetment.
 43 yards duckwalk laid.

Material used.

950 sandbags.
 32 coils barb. wire.
 5 coils French wire.
 110 corkscrews.
 20 duckwalks.
 2 sheets corr.iron.

S.P. 3.0.29. (0.29.A.10.45.).

This post faces North East and commands a large stretch of No Mans Land. It is manned by one platoon. A duckwalk track for use of patrols connects this post with S.P. 2.0.29.

Work done.

1 cupola dugout.
 13 yards trench revetted and parapet completed.
 200 yards wire (double apron over French).

Material used.

12 sheets corr.iron.	735 sandbags.
3 cupolas.	11 'A' Frames.
53 angle irons.	22 duckwalks.
6 panels.	
10 corkscrews.	

APPENDIX 6

S.P. 4.0.29. (0.29.A.10.55.).

This post faces N.E. and commands the WAMBEEK Valley on the left. It is manned by one platoon and is the left post of Left Centre Bn.

Work done.

2 cupola dugouts.
42 yards parapet sandbagged and revetted.
18 yards trench completely revetted and duckboarded.

Material used.

675 sandbags.
7 'A' Frames.
51 sheets Corr.iron.
3 corkscrews.
3 panels.
6 angle irons.
3 cupolas.
10 duckwalks.

S.P. 1.0.23. (0.23.C.2.4.).
S.P. 2.0.23. (0.23.C.2.6.).
S.P. 3.0.23. (0.23.C.15.30.).
S.P. 4.0.23. (0.23.A.2.2.).

The above posts are ~~manned~~^{manned} by one Company and are in a continuous trench duckboarded the full length, and almost completely revetted. The continuous belt of wire in front is strong and forms a very effective obstacle.

In addition to this Company in the line, is one platoon from the Reserve Company, holding a post near WAKK FARM.

The following work has been done on the above frontage:-

630 yards double apron over French, added to existing wire.
36 yards lower revetment.
46 yards duckwalk laid.
100 yards duckwalk covered with wire netting.
50 yards drain excavated.
1 Sump pit 3' X 3' dug.
30 yards parapet sandbagged.
20 yards drain lower revetted.
1 cupola dugout.

Material used.

32 coils French wire.
32 coils Barb. wire.
225 corkscrews.
55 sheets corr. iron.
53 'A' Frames.
10 angle irons.
1 roll wire netting.
150 sandbags.
23 duckwalks.

SUPPORT SYSTEM.

Report on work done for period 16/12/17 to 31/1/18.

Right Battalion Sector.

S.P.3.U.5. (U.5.C.25.45.).

This is a well sighted well constructed post containing accommodation for a Company H.Q. and approximately 30 men. It has a good field of fire especially in the direction of Fme. de La CROIX. NEW CROSS C.T. leads through the centre of the post which is accessible at all times.

Work done.

1,130 yards double apron over French, across front of post and to both flanks forming a good obstacle.
 734 yards trench dug and deepened for revetting.
 110 yards trench lower revetted.
 425 yards trench revetted.
 293 yards parapet sandbagged.
 130 yards parapets sandbagged.
 75 yards drain cleaned out.
 110 yards trench duckboarded.
 1 M. Gun emplacement revetted.
 27 shelters and 1 Coy. H.Q. built.

The post will garrison one Company.

Material used.

17,100 sandbags.
 955 corkscrews.
 333 angle irons.
 210 panels.
 129 sheets corr.iron.
 205 duckwalks.
 105 'A' Frames.
 33 cupolas.
 70 windles.
 143 coils barb. wire.
 20 coils french wire.

S.P. 4.U.4. (U.4.B.3.4.).

Post is crescent shape in a well concealed position facing S E with good fields of fire.

Work done.

19 cupola dugouts.
 106 yards trench revetted.
 29 yards trench 'A' Framed.
 335 yards trench deepened and widened for revetment.
 930 yards double apron over French wire in front of post and continuing to both flanks.
 50 yards trench lower revetted.

Material used.

3,335 sandbags.	66 coils French wire.
110 duckwalks.	914 corkscrews.
123 panels.	150 windles.
53 cupolas.	277 angle irons.
127 sheets corr.iron.	2 rolls camouflage.
159 'A' Frames.	
113 coils barb. wire	

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Right Centre Bn. Sector.S.P. 1.0.34. (O.34.D.1.1.).

This post has a good all round field of fire, but its construction has made its position obvious for some considerable distance. Posts S.O.34 and E.O.4 can be covered from here.

Work done:-

9 dugouts (accommodation 21 men).
 57 yards parapet revetted and sandbagged.
 50 yards parapet built up with sandbags 3' thick.
 70 yards parados built up with sandbags 4' thick.
 20 yards parados revetted and sandbagged.
 59 yards trench dug 6' x 3'. This post is complete but wire ~~is~~ is thin and practically no obstacle. Garrisoned by one platoon. Whole post is camouflaged.

Material used.

5,700 yards sandbags^s.
 54 duckwalks.
 27 cupolas.
 59 panels.
 119 angle irons.
 30 windles.
 53 'A' Frames.
 53 sheets corr.iron.

S.P. 2.0.34. (O.34.E.9.7.).

This post joins up with FANNY C.T. and at O.34.D.9.1. It is well sited and commands a good field of fire, covering the flanks of S.P. 1.0.34 and S.P. 3.0.34. It is well concealed and camouflaged.

Work done.

8 shelters built in parados.
 37 yards parados revetted and sandbagged.
 42 " " " " "
 79 yards parapet " "
 3 " " sandbagged 5' thick.

Material used.

Sandbags 5,800;
 cupolas 24.
 panels 72.
 angle irons 173.
 duckboards 20.
 G.I.sheets 18.
 windles 25.

The post is now complete except for ordinary garrison improvements. There is no fire step, trench being 5' deep. There are eight shelters with accommodation for one platoon. Double revetment and duckboards laid throughout with good drainage. The post extends S from FANNY C.T. for 50 yards. The wire about 30 yards in front, double apron and old German, forms a fair obstacle but requires thickening.

S.P. 3.0.34. (0.34.B.25.25.).

Post Faces N E and E and commands BLAUWPOORTBEEK Valley.
Work done:-

440 yards wiring between FANNY C.T. and BLAUWPOORTBEEK Valley.
3 shelters constructed.
65 drain dug 5' 6" deep.
35 yards drain lower revetted.
122 yards trench dug 7' deep (depth of post).
92 yards trench revetted.
165 yards parapet levelled off and sandbagged.
63 yards lower revetted.
43 yards parapet levelled off and sandbagged.

This post together with accommodation about Bn. H.Q. will garrison two platoons and Coy. H.Q. Wire has been thickened but is not yet an effective obstacle.

A branch C.T. connects with FANNY C.T. which makes it accessible by day.

Material used.

4,450 sandbags.
1,163 corkscrews.
214 coils barb. wire.
135 panels.
52 duckboards.
24 cupolas.
139 sheets corr.iron.
141 angle irons.
143 'A' Frames.
40 windles.

Left Centre Bn. Sector.

Period 23/1/13 to 31/1/13.

S.P. 1.0.23. (0.23.C.7.0.)

Post is manned by one platoon also contains a Coy. H.Q. and S.O.S. repeating post. It faces N E and has a good field of fire along Northern side of BLAUWPOORTBEEK Valley.

Work done.

21 yards trench excavated for revetting.
11 yards trench revetted.
4 yards drain cleaved out.
20 yards duckwalks laid.

Material used.

11 'A' Frames.
15 sheets corr.iron.
10 duckwalks.
9 corkscrews.

S.P. 2.0.23. (0.23.C.7.6.).

Post is manned by one platoon.

Work done:-

Minor maintenance, repairs, wiring between posts 2.0.23 and 3.0.23.

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S.P. 2 0 23 (cont).Material used.

15 coils barb. wire.
3 coils French wire.
32 angle irons.
75 corkscrews.

This material has been used in wiring in front of and between S.P. 2 0 23 and S.P. 3 0 23.

S.P. 3 0 23.S.P. 4 0 23.

Maintenance work has been carried out by the garrisons and the wire in front of the posts strengthened. The following material was used:-

2 'A' Frames.
4 sheets corr.iron.
100 sandbags.
16 coils barb. wire.
30 corkscrews.

Each post is manned by one platoon.

S.P. 1.0.22.

S.P. 2.0.22.

S.P. 3.0.22.

S.P. 4.0.22.

S.P. 5.0.22.

All posts except S.P. 3.0.22 are manned by one platoon, each of the Support Coy. The following is the total work done and material used in the area.

4 yards trench dug for revetment.
55 yards trench cleaved out.
34 yards lower revetment.
23 yards upper revetment.
40 yards drain cleaned and deepened 6".

Material used.

49 sheets corr.iron.
47 'A' Frames.
100 sandbags.
16 panels.
12 cupolas.
6 duckwalks.

RESERVE SYSTEM.

-Left Battalion and Left Centre Battalion Sector.
Period 23/1/13 to 31/1/13.

S.P. 4.0.21. is the only ~~east-west~~ post which has been worked on in Reserve Line of the above two areas.

Work done.

10 yards trench widened 6" deepened 1'.
4 yards trench revetted.
7 yards trench dug.
10 yards parapet sandbagged.
1 dugout.

Material used.

22 'A' Frames.
12 sheets corr.iron.
3 duckwalks.
6 panels.
130 sandbags.
3 cupolas.

COMMUNICATIONS.FANNY C.T.

Report on and work done for period 16/12/17 to 31/1/18.

The main communication trench to the Right Centre Bn. running from approx. O.32.d.3.6. in an easterly direction as far as GAPAARD (O.35.c.6.9.).

The work done on this C.T. since 16/12/17 has now almost made GAPAARD accessible in daylight. Work was commenced at approx. O.33.d.3.7.

106 yards of drains were cleaned out and maintained.
725 yards of upper and lower revetment of parapet and parados.
773 yards of lower revetment of parapet and parados.
325 yards of parapet and parados levelled off with spoil.
117 yards of parapet levelled off and sandbagged.

This gives a total of 390 yards of C.T. revetted and in good order. The depth being approx. 6' and thickness of wall being approx. 6'.

The work is still in progress working towards GAPAARD. The duckboards are in very good order throughout.

Material used.

Sandbags, 11,330.
panels 413.
angle irons 1,376.
sheets corr.iron 465.
duckboards 12.
duckboards (cross-pieces) 252.
A Frames 139.
windles 650.
corkscrews 29.

NEW CROSS C.T.

Report on and work done for period 16/12/17 to 31/1/18.

The main communication trench to Right Bn. Front, commencing about U.3.Central, running due East as far as U.4.c.9.1. the latter end of which is being improved as far as possible.

The Pioneer Bn. is responsible for the improvement of this C.T. It is being continued to S.P.1.U.11.

Work done.

300 yards duckboards relaid.
59 new duckboards laid.
30 yards trench dug and cleaned for revetting.
34 yards trench revetted.
26 yards parapet sandbagged.
24 yards parados "

Material used.

40 panels.
50 'A' Frames.
40 sheets corr.iron.
19 duckwalks.
330 sandbags.
70 windles.
53 angle irons.

Dorset Street.

Report on and work done for period 23/1/13 to 31/1/13.

Is the main communication to the Left Centre Battalion, commencing about O.28.b.4.3 and running eastwards to O.29.a.1.6.

Work done.

42 yards trench cleaned out and revetted.
30 yards trench dug out preparing for revetting.

Material used.

44 panels.
10 sheets corr.iron.
3 angle-irons.A Frames.
103 Angle irons.
35 corkscrews.
1 coll wire.

Manchester Street.

Period 23/1/13 to 31/1/13.

Is the main communication trench to Left Battalion Front, commencing at about O.21.d.0.9, and running East to O.23.c.1.9. A series of drains have been dug off the C.T.

Work done.

260 yards trench cleaned out and duckwalks relaid.
94 yards lower revetment.
33 yards upper revetment.
206 yards drain deepened and cleaned out.

Material used.

35 panels.
67 angle irons.
10 windles.
62 A Frames.
50 sheets corr.iron.
2 duckboards.