

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/18/12

Title: 1st Infantry Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-23/18/12

WAR DIARY

1st Div 1st Bn Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

VOLUME VI

(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
RIGHT SUB SECT TRENCHES (BLUFF.)	1/10/16	2200	<p>all quiet during day. Occasional light shelling by our artillery, to which the enemy did not retaliate.</p> <p>81 opr reinforcements arrived and were allotted to Coy. 3 of these were slightly wounded by M.G. fire near LANKHOF FARM. Work was carried out as follows:-</p> <p>Revetting, barricading & building dugouts in Craters, deepening & revetting firing line and communication trenches. Saps from trenches 29 & 30 continued. 36 coils barbed wire set out in front of trenches 31 & 32.</p>	
	2/10/16		<p>Situation normal. We fired 150 Mills rifle grenades into enemy's lines. Our casualties were 2 opr wounded. Duckboarding & dugout building in Craters. Following work was carried out:-</p> <p>Parapet building & duckboarding in firing line. Revetting & duckboarding in support and communication trenches. Saps from trenches 29 & 30 continued.</p>	
	3/10/16		<p>Enemy shelled Craters & WYNDE at intervals with .77 HE. We retaliated with 18 pr. 4.5 How. and Stokes mortars on each occasion. We fired 180 rifle grenades into enemy's front line and supports. Work done:-</p> <p>Excavation & duckboarding in Craters. Parapet strengthening in firing line. A framing, revetting & dugout building in supports and communication trenches. 10 coils barbed wire set out in front of trenches 31 and 32.</p> <p>1 officer (Lieut MULLARKEY) and 31 opr reinforcements arrived and were allotted to Coy. Our casualties were 1 opr killed 2 opr wounded.</p>	
	4/9/16 710		<p>Enemy heavily bombarded top of THAMES S and trench 29 from 1200 to 1830 with .77 & 5.9 HE, causing casualties - 1 opr killed & 1 opr died of W.B. THAMES S blown in for 70' and trench 29 for 10'. Our artillery and F.M.'s retaliated at intervals. Following work was carried out:-</p> <p>Sandbag wall and dugouts erected in Craters. Parapet & parapet construction in firing line. Damage to THAMES S and trench 29 repaired. Duckboarding & revetting in supports and communications.</p>	
	5/9/16 710	0807	<p>Day passed very quietly. No casualties. At 0807 an earth tremor was felt & sound of (presumably) mine explosion heard well to our right. We fired 100 rifle grenades into enemy's lines.</p>	P.W. Miller

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RIGHT SUB SECTION TRENCHES (BLUFF)	6/10/16	1000	<p>13 OR reinforcements received and distributed to Coy. Lt Col. J. HEANE, D.S.O. to 1st Inf Bde to Command temporarily vice R. Genl N.M. SMYTH - VC. CS temporarily Commanding 1st Aust Division.</p> <p>MAJOR P.S.S. WOODFORDE to Command 1st Bn. temporarily (during absence of Lt Col. HEANE).</p> <p>Following work carried out:- Draining, duckboarding, revetting in Craters. Revetting, duckboarding, & making parapet irregular in the firing line. Deepening & cleaning in Supports and Communications. Saps from trenches 29 & 30 continued.</p>	
	6/10/16	1000	<p>C.O. 3rd Bn. shown over position by C.O. 1st Bn. — Day quiet. Our artillery & T.M.'s shelled intermittently and the enemy occasionally retaliated. We fired 134 Mills rifle grenades upon enemy's front & support lines.</p>	
		1400	<p>Details for relief arranged between CO's 3rd & 1st Bns.</p>	
		1600	<p>P.M. relief order issued. Coy attached.</p>	
		2000	<p>At 2000 12 of our patrols each under an officer entered enemy's trenches opposite our 31 & 32 to find out if saps held by enemy & to obtain prisoners. They discovered the points held by the enemy but were soon observed by him. The enemy brought up reinforcements and began to bombard our parties, who when their bomb supply was exhausted and after suffering casualties (1 officer (by FLANNERY) and 5 OR wounded) withdrew to our lines. This operation was carried out under the B.C.O. Coy in obedience to personal instruction given by the Bde. Commander.</p>	
			<p>Work was carried out as follows. — Latrine built. — Framing & duckboarding in Craters. Thickening parapet, duckboarding & revetting in firing line. Deepening & framing & revetting in Supports and Communications.</p>	
RIGHT RESERVE	7/10/16	2000	<p>Day very quiet. Enemy shelled BLUFF & the WYNDE with 7.7 HE occasionally. We retaliated on each occasion. 1st Bn. relieved by 3rd Bn. Relief completed at 2040. Coy proceeded independently as relieved to reserve position vacated by 3rd Bn. — A+B Coy in HQ at BEDFORD HOUSE & 1 Pl. in each of S.P.'s 7 & 8. C. Coy, Bombay Pl. and Bn HQ. + details at SWAN CHATEAU</p>	

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RIGHT BN RESERVES	10/16		A.B.C. Coy + Bombers employed on tunnelling + carrying fatigues to front line + vicinity. D. Coy carried out revetting + duckboarding in SP's 7+8 and improved dugouts at BEDFORD HOUSE.	
	9/10/16		Day quiet. D. Coy continued improvements on SP's 7+8 + dugouts at BEDFORD HOUSE. Rest of Bn. on fatigue as usual.	
	10/10/16		Yesterday's work continued. At 1100 the G.O.C. 4 th Bde visited us + spoke of probable relief of 1 st Bn by part of his Bde.	
	11/10/16	1120	Two 13 th Bn officers reconnoitred our positions with view to taking over. Work on SP's 7+8 continued + rest of Bn on fatigue as usual. Day extremely quiet.	
	12/10/16		C.O. Officers + 2 CO's of the 13 th Bn. visited us + arranged details for relief tomorrow of Bn. less D. Coy. Latter to be relieved by a Coy of 16 th Bn.	
	13/10/16	1000	Yesterday's work carried on with. At 1000 13 th Bn. advance party arrived.	
		2010	Relief of this Bn completed by 15 th + 16 th Bns.	
DEVONSHIRE CAMP		2045	Bn entrained at SPRES ASYLUM for BRANDHOEK and thence proceeded by march route to DEVONSHIRE CAMP, arriving at 2500, where hot tea was served to the men.	
	13/10/16	1700	Captain A.K. MACKENZIE left for ENGLAND to attend course of instruction for Bn. Comm'd at ALDERSHOT. Bn. bathed at divisional baths at PAPERINGHE.	
			Order rec'd from Bde HQ. to move on by march route to training area near ST OMER. Bn. movement order issued. Coy attached	
		1200	Steel helmets, box respirators + other gear not req'd in training area dumped at RENINGHELST SIDING.	
STEENVORDE	14/10/16	0830	Bn. marched to STEENVORDE and went into billets at	
		1330	1330. Captain C. JACKSON and Lt H.E. a'BECKETT reported for duty from ENGLAND. Former appointed to command B. Coy; latter appointed to B. Coy for duty.	
OOST HOUCK	15/10/16	0830	Bn. moved by march route to OOST HOUCK and went into billets at 1300. 30 slight cases of sore feet were attended to.	PSSW/10/16

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OOST HOUCK NORTLEULINGHEM	16/10/16	0830	Moved by march route to NORT LEULINGHEM and went into billets at 1330.	
	17/10/16	0900	50 cases of sore feet attended to. None serious. Training & inspections CO attended at Bde H.Q. for instructions regarding training to be carried out. Training syllabus prepared & issued. Copy attached.	
	18/10/16	1100	Training as per syllabus. In addition during the morning 200 latest reinforcements & least good rifle. Shots fired 100' grouping practice at range. During the afternoon all Coy & platoon bombing team practiced on range with live bombs. Lieut. F.A. GRAHAM reported for duty from ENGLAND - appointed to A Coy. Advance party despatched, 1 officer & 2 CO. in preparation for move by rail to another area. Training. - Order rec'd from Bde. to entrain at SOMER on 20 th inst for LONGPRE.	
	19/10/16	0930	Transport moved to SOMER and entrained.	
	20/10/16	1220	By moved to SOMER by march route and entrained at 1600.	
	21/10/16	1703	Train departed for LONGPRE and arrived at 0045. 24 th inst.	
SOMER LONGPRE		0045	Unloading party - 2 officers & 100 OR sent to report to R.T.O. for duty. Bn detrained and at	
BRUCAMPS		0430	0630 proceeded by march route to BRUCAMPS, arrived at 0800 and went into billets. Unloading party returned about midnight.	
		0900	Transport left with rest of Bde. transport for march by 2 stages to FRICOURT. Training carried out by Bn. during the morning. Instructions rec'd from Bde. H.Q. to move by motorbus & march route on 23 rd inst to FRICOURT.	
	23/10/16	0800	Bn. moved by march route to starting point north of MOUFLERS and from there proceeded	
BUIRE.		1400	by motorbus to BUIRE arriving at 1400. then marched with 200' distance between	
NEAR FRICOURT.		1700	Coy. to camp. NEAR FRICOURT. arriving at 1700. Transport arrived at 2300.	
	24/10/16	1000	Marched to MAMETZ WOOD, blocked on several occasions by traffic & retarded by bad road.	
MAMETZ WOOD		1200	Arrived at 1200, in rain, and bivouaced under a few tarpaulins.	
	25/10/16	0700	C.O. and 2 Coy officers reconnected rear & communication in III Corps area.	

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MAMETZ WOOD	25/10/16	1330	9 other Co. Officers reconnoitred same ground. Raining again. Steel helmets, box respirators etc brought from ALBERT and resumed to the men.	
	26/10/16	1630	Whole Bn. proceeded to QUARRY STATION to unload sleepers from train at QUARRY STATION.	
	27/10/16	0200	returned at 0200.	
	27/10/16	0730	C.O. + Co. Commanders reconnoitred position + communication to right B. 8 th Bde in line in preparation for possible relief. Communication was found to be bad.	
	28/10/16	1800	Lieut-Col IAN HEARNE D.S.O. resumed Command. of 1 st Bn.	
DELVILLE WOOD	28/10/16	1400	C.O. Sen. Maj. + Co. Comd ^{rs} reconnoitred position of 4 th ESSEX regt. - right B. 8 th Bde. in preparation for probable relief.	
	29/10/16	1530	Warned to be prepared to relieve the ESSEX night 29/30 th Sept.	
	29/10/16	0730	Yellow square patches sewn on back of tunics of all ranks, + Rec ^d orders to relieve ESSEX regt. tonight.	
RIGHT B. TRENCHES 1 st Bde Sectn.	29/10/16	0800	Bn. proceeded A.Co. leading by march route to DELVILLE WOOD + arrived at 1000.	
	29/10/16	1000	Rested here until 1530. Raining heavily + very cold. CO + Co. Comd ^{rs} proceeded to front line + arranged details for relief with ESSEX regt.	
	29/10/16	1530	Moved to the line by FLARE ALLEY, A.Co. leading to relieve.	
RIGHT B. TRENCHES 1 st Bde Sectn.	29/10/16	1945	Relief completed. 3 casualties were incurred. 1 GR killed 2 GR wounded.	
	29/10/16	1945	The enemy did not disturb us during the night. Our artillery fired steadily on his front line.	
RIGHT B. TRENCHES 1 st Bde Sectn.	30/10/16	1900	Work was carried out as follows:- deepening + cleaning out the firing line and continuation of the 2 saps front line.	
	30/10/16	1900	Situation normal. Enemy shelled SUNKEN RD + FLARE ALLEY at 0500 and 1700 for about an hour on each occasion. Our artillery fired continuously on his lines. Heavy rain occurred during afternoon + caused many parts of front trenches to cave in + filled them knee deep with water.	
RIGHT B. TRENCHES 1 st Bde Sectn.	30/10/16	1900	Work was confined to repairing trenches where possible, continuation of work on deepening of 2 saps from front line.	
	30/10/16	1900	At 1900 a patrol reconnoitred 500 ^{yds} in front of our line in vicinity of BAYONET TRENCH + located an enemy strongpoint with MG. install.	

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RIGHT H. trench 100 Yds Sectn.	31/10/16	1910	<p>Enemy shelled CHEESE (JUNKEN RD) Rd in early morning and at 1700. Our guns fired on enemy positions accurately & incessantly. Weather fine today. Visibility good. Our balloons & aeroplanes were very much in evidence. Work carried out:-</p> <p>Improvements to communication trenches from CHEESE Rd to front line. Repairs to front line where balloons were relieved by C & G Coy from reserve trenches. Conditions during last week have been severe but men stand it well. Whale oil which is issued daily to all ranks undoubtedly keeps men's feet in good condition in spite of cold & wet.</p>	

P. Woodford Mley.
1st Lt

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RELIEF ORDER

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MAJOR P.S.S. WOODFORDE COMMANDING 1st. BATTALION A.I.F.

Relief of 1st. Battalion A.I.F. by 3rd. Battalion A.I.F. on 6/10/16

Date of Battalion of 1st. Bn. 6/10/16

Unit of 3rd. Bn. G.O.C. of 3rd. Bn.

RELIEF. On the night of the 7/8th. inst. 1st. Battalion will be relieved by the 3rd. Battalion in the right sub section trenches.

Companies will relieve as follows:-

- "A" Coy. 1st. Battalion will be relieved by "A" Coy. 3rd. Battalion
- "B" Coy. " " " " " " " " " "
- "C" Coy. " " " " " " " " " "
- "D" Coy. " " " " " " " " " "

The Second in Command and 1 senior N.C.O. per Coy. The following will proceed to positions to be taken over by their Coys on relief as laid down in this order, move to be completed by 0600 on the 7th. inst and will carry out duties as follows:-

The Second in Command and 1 senior N.C.O. per Coy. (who will allot quarters for their Coy., take over Trench Stores and Defence Scheme, acquaint themselves with all arrangements for fatigues, cooking, supply of water, ration dumps, etc.,)

One guide from each platoon in addition, will accompany this party to reconnoitre the route to be taken to platoon positions and return to their Company in the Firing Line.

In the case of "C" and "D" Company, 1 N.C.O. per platoon will also be sent to acquaint themselves with position to be taken over by their platoon, await its arrival, and point out quarters allotted.

MOVE.

When relieved each Company will report to Battalion Headquarters to that effect, using the one word "BERLIN" and will then move out with 100 yards distance between platoons.

"A" Company 1st. Battalion will take over quarters evacuated by "A" Company 3rd. Battalion in the 1st. 2nd. & 3rd. Tunnels at the "BLUFF".

"B" Company will take over quarters evacuated by "B" Company 3rd. Battalion in the 3rd. & 4th. Tunnels at the "BLUFF".

"C" Company 1st. Bn. will move to the position evacuated by "C" Company 3rd. Bn., at I. 19. C. 1/2. 3., near "SWAN CHATEAU" (Sheet BELQUIN N.W. 88.) moving via TRAIL, KINGS WAY and the Main Road.

"D" Company will move to the positions evacuated by "D" Company 3rd. Bn., Company Headquarters and 2 platoons at about I. 26. A. 27. One platoon in Strong Post at about I. 33. B. 26. (Near HENRIK HENRIKSEN and La CHAPELLE). One platoon in Strong Post at about I. 38. C. 6. 1/2. 1., moving via the DRIVE and routes to be selected by O.C. "D" Coy., and reconnoitred by guides.

Having taken over new positions, Companies will report to Battalion Headquarters at "SWAN CHATEAU" to that effect using the word "Slighty".

DRESS.

Full marching order, 1 blanket rolled in waterproof sheet and carried in horseshoe shape round pack. Steel helmets will be worn by all ranks.

WEAR.

Water bottles will be carried full.

OFFICERS VALISES, BAGGAGE Etc.,

Officers Valises, Company Baggage, Cooking Dixies, etc., are to be at Dump at "LANKHOF FARM" by 2000 on the 7th. inst. "D" Coys' to be at their own Coy Dump.

7.7.0

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RELIEF ORDER Contd.

TRENCH STORES. Duplicate copy of Trench Stores handed to relieving Unit will be submitted by C.S.D. Coys., to Battalion Headquarters by 1800 on the 7th. inst. Duplicate copy of Stores taken over from 3rd. Battalion will be submitted by Coys., to Battalion Headquarters by 1800 on the 8th. inst.

on relief

INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL. The Intelligence personnel will be detached from "A" Company and attached to "C" Coy for rations until further orders.

on relief

BOMBING PLATOON. Bombing platoon will be again attached to "C" Coy as a Bombing platoon and will march out with that Coy when relieved.

L. N. Edgley

Lt. Adjutant, Battalion A.I.F.

Company will report to Battalion Headquarters to take effect using the word "RELIEF" and will move out with the relieving platoon.

"A" Company will take over quarters vacated by "A" Company in the lat. and A. 2nd. trench at the "HUBB" position.

"B" Company will take over positions vacated by "B" Company in the lat. and A. 2nd. trench at the "HUBB" position.

"C" Company will move to the position vacated by "C" Company in the lat. and A. 2nd. trench at the "HUBB" position.

"D" Company will move to the position vacated by "D" Company in the lat. and A. 2nd. trench at the "HUBB" position.

Having taken over new positions, Companies will report to Battalion Headquarters at "HUBB" to take effect using the word "RELIEF".

All remaining stores, I planned to be in waterproof sheet and carried in horse-drawn shape round pack. Steel helmets will be sent by all ranks. Water bottles will be detailed left.

Officers Valisee, Company Baggage, Cooking Utensils, etc., are to be at "HUBB" by 1800 on the 7th. inst. "C" Coys. to be at their own lat.

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BATTALION ORDER No. 303.

MAJOR P.S.S. WOODFORD

by

T/COMMANDING 1ST. BATTALION A.I.F.

13/10/16.

MOVE. 1593.

The First Battalion move by March Route from DEVONSHIRE CAMP to the St. OMER "A" training Area in three stages and will go into billets at the end of each stage.

First Stage on 14/10/16 to STENVOORDE
 Second " 15/10/16 to BRUSS CHEURE & OOST HOUK
 Third " 16/10/16 to NORTHEULINGHEM.

PARADE. 1594.

Markers will report to R.S.H. at 0740 and Coys will march on to En. Parade at 0750. *on 14th inst*
 Battalion will form Mass facing West.

The orders of moving out will be "A" "B" "C" and "D" Companies.

"A" Company will furnish an advance guard under R/14 Lt. E. R. SHARPE. A rear party

"B" Company will furnish Baggage Guard and detail an Officer to be in charge of rear party.

The Officer in charge of rear party must bring all stragglers along with him.

ROUTINE. 1595.

Reveille on 14/10/16 will be at 0600
 Breakfast at 0630.
 Dinner will be had on arrival at STENVOORDE,
 Middle meal will be cooked on the march.

DRESS 1596.

Full marching order with Waterproof Sheets under flap of pack will be carried on each day.

WATER. 1597.

Water bottles will be carried full.

OFFICERS VALISES. 1598.

Officers Valises will be sent to the Transport by 0630 each morning.

BLANKETS. 1599.

Blankets rolled in bundles of 10, duly labelled will be stacked at end of shed near Orderly Room by 0640.

TRANSPORT. 1600.

Transport will march in rear of Battalion.

FEET 1601.

Company Commanders will ensure that the boots of all men are well dubbined and their feet inspected and socks changed after each day's march.

TRAINING. 1602.

The Brigade is moving out for a period of training which will commence at once, the first three days to the inculcation of march discipline. Mounted Officers in particular will be active in correcting faults.

Men who fall out without a written permit from an Officer will be severely dealt with.

BILLETING 1603.

Billeting parties consisting of Lieut. SOMERSET and 1 S.C. per Company will report at Battalion Headquarters at 0600 daily to proceed to Brigade Headquarters whence they will proceed by motor-bus in advance. Interpreters will accompany billeting parties.

BOUNDS. 1604.

On arrival at the "A" Billeting Area (a sketch of which can be seen at Orderly Room) all ranks are to be warned that no person is permitted to leave the Area unless in possession of a pass issued by Divisional Headquarters.

PROMOTIONS. 1605.

The following promotions have been approved.
 To be Lance Corporal A Lance Corporals dated 13/10/16.
 No. 3066 Pte. Mason A.S. 3340 Pte. Lynch J.
 No. 3243 Pte. Gill J.

P.T.O.

POSTAL, 1606. Green Envelopes will be issued at the rate of 50% of the former scale. All ranks must be warned that the continuance of this issue or an increase in the rate depends on the extent to which the conditions governing the use of the envelope are observed.

SHAVING, 1607. The following amendment is made to King's Regulations paragraph 1686, by Army Order 340(3) of 1918: -
 'Line 3 delete' but not the Upper Lip!
 It being now optional whether the Upper Lip be shaved or not by Officers and men, if a moustache is worn, no portion of the upper lip shall be shaved.

LINES, 1608. On the last occasion after the Battalion moved out of camp, the complaint was made by Unit taking over that lines were dirty. Precautions must be taken now, and always, to prevent recurrence. Company Commanders will be held responsible.

J. L. Booth
 A/Adjutant Lieut. Battalion A.I.F.

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1st. BATTALION

TRAINING PROGRAMME

18/10/18.

MAJOR P.S.S. WOODFORD

by

T/COMMANDING 1ST BATTALION A.I.F.

0630 to 0700 Physical Exercises.

0630 - Officers Class. All Subalterns under Captain HOWELL PRICE D.S.O. instruction in Command and Drill.

0800 to 1100 Musketry (Rifle Exercises), Bayonet fighting. Attack Drill and Assault from Trench in waves. Coy. Raiding Party to be organised and trained. ~~Each Company and Platoon to train a Bombing Section.~~
Stretcher Bearers and A.M.C. under R.M.O. Bombing Platoon under Bombing Officer. Intelligence Platoon under Intelligence Officer. Coy. L.M.G. detachments and three reserve L.M.G. crews per Coy. under En. L.M.G. Officer. H.Q. & Coy. Sigs. under Sergeant Signaller.

1400 to 1530 ROUTE MARCH. (whether Coy. or En. to be notified daily.)
L.M.G. detachments and all Reserve Crews under En. L.M.G. Officer. Stretcher Bearers and A.A.V.C. under R.M.O. Coy. Bombing Sections under Bombing Officer (En. Bombing Platoon to Route March with "C" Coy.). Intelligence Platoon under Intelligence officer, Sig. H.Q. and Coy. Sigs. under Sergeant.

2000 - Lectures by all Subalterns ^{under} ~~(in presence~~ Company Commanders) on Selected Subjects.

Major.
T/Commanding 1st. Battalion A.I.F.

1st Bn. A.I.F. Relief Order

28-10-16

7th Bn will relieve ESSEX Regt. 8th Bde. on night 29/30th Oct. 1916, Bn to be prepared to move out at 0800 to DELVILLE WOOD but will not go past there until 1600, except Specialists "A" Coy. on the right + "B" Coy. on the left, will take over front line, each having one platoon in the line, + L.M. Guns as required. The remaining 3 platoons in support in sunken road in rear. "C" + "D" Coys. in Reserve trenches between Bn Hd Qrs. + Line "C" right, + "D" left. Pls. C. Coys., Bombing Officer, Intelligence L.M.G. Officer + R.M.O. to make necessary arrangements during early morning, or while unit is at DELVILLE WOOD. One officer per Coy. with sufficient N.C.O.s. + guides who will report to units which they are relieving to take over all stores + be prepared to lead their units to required positions. Specialists will be relieved in daylight by small parties + trenches must be used during the daylight.

②
 O's. C. units are to find out what work is being carried on, or are necessary & will see that the work is continued. Communication & fire trenches are to be improved at once, work to be carried out in reliefs during the night.

All information with reference to proposed operations to be obtained & checked. Absolute silence is to be maintained during relief.

A report will be sent to Pn. Hdqrs. when the relief is complete.

Patrols are to go out alternately from "A" & "B" Coys. during the night, good officers & men only being selected. Instructions will be given to get in touch with the enemy trenches & to report on position of trenches & wire in front. "A" Coy. to work from right to left & "B" from left to right.

As soon as one patrol comes in, another is to go out.

Password "DUBBO" & is to be communicated to flanks.

Each Coy. is to get into touch with units on flanks. "B" Coy. to keep a patrol between left flank & 2nd Bn

③

Iron rations & hard ration will be issued if received in time. The Iron Rations not being used except by order of O.C. Coy. who must refer it to C.O.

Two bombs & 2 Sandbags per man will also be carried

S.A.A. will be made up to 220 rounds per man. 1 Blanket great coat & waterproof sheet is to be carried.

Packs, Officers' kits & all spare gear will be stacked just behind Hd Qrs. & a guard of INCO. & 3 men will be detailed. The packs, etc. will be stacked, until convenient to send them into ALBERT. will be carried

Two additional pairs of socks, & socks are to be changed daily.

Waterbottles will be carried full. Men are to be warned not to waste water as it is too difficult to obtain.

All Officers are to have everything prepared for an advance. Bombs & Sandbags will be drawn