

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/1/21 PART 1

Title: 1st Infantry Brigade

April 1917 Appendices



AWM4-23/1/21PART1

April 1917 Page 1

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.)

1st Aust Infantry Brigade 444

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Litemont	April 1st		Brigade Church Parade, meeting of C.O.s. during which Corps Commander visited Bde Hdqrs. Issued orders for move on 3rd inst	
"	2nd		Inspection by Divisional Commander + march past. Lecture to officers by Divisional Gas officer	
Montauban	3rd		moved by march route to Montauban, with 21st Aust Inf Coy attached	4/17/1
	4th		moved to Fremicourt, Villers au 7los, + HAPLINCOURT with Bde Headquarters at Delsaux Farm. vide Brigade Order 22 attached.	4/17/2
			On arrival at BEAULENCOURT Brigade was met by a Staff Officer of 5th Division with orders to move 3rd + 4th Bns to FREMICOURT, 1st Bn to HAPLINCOURT and 2nd to CORPS LINE. Received instructions from 1st Aust Div to prepare for attack on HERMIES Brigade order 22 cancelled + 23 issued Appendix 4/17/3	
DELSAUX FARM DOIGNIES LINE			Moved up + took over line night 5/6 from 14th Infantry Brigade; 3rd + 1st taking up the outpost line Veltu Wood - Doignies. The 3rd Battalion pushed forward the same night to the line T28 - T22 - DOIGNIES	
		6	Intelligence Summary to 0600 on 6th attached Received 916 from 5th Div giving instructions re capture of HERMIES + stating that BOURSIES will be attacked by 3rd A.I. Bde - also asking for scheme for attack which is attached	4/17/4 4/17/5

J. H. Moore

April 1917

Page 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.

1st Aust Infy Bde

444

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOIGNIES line	April 7		Received 1st Aust Div Order 17. Intelligence Summary for 6/7 attached The attack on HERMIES, which was intended to take place night of 7/8 postponed to night of 8/9 April	4/17/6
	8		Intelligence summary for 7/8 attached Brigade operation order for attack on HERMIES attached	4/17/7 4/17/8
HERMIES DEMICOURT	9		Attack carried out in accordance with plan, + Hermies captured. by 2nd + 3rd Bns DEMICOURT was also taken by 1st Batt	4/17/8
			Battalion Commanders orders for the attack attached	4/17/9
			Battalion Commanders reports on operation	4/17/10
			Brigade summary of operations attached	4/17/11
	10		Intelligence summary 9/10 April attached 1st 2nd + 3rd Battalions in outpost line in front of HERMIES and DEMICOURT. 3rd Bn took over the section occupied by the 2nd Bn in addition to its own on night 10/11th. BOURSIES was taken into this Brigade's sector Orders also appended	4/17/12
HERMIES DEMICOURT BOURSIES			Intelligence summary 10/11 April attached	4/17/13
	11		4th Bn relieved 1st Bn in left sector night 11/12 April	4/17/14
	12		Intelligence summary 11/12 April Brigade headquarters moved from DELSAUX FARM to BEAUMETZ	4/17/15
			Weekly Summary of operations to 12th inst.	4/17/15A

April 1917

Page 3

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.

1st Aust Inf Bde

444

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERMIES- DEMICOURT- BOURSES,	13		Intelligence summary 12/13 th April attached We pushed forward. Night 13/14 th some 1000 ^x to 1500 ^x to come within 1000 ^x of Hindenburg line Brigade order 25 attached	4/17/16 4/17/17 4/17/18
	14		Intelligence Summary 13/14 th April	
	15		Enemy attacked at 0400 first shelling our line & villages in rear and at 0415 with infantry. Brigade Headquarters was shelled, 2 other ranks being wounded. Summary of operations & reports of Battalion Commanders are attached	4/17/19 + 19A
	16		Intelligence Summary 14/15 April Intermittent shelling along whole front. Stormy night. 2 nd Bn relieved 3rd Battalion in right sector	4/17/20 4/17/21
	17		1st 2nd & 4 th Battalions now in front line Intelligence summary for 16/17 th attached	4/17/22
	18		Intelligence summary for 17/18 th attached. Explosion in cellar at VELU resulted in several casualties to 4 th Battalion, 9 M being killed 6 th Army Brigade came into sector covering part of our front as well as that of 2 nd & 1 st Bde, 3rd (Army) & 1 st Bde still supporting our two right battalions	4/17/23
	19		Intelligence summary for 18/19 th attached Weekly Summary of operations to 19/4/17 attached	4/17/24 4/17/25

de M...

April 1917

Page 4

WAR DIARY

1st Aust Inf Bde

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.)

444

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Line HERMIES - DEMICOURT - BOURSIES	April		Scheme for defence of Brigade sector attached	Appendix 4/17/25A
	20		Intelligence summary 19/20 April attached	4/17/26
			Proposed projection of gas from our front. Order no 26 attached wind unfavorable - at action postponed 24 hours	4/17/27
	21		Intelligence summary 20/21 April attached	4/17/28
			wind again unfavorable action re gas projection postponed	
	22		Intelligence summary 21/22 April attached	4/17/30
			Gas projection again postponed owing to unfavorable wind Appendix 4/17/31	
	23		Orders received that Brigade will be relieved - Brigade Order no 27 attached.	4/17/32
		Brigade Headquarters moved to Sunken road T 20 a 40		
		Operation memo no 6 issued giving further details re movement out of the line	4/17/33	
		Intelligence summary 22/23 April attached	4/17/34	
		Situation quiet - wind being unfavorable projection of gas postponed till further orders (Appendix 4/17/35)		
		Div Order 22 received that it is probable the Brigade will be employed in reserve to 2nd Aust Division in their attack on Bullecourt on a day to be fixed. Instructions issued to Batt	4/17/36	
		Commanders to reconnoitre ground		
		2nd Battalion in front of Hermies relieved by 8th West Riding Ry, Machine Gun Coy relieved by 32nd + details 33rd MG Coy + French mortars in the line relieved by 32nd LT M Battery - 2nd Bn + MG Coy stayed to Vela wood during the night 23/24 April. Relief accomplished		
		Change of orders necessitated some of Bde Operation memos	4/17/37	

April 1917

Page 5 WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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.

1st Aust Inf Bde

444

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April 24		Intelligence summary April 23/24 attached 2nd Bat + m/s Coy moved off to N 11 central + Beaulencourt respectively L.T. m/s Battery also moved to Beaulencourt During the evening 1st Battalion was relieved + moved to Velu, as were the 3rd + 4th Relief passed without incident. Brigade Hdqrs except GOC + Bde major moved to N 24 central	4/17/38
near Beaulencourt	25		GOC handed over at 0500 to GOC's 32nd + 33rd Brigades, + moved to new Headquarters 1st Bn moved to N 24 central, 3rd to N 11 central, 4th to Bapaume	
	26		Brig Gen Lesslie + Capt Forbes to England on leave, Lt Col Mackay 4th Bn Temp Commanding Brigade. Lt Cuthbert acting as Staff Captain Brigade under orders of 2nd Aust Division relieved part of 5th + 6th Brigades to allow these units to practice the forthcoming attack. Brigade Hdqrs remained at N 24 cent but Bde C.O. + Bde major moved to billets occupied by 5th Aust Brigade at FAVREUIL (H 16 a 56) 1st Battalion in right sector of Bengny-This Line Headquarters at 17 b 32 2nd Battalion in left sector of that line Headquarters at H 12 b 58. 3rd Battalion in right sector of marches - Vanse line Headquarters at C 26 c 58. 4th Bn in left sector of that line Headquarters at C 19 d 59. Machine guns placed 8 in each line T.M. Battery remained at Beaulencourt Relief was completed by 1800. Nothing of incident. Order 28 attached on which units worked as if day was 26th	4/17/39
near Beaulencourt	27		Units returned before noon to positions as on 25th April	
	28		nothing to report	

April 1917

WAR DIARY

1st Aust Inf Bde

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.

Page 6

(Erase heading not required.)

Refs map 57c

444

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
near 29 Farrenil	29		<p>Brigade moved to positions (under orders of 2nd Division) as occupied on 26th except that Bde Hdqrs were over 6th Brigade Hdqrs at H 12 C 6 8 + Hdqrs of m/s by H 12 C 6 6 with gun each at C 28 C 8 3. C 27 d 9 9. C 21 C 8 2 C 26 a 9 7. C 20 C 5 4 C 20 a 7 7 C 13 d 9 3. C 13 d 1 9 + the other 8 in the Benyup Y line. Order for more attached (29) 3rd + 4th Batts are under the orders of 7th Aust Brigade for tactical purposes Escorts for guns as in appendix 4/17/40 Relief was complete by 12:00. SOS signal altered to "Green lights to be fired in quick succession, the signal to be repeated till the artillery comply". To take effect from noon on 4 day (not yet fired) about 100 men with sore feet were left at H 11 central + arrangements made for a medical officer from 2nd Field Ambulance to attend daily. 5th + 6th Aust Brigades moved to rear for further practice in attack + rest. Information received that W/X night is night 30th ^{April} / 1st ^{May} / 1st ^{June} / 1st ^{May} 5th + 6th Brigades went forward relieving 7th Brigade + 3rd Battalion now comes under orders of 5th Bde + 4th Batt under orders of 6th Bde weather still fine. Further orders issued to artillery escorts Appendix</p>	4/17/40
	30		<p>Further orders issued to artillery escorts Appendix</p>	4/17/42

Handwritten signature and notes: "Bde map post Bde map"

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 21.Brigade Headquarters,
1st. April, 1917.444
REFERENCE MAP, ALBERT Combined Sheet 1:40,000.

1. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will proceed by march route to MONTAUBAN on 3rd. April in accordance with attached march table and will encamp in Square S.26.D. The 21st. Machine Gun Company will be attached to 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade for the move.
2. The starting point for all Units except 21st. Machine Gun Company will be the RIBEMONT Church.
3. The following distances will be maintained on the march :-

Between Companies	100 yards,
Between Units and Transport	200 yards,
Between Battalions	200 yards,
4. Advance parties as under will report to Staff Captain at RIBEMONT Church at 0800 on 3rd. instant.

per Battalion,	1 Officer,	8 other ranks,
Machine Gun Company)		
T. M. Battery) 1 Officer,	2 other ranks.
5. Rear parties of one Officer, 8 other ranks per Battalion, and one Officer, 2 other ranks other Units, will be left behind to hand over billets to Town Major and obtain receipts as to cleanliness, etc..
6. Two G.S. wagons will report at each Battalion Headquarters and one G.S. wagon for Trench Mortar Battery at 0800 on 3rd. instant and will march with 1st. Line Transport.
7. Battalion reserves of S.A.A., Bombs, etc., will be loaded at MONTAUBAN Siding at a time to be notified later.
8. Brigade Headquarters will close at RIBEMONT at 1130 on 3rd. instant and re-open at the same hour at MONTAUBAN

A C K N O W L E D G E.
-----*J. L. Hardie*

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

DISTRIBUTION.

Extra Copies to :-

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| No. 13. | No. 2. Coy., A.A.S.C., |
| 14. | Town Major, RIBEMONT, |
| 15. | Town Major, MONTAUBAN, |
| 16. | 2nd. Aust. Infantry Brigade, |
| 17. | 5th. Aust. Division, |
| 18. | 21st. Aust. M. G. Coy., DERNANCOURT. |

late 18 Aust MG Coy.

MARCH TABLE ISSUED WITH 1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 21.

444

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Unit.</u>	<u>From.</u>	<u>To.</u>	<u>Route.</u>	<u>Time to pass Starting point.</u>
April 3rd.	2nd. Battalion.	RIBEMONT	MONTAUBAN, S.26.D.	BUIRE-DERNANCOURT-LEAULTE- FRICOURT.	0900
	3rd. Battalion.	"	"	"	0930
	4th. Battalion.	"	"	"	1000
	1st. Bde. H.Q.) 1st. A.M.G. Coy.) 1st. A.L.T.H. Bty.)	"	"	"	1030
	1st. Battalion.	"	"	"	1040
	21st. Aust. M.G. Coy. (late 16th. Aust. M.G. Coy.)	DERNANCOURT	"	LEAULTE-FRICOURT.	0945.

Appendix No. 4/17/1

8

* 1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
2nd. April, 1917.SECRET.ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN CONNECTION WITH 1ST. AUST. INFANTRY
BRIGADE ORDER No. 21.1. AMMUNITION.

Ammunition vehicles will march empty to MONTAUBAN Brigade Camp, where they will refill from D.A.C. on the day of arrival.

Brigades are to demand on D.A.C. for ammunition and grenades forthwith.

After arrival in new Area, the 5th. Aust. D.A.C. will be the source of supply until further orders.

2. BLANKETS.

Only one blanket per man will be carried. The second blanket will be returned to Ordnance ALBERT, now. These will be rolled in bundles of 10, properly labelled.

3. TRANSPORT.

Only the authorised loads are to be carried, vide 1st. Aust Circular dated 29/3/17.

4. SPARE KITS AND SURPLUS STORES.

Brigade will arrange with Town Major to leave spare kits (other than authorised equipment) in a billet under guard. As opportunity offers these will be moved forward.

5. BILLETTS AND CAMPS.

Billets and Camps are to be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Units will arrange to obtain statements in duplicate from Town Major, shewing the condition in which Billets etc., are left. One copy of each statement is to be sent to Brigade Headquarters on the day the Unit moves.

6. ADVANCE PARTIES.

Advance parties will report as per brigade Order No. 21 dated 2/4/17.

7. STOKES MORTARS.

The O.C. 1st. A.L.T.M. Battery will arrange to take forward the Stokes Mortar Hand Carts.

8. SUPPLY.

Supply Railheads are as follows:-

3/4/17.	EDGEHILL,
4/4/17.	BAZENTIN,
5/4/17.	BAPAUME.

Supply Officer will inform Quartermasters of place and time of issue.

9. FRENCH STORES.

All French Stores in possession of Units of the 5th. Aust. Division will be handed over to Units of the 1st. Aust. Division. Gun Boots will not be handed over.

A list of French Stores taken over will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters as soon as possible after relief.

10. WORKING PARTIES.

Working Parties will remain as at present disposed.

11. TOOLS.

Picks Shovels, etc., will be carried in Limbered Wagons.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. H. Jones

Capt.,

Staff Captain, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

SECRET.

COPY NO.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 22.

Brigade Headquarters,
3rd. April, 1917.

REFERENCE MAPS, ALBERT COMBINED SHEET 1:40,000
SHEET 570 1:40,000.

1. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve portion of the 14th. Australian Infantry Brigade in the line in accordance with attached march table.

The starting point will be point S.26.D.0.0.

A distance of half a mile will be maintained between Transport of Units.

2. The boundaries of the Brigade Sector are:-

(i) On the South, N.28.C.0.0. - O.13.D.4.2. - O.9.C.8.1.
- O.12.A.3.7. - J.34.D.8.8. - K.25.D.6.0. - L.2.C.7.1.

(ii) On the North, Cross Roads I.27.C.10.95. - DELSAUX FARM (inclusive) - Cross Roads I.23.B.25.15. - BEAUMETZ (inclusive).

A British Division is on our Right, and 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade will be on our Left.

3. The Brigade Sector will be held as an outpost section with the 1st. Battalion in the advanced line of resistance.

4. Commanding Officer 1st. Battalion will send representatives into each post and position in the advanced line on the night of 4/5th. April.

5. The Corps main line of resistance will be the line through O.5. Central I.27. Central. This line will be held in the Brigade Sector by a nucleus garrison consisting of 2nd. Battalion and 2 Sections 21st. Aust. M.G. Coy., under command of Commanding Officer 2nd. Battalion.

6. The 3rd. and 4th. Battalions, 1st. Machine Gun Coy., and 1st. L.T.M. Battery will form a reserve at HAPLINCOURT.

7. Billeting parties consisting of 1 Officer 8 O.R. per Battalion and 1 Officer 2 O.R. per other unit will report to Staff Captain on 4th. inst., as follows:-

Units going to	FREMICOURT	at	FREMICOURT	at	1100
"	"	"	VILLERS au	VILLERS au	
"	"	"	FLOS	FLOS	at 1130
"	"	"	HAPLINCOURT	HAPLINCOURT	at 1200.

8. Brigade Headquarters will close at MONTAUBAN S.26.D. at 0930 on 4th. inst., and re-open at DELSAUX FARM I.28.A. at 0930.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Hardie

Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

DISTRIBUTION.

Extra copies to:-

- No. 13. No. 2. Coy., A.A.S.C.
- 14. Town Major, MONTAUBAN,
- 15. 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
- 16. 5th. Aust. Division,
- 17. 21st. (late 16th.) Aust. M.G. Coy.
- 18. 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.
- 19. 1st. Aust. Div. Train.
- 20. 14th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Issued at 2100.

MOVEMENT TABLE ISSUED WITH 1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 22.

11 Appendix No. 4/17/2

Date.	Units. less Transport.	From.	To.	Time to pass Starting Point.	Routes.
April 4th.	2nd. Battalion.	MONTAUBAN	FREMICOURT	0800	Personnel via S.28.D.3.1. - LONGUEVAL and ELLIOT'S Duckwalk and across country.
	2 Sects. 21st.* M.G.Coy.	"	"	0808	
	3rd. Battalion.	"	HAPLINCOURT	0810	Infantry via S.28.D.3.1. - S.22.D.8.1. and GREAT CENTRAL Duckwalk and across country.
	1st. Battalion.	"	VILLERS au FLOS	0830	
	4th. Battalion.	"	HAPLINCOURT	0840	Infantry via S.28.D.3.1. - S.22.D.8.1. and GREAT CENTRAL Duckwalk and across country.
	1st. Bde. H.Q.	"	DELSAUX FARM	0850	
	1st. M.G.Coy.	"	HAPLINCOURT	0855	
	1st. L.T.M.Bty.	"	"	0900	

* Special Orders will be received by Headquarters and other two sections 21st. M.G. Coy.

April 4th.	Transport 4th. Bn.	MONTAUBAN	HAPLINCOURT	0700	via MAMETZ - FRICOURT - LA BOISSELLE - BAPAUME - BANCOURT.
	" 1st. M.G.Coy.)	"	"	0715	
	" 1st. L.T.M.By.)	"	"	0730	via MAMETZ - FRICOURT - LA BOISSELLE - BAPAUME - BEAULENCOURT.
	" 3rd. Bn.	"	"	0740	
	" 1st. Bn.	"	VILLERS au FLOS	0740	via MAMETZ - FRICOURT - LA BOISSELLE - BAPAUME - FREMICOURT.
	" 1st. Bde. H.Q.	"	DELSAUX FARM	0750	
	" 2nd. Bn.	"	FREMICOURT		
" 2 Sects.	"	"			
" 21st. M.G.Coy.	"	"			

Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	To relieve	Remarks.
April 5th.	1st. Battalion	VILLERS au FLOS	Advanced line	Part 14th. Aust. Infantry Bde.	Relief to be carried out by night. Transport to HAPLINCOURT.
	2nd. Battalion)	FREMICOURT	Corps Line	-	Transport to HAPLINCOURT.
	2 Sects. 21st.)				
	3rd. Battalion)	HAPLINCOURT	-	-	Will not move from HAPLINCOURT.
	4th. Battalion)				
1st. M.G.Coy.)					
1st. L.T.M.Bty.)					

444

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 23.

Brigade Headquarters,
5th. April, 1917.

REFERENCE MAP, SHEET 57C 1:40,000.

1. Brigade Order No. 22 is cancelled.
2. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve portion of 14th. Australian Infantry Brigade in the line.
3. The boundaries of the Brigade Sector are:-
 - (i) On the South, N.28.C.0.0. - O.13.D.4.2. - O.9.C.8.1. - O.12.A.3.7. - J.34.D.8.8. - K.25.D.6.0. - L.2.C.7.1.
 - (ii) On the North, Cross Roads I.27.C.10.95. - DELSAUX FARM (inclusive) - Cross Roads I.23.B.25.15. - BEAUMETZ (inclusive).
The 20th. Division is on our Right, and the 14th. Australian Infantry Brigade on our left until relieved by 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade on night 6/7th. April.
4. (a) The advanced line of resistance is held as an outpost line on the line VELU WOOD - VELU - BEAUMETZ - DOIGNIES. Advanced posts are established at J.27.A., J.22.A., J.16.D.7.1., J.10.B.
The line will be divided into two Sections by the line J.19.Central - J.24.Central.
The 3rd. Battalion with two guns of 1st. M.G.Coy., attached will, on the night 5/6th. April, take over the posts in the Right Section from 53rd. Battalion with Headquarters at LEBUCQUIERE.
The 1st. Battalion with two guns of 1st. M.G.Coy., attached will, on the night 5/6th. April, take over the Left Section from 59th. Battalion with Headquarters at J.14.A.1.9.
- (b) The Corps main line of resistance extends to a depth of 1200 yards behind the line O.5.Central - I.27.Central - I.14.D. This line will be organised in a series of defended localities. This is the line through which the advanced line of resistance will fall back if forced to do so and behind which reserves will be organised for action. The Corps main line is held by 2nd. Battalion and two Sections 21st. Aust. M.G.Coy., with Headquarters at HAPLINCOURT.
- (c) The Corps second line occupies the line approximately VILLERS au FLOS - BANCOURT - H.28.B. This will be held by 5th. Australian Division Units.
5. An outpost reserve will be formed after dark on 5th. inst., by 4th. Battalion occupying the position formerly occupied by 55th. Battalion at VELU.
6. 1st. Australian M.G.Coy., less one Section and 1st. Australian L.T.M.Bty., will be in reserve at HAPLINCOURT.
7. 1st. 3rd. and 4th. Battalions will report completion of relief on which the command of Brigade Sector will pass to G.O.C. 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.
8. 1 Squadron 13th. Light Horse (Headquarters at VELU) and half Company Corps Cyclists (at VELU) will come under orders of G.O.C. 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade at 0600 7th. inst..
9. Headquarters 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade are at DELSAUX FARM.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

P.T.O.

DISTRIBUTION.

Extra Copies to :-

- No. 13. 5th. Aust. Division,
- 14. 2nd. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
- 15. 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
- 16. 14th. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
- 17. O.C. Corps Cyclists, VELU,
- 18. Squadron, 13th. Light Horse VELU,
- 19. 5th. Aust. Div. Artillery,
- 20. 21st. Aust. M.G. Coy., FREMICCURT.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE NO. 1.

FROM 0600 5TH. APRIL TO 0600 6TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. RELIEF. The 3rd. Battalion relieved the 53rd. Battalion in the Right Section and 1st. Battalion relieved 59th. Battalion in the Left Section on night of 5/6th. Relief was completed at 2500 without mishap.

2. OPERATIONS. Our posts in Right Section were pushed forward during the night and we now occupy a line held by a series of posts from J.34.D.8.8. to J.28.A.3.9.

We are in touch with the OXFORD Regt. of 60th. Brigade on our right.

3. PATROLS. A patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men left our lines at J.10.D.6.4. at 0300 for the purpose of discovering the actual whereabouts of the enemy. They proceeded up the DOIGNIES - BOURSIES Road for 500 yards but saw no signs of any enemy movement. They returned to our lines at 0400.

A patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men left our lines at J.10.D.0.8. at 0300 and were fired on by a Machine Gun at J.10.B.5.5. and sniped at from the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI Road. Patrol returned at 0400.

Patrols from our right section covered our frontage to a depth of 800 yards but did not come in touch with the enemy.

4. <u>HOSTILE ACTIVITY.</u>		<u>Artillery.</u>		
<u>Time.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind.</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
Intermittent.	50 yds from West edge of DOIGNIES	24	77m.m.H.E.	N.
do.	Vicinity of J.14.B.2.8. and BEAUMETZ.	30	4.2s H.E. & Shrap.	N.
2300-2400	Southern edge of DOIGNIES	10	5.9	S.E.

There was no enemy rifle fire or sniping throughout the night.

At 0015 about 15 5.9 shells fell in quick succession in J.52.A. coming from direction of K.32.A.

H. Hardie

Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

4/17/5

444

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
7th. April, 1917.

S E C R E T.

Reference Map 57.C. 1/40,000.

PLAN OF ACTION - ATTACK ON HERMIES.

1. (a). The attack will be made without artillery support at dawn on 8th. inst., by the 2nd. Aust. Battalion (which is at present on the Corps Line) passing through the 1st. Aust. Battalion and advancing on the N.W. of HERMIES, establishing themselves on the line J.30.B.9.0. - J.24. Central.

The left flank of the attack will be covered by the 1st. Aust. Battalion who will establish a strong post to the S.W. of DEMICOURT.

The 1st. Aust. Battalion will also co-operate with the 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade on our left in its attack on BOURSIES.

(b) The 3rd. Aust. Battalion will co-operate on the right, operating with a company and 3 machine guns, from the Railway line (inclusive) Southwards to the Divisional boundary and establishing the line J.36.A.5.3. to J.30.B.9.0. when 2nd. Aust. Battalion has made good the village.

(c) MACHINE GUNS. The 1st. Aust. M.G. Coy., will supply:-

- 2 Sections on Spur in J.17. for covering fire on DEMICOURT.
- 1 Section for dealing with enemy counter attacks on HERMIES.
- 2 Sections (less 1 gun) with 3rd. Aust. Battalion.

21st. M.G. Coy., will supply:-

2 Sections in reserve at VELU.

(d) Headquarters and 2 Sections 3rd. Field Coy., Aust. Engineers will establish strong points in line East and North East of HERMIES after capture of village.

(e) 4th. Aust. Battalion will be in reserve at I.24.

2. Artillery support obtainable is as follows:-

(a) Two 60 pounders ^{Two} ~~one~~ 6 inch Howitzer and one 8 inch Howitzer. Of these only the 8 inch Howitzer can reach HERMIES.

(b) Three batteries 18 pounders one battery 4.5 inch Howitzers.

ammunition.

~~There is not sufficient available for barrage fire.~~

Artillery will continue to shell DEMICOURT and HERMIES as usual intermittently until attack commences.

When the attack is committed the 8 inch Howitzer will cover the Eastern approaches to HERMIES, and other heavies will deal with DEMICOURT, BEETROOT FACTORY and road K.19.B.1.7. (a 50)

Field artillery Brigade will be available for use against enemy counter attacks.

3. Zero hour. It is intended to arrive at the position at dawn. 0415.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. Harker
Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

DISTRIBUTION.

1st. Aust. Division.	3rd. Aust. Battalion,
3rd. Aust. Infantry Bde.	4th. Aust. Battalion,
60th. (light) Inf. Bde.	1st. Aust. M.G. Coy.,
1st. Aust. Battalion,	1st. Aust. L.T.M. Bty.,
2nd. Aust. Battalion,	"A" Group Artillery,
	Heavy Group Artillery
	21st. Aust. M.G. Coy..

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE NO. 2.

FROM 0600 6TH. APRIL TO 0600 7TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Patrols. A patrol left our lines at 2030 and proceeded along VELU - HERMIES Railway line to J.29.A.5.2. when they were fired on from Station at J.29.A.7.2. and about J.29.C.5.8. On advancing another 25 yards patrol was again fired on from 12 or 14 rifles. Flares were also used by enemy but no machine gun fire.

A patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 7 men left our outpost line from about J.34.A.1.5. Patrol in pairs proceeded in a South Easterly direction meeting Cross Roads at J.34.C.7.2. moved along the road to within 20 yards of Cross Roads at J.34.D.6.6. At this point they were fired on by an enemy M.G. located at J.34.D.7.7. One man was killed and the N.C.O. wounded.

A post of the 20th. Division is situated at J.34.D.2.4. on point of Bluff. The patrol returned through outpost line at 2330

A patrol reports the Canal ends about 30 yards from end of Bluff. It has water in it and barges. A close view could not be obtained. Bridge across Canal J.34.D.8.5. is destroyed.

Our Activity. We advanced our position from 200-300 yards in front of DOIGNIES during the night. No enemy opposition was met with. This line now runs approx., from J.22.A.3.6. to J.16.D.6.2. to J.17.A.3.7. to J.10.D.8.8.

An enemy patrol of about 30 men at 0200 approached our line at J.17.A.3.7. but were dispersed by our fire.

Hostile Activity - Artillery. At 1200, 1400 and throughout the afternoon to 1700 enemy shelled the Railway cutting from J.26.C.0.9. to Station at J.25.A.6.4. with 5.9 inch and a high velocity gun of smaller calibre. Bearing was not obtained but direction from which shells were coming was from RIBECOURT in L.25.

The enemy artillery has been active throughout the past 24 hours he shelled DOIGNIES throughout with 77m.m. and 5.9 inch, fired from the direction of HERMIES. During the night from 2300 to 0600 he shelled accurately the Cross Roads at J.8.C.1.2. and also our position at J.14.A.2.8. with 5.9 H.E. from the direction of MOEUVRES.

The shelling of BEAUMETZ was below normal. The enemy at 1300 was shelling the BAPAUME - CAMBRAI road between LOUVERVAL and BOURSIES with shrapnel.

Movement behind enemy lines. Two men who appeared to be Officers were seen to enter HERMIES at J.29.B.4.7.

2. AIRCRAFT. Enemy balloon was sighted 106 degrees magnetic from DELSAUX FARM, on the right ~~ed~~ from 1230 to 1430.

H. Hardie

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

B.M.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE NO. 3.

FROM 0600 7TH. APRIL TO 0600 8TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. PATROLS. A patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men left our lines at J.22.C.2.4. and proceeded towards HERMIES by route parallel to railway line and reached a point about J.29.A.3.7. when they were fired on by enemy machine guns. Enemy could be heard talking. Machine gun position about J.29.A.8.5. Patrol then crossed railway line and when within 200 yards of the station were fired on by M.G. and rifles from vicinity of station. Flares were sent up from Eastern side of HERMIES. Patrol was absent from 0030 to 0330.

At 0030 a patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men left our lines at J.28.C.7.4. and proceeded along road in direction of station and returned at 0140. On reaching point J.28.B.95.15. they were fired on by rifle men estimated at being 12 in number, from vicinity of railway station.

At 2300 a patrol of 1 Officer and 3 O.R. reconnoitred along the right side of the road from DOIGNIES to HERMIES for the purpose of finding any indication of enemy works. A trench was found about 6 feet deep running from the right of the road to the barbed wire on the right which was in good condition. The trench was about J.23.A.2.4. Another trench was discovered about J.23.D.0.7. Wire entanglements run from BRUNO MILL at J.16.C.45.10 to HERMIES. A post was discovered at J.23.C.0.9. Another small trench was found about J.22.B.6.1. There were fresh marks in this trench which goes to shew that it has been recently occupied. The wire was thick throughout with the exception of one place at J.22.B.0.7. where there was a break about 12 feet wide caused by a shell. Patrol returned at 0030.

At 0215 patrol consisting of 1 Officer and 10 O.R. left our position at J.16.D.5.3. and proceeded along road running in a S.E. direction for about 300 yards and examined the ground in J.17. A. and C. No evidences of enemy trenches or works were discovered.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS. Enemy artillery was more active than usual during past 24 hours, and from 0300 to 0600 DOIGNIES and LOUVERVAL were heavily bombarded with 5.9's. and heavier guns from direction of PRONVILLE. At 1300 to 1330 J.16.A. was shelled from N.E. with 5.9's. and at 2000 six 5.9's fell in vicinity of J.21.D.7.3. coming from same direction.

A battery of enemy guns was observed firing South from K.27.B.7.5

Movement. Three men were observed moving about in village at J.29.B.7.1. and at railway station at about 1100 they disappeared when fired on.

At 0030 an enemy patrol of about 40 strong was dispersed by M.G. fire at J.17.A.8.6. One was killed but no identification could be found

Machine Guns. Between 0300 and 0600 enemy machine guns were very active opposite our left Section but no action followed.

Signals. During the bombardment between 0315 and 0415 enemy sent up a series of GREEN and RED flares from East of DOIGNIES

3. AIRCRAFT. Two enemy balloons were visible during the afternoon; true bearings from J.16.D.3.7., 319 degrees and 333 degrees respectively.

Fredrickson
For Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

SECRET.

COPY NO. 2

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 24.Brigade Headquarters,
8th. April, 1917.REFERENCE MAP 57C 1:40,000.

1. The enemy is occupying the line BOURSIES - DEMICOURT - HERMIES - HAVRINCOURT WOOD with advanced posts pushed out in front.
2. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will capture HERMIES on 9th. inst.,
The 60th. Light Infantry Brigade (Imperial) will assist by covering fire against HAVRINCOURT WOOD.
The 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade in conjunction with our attack will seize BOURSIES.
3. (a) The assault will be carried out by the 2nd. Aust. Battalion, which will deploy for attack, and move forward from the direction of DOIGNIES to an assualting position on a line approximately through J.29.A.0.4. - J.24.A.3.0.
The assault on HERMIES will be made from this line at zero hour and the new line established from J.30.B.8.0. through J.24.D.8.0. - J.24.A.7.2.
(b) The C.O. 3rd. Aust. Battalion will co-operate with the 2nd. Aust. Battalion, gaining the line J.35. Central - J.29.A.0.4. at zero hour. Frontage will include the railway line. When the 2nd. Aust. Battalion has made good the village 3rd. Aust. Battalion will take up the line J.36.A.5.3. - J.30.B.9.0.
(c) The 1st. Aust. Battalion will contain the enemy in DEMICOURT and will bring forward its right to cover the left flank of the 2nd. Aust. Battalion at J.24.A.7.2., establishing a strong post in the vicinity of J.17.D. The left of the 1st. Aust. Battalion will be brought forward to link up with the right of the 12th. Aust. Battalion.
(d) 4th. Aust. Battalion, less 2 Companies will be in reserve at J.15.D. and 2 Companies at VELU.
(e) C.O. 1st. Australian Machine Gun Coy., will establish two sections machine guns East of DOIGNIES for covering fire.
One section will be detailed for dealing with enemy counter attacks on HERMIES.
One section (less one gun) will be allotted to the sector occupied by 3rd. Aust. Battalion.
Two sections 21st. M.G. coy., will be in reserve at VELU.
(f) Headquarters and two sections 3rd. Field Coy. A.E. will establish strong points in line East of HERMIES after capture of the village.
4. The attack will be launched without artillery support. Normal artillery activity against enemy villages will be carried on till 0400. At zero hour batteries will open on DEMICOURT, BEETROOT FACTORY (J.18.D.), road N.E. from K.19.A.5.0. and Eastern approach to HERMIES.
5. A contact aeroplane will be in the air after dawn on 9th. inst. ^{at 0500 and} On aeroplane sounding its Klaxon Horn, RED Signal flares will be lighted to shew positions, *but only by the most advanced troops.*
6. A Brigade reserve of S.A.A., Bombs, Rifle Grenades, Sand bags and tools is established at I.29.B.6.3.
7. The necessary medical arrangements will be made by R.M.O's. *Drops will be warned against drinking water which has not been passed by a Medical officer.*
8. Zero hour will be 0415 on 9th. April.

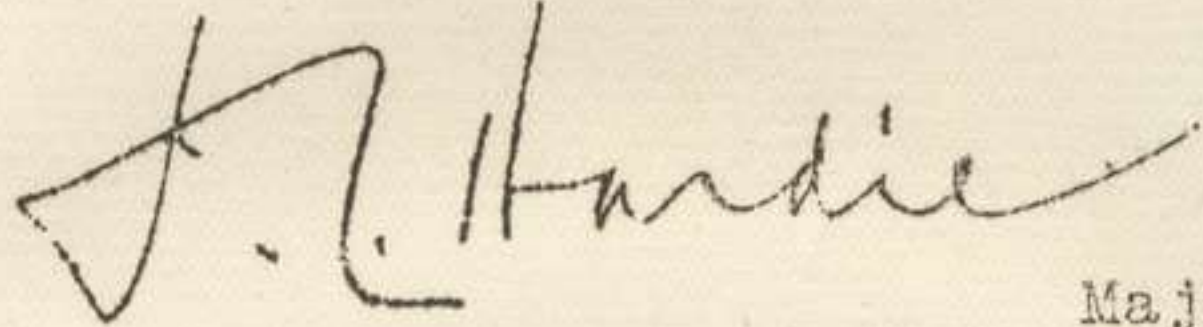
444

(2)

9. Watches will be synchronised through Brigade Signal office at 1800 on 8th. April.

10. Reports to Brigade Headquarters, DELSAUX FARM (I.28.A.5.5.)

A C K N O W L E D G E.



Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

DISTRIBUTION.

Extra copies to:-

13. 2nd. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
14. 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade,
15. 60th. Light Infantry Brigade (Imperial),
16. 21st. Aust. M.G. Company,
17. 3rd. Field Coy., Aust. Engineers,
18. O.C. "A" Group Artillery,
19. Heavy Group Artillery,
20. 3rd. Squadron R.F.C.
21. Liaison Officer,
22. Brigade Intelligence Officer.

Issued at 0800.

444

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form 0.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message

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

TO { CO 2nd Battalion

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* A 2 A 33	8		

With reference to Brigade Order 24 of 8th instant, the G.O.C. Division directs that the right of the 2nd Battalion during the advance will be kept on the line of the approximately ~~to the Dignes-Hermes~~ DOIGNES-HERMES Road in order to avoid the wire which runs through T 23 C and T 22 B and to avoid frontal attack on enemy wires in T 29 a.

Acknowledged

From 1st Aust Inf Bde
Place
Time

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

* This line should be erased if not required.
753,000. W 2186-M509. H. W & V., Ltd. 6/16.

444

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

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

TO

Co 7th Bn

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* A 20 06	8		

If the situation permits either during the operation on 9th instant or at a later stage the S.O.C. will send DEMICOURT and please keep Brigade well advised of the situation in this respect so that if opportunity offers prompt action may be taken

From	14 a 1 Bde
Place	
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

444

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.
1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
 for
OPERATIONS 9th April 1917.

Map Reference 57.c. 1/40.000.-

Main Dressing Station is at B.P.UMS, E.27.d.8.1.
 3rd Field Ambulance.
 Advanced Dressing Stations are at BREMIGOURT I.19.c.5.1.
 and BEUGNY I.21.b.2.7.

Right Brigade.-

Relay Post	1 Medical Officer 1 Ford Car Horsed ambulance Reserve Bearers J.25.a.5.6. 8 Bearers.	} LABUQUILLAS I.30.b.1.9.
------------	--	------------------------------

R.A.P.'s The R.A.P. at J.25.a.5.6. (4th Aus. Inf. Battalion) will be moved forward with the Battalion to the vicinity of ~~BOUGENS~~ *Boignes*. The necessary personnel and Relay Posts for evacuation will be arranged through Relay Post at LABUQUILLAS by the O.C. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance.

The R.A.P. at H.PLENCOURT (O.3.d.8.3.) (2nd Aus. Infantry Battalion) will be moved up with the Battalion to the vicinity of DOUGNIES. The O.C. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance will keep in touch with and will arrange personnel and evacuation of casualties through the relay post at LABOUQUILLAS.

The R.A.P. at J.13.b.4.0. (1st Aus. Inf. Battalion) will be moved up with the Battalion and will be established in the vicinity of ~~BOUGENS~~ *Boignes*. The O.C. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance will arrange for personnel and Relay Posts to evacuate casualties through Relay Post at I.11.b.6.0.

Left Brigade.-

Relay Post.	1 Medical Officer 1 Ford Car Horsed ambulance Reserve Bearers	} BOIS de CHAVROVA I.12.a.9.1. and Wagon loading post I.11.b.6.2.
-------------	--	--

R.A.P. at J.7.b.7.7. (12th Aus. Inf. Battalion) will be moved up with the Battalion and established in the vicinity of LOUVERVAL or ~~BOUGENS~~ *Boignes*. The O.C. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance will arrange for personnel and Relay Posts to evacuate through to Wagon Loading Post at I.11.b.6.2. *Boignes*

Stretchers.- Bus going forward will be supplied with extra stretchers by O.C. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance.

Blankets.- Reserve of blankets will be kept at A.D.S. BEUGNY.

Reports.- Extra bearers or equipment will be demanded from the O.C. 2nd Field Ambulance at BEUGNY or from A.D.M.S. through Divisional Headquarters.

R. B. HUXTABLE. Col.
 A.D.M.S.
 1st Australian Division.

444

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

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

Prefix.....Code.....Words..... # s. d.	Received From <i>AZC</i> By <i>MBG</i>	Sent, or sent out At.....m. <i>3.14.17</i> To..... By.....	Office Stamp <i>EX 3.14.17</i> <i>TELEGRAPHS</i>
Charges to collect			
Service Instructions.			

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

TO *Lack*

*Sender's Number <i>9716</i>	Day of Month <i>8</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
---------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	------------

Referred medical arrangements issued today with following corrections and under heading RAPS right Bde second line for HERMIES read DOIGNES and sixteenth line for BOURGIES read DOIGNES and under heading RAPS left Bde third line for BOURGIES read BOURSIES and added Lack Lack Laven CRE adms a R.

FROM *Lace*
PLACE & TIME *12.10*

* This line should be erased if not required.
(B8070) Wt. w. 7431-M857 250,000 Pads. 10/16 H&S (E436.) Forms/C.2123/3.

444

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

S E C R E T.

Brigade Headquarters,
8th. April, 1917.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

For
OPERATIONS 9TH. APRIL, 1917.

Made by A.D.M.S

REFERENCE MAP 57C 1:40,000.

Main dressing station is at BAPAUME, H.27.D.8.1. - 3rd. Field Ambulance.

Advanced dressing stations are at FREMICOURT I.19.C.5.1. and BEUGNY I.21.B.2.7.

Relay Post	1 Medical Officer)	
	1 Ford Car)	LEBUCQUIERE
	Horsed ambulance)	I.30.B.1.9.
	Reserve bearers)	
	J.25.A.5.6. 8 bearers.	

R.A.P.'s. The R.A.P. at J.25.A.5.6. (4th. Aust. Battalion) will be moved forward with the Battalion to the vicinity of DOIGNIES. The necessary personnel and relay posts for evacuation will be arranged through relay post at LEBUCQUIERE by the C.O. 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance.

The R.A.P. at HAPLINCOURT, O.3.D.8.3. (2nd. Aust. Infantry Battalion) will be moved up with the Battalion to the vicinity of DOIGNIES. The O.C. 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance will keep in touch with, and will arrange personnel and evacuation of casualties through, the relay post at LEBUCQUIERE.

The R.A.P. at J.13.B.4.0. (1st. Aust. Battalion) will be moved up with the Battalion and will be established in the vicinity of DOIGNIES. The O.C. 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance will arrange for personnel and relay posts to evacuate casualties through relay post at I.11.B.5.0.

Stretchers. Bus going forward will be supplied with extra stretchers by O.C. 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance.

Blankets. Reserve of blankets will be kept at A.D.S. BEUGNY.

Reports. Extra bearers or equipment will be demanded from the O.C. 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance at BEUGNY or from A.D.M.S. through Divisional Headquarters.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

A. Hardie
Capt., Major

[Signature]

Staff Captain, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

- Copies to:-
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st. Aust. Battalion | 21st. Aust. M.G.Coy. |
| 2nd. Aust. Battalion | 2nd. Aust. Field Ambulance |
| 3rd. Aust. Battalion | 3rd. Aust. Field Ambulance |
| 4th. Aust. Battalion | "A" Group Artillery |
| 1st. Aust. M.G.Coy. | Heavy Group Artillery |
| 1st. Aust. L.T.M.Bty. | 1st. Aust. Division. |

444

SECRET.

(COPY.) Appendix No 4/17/9

COPY NO. 5

25

1ST. AUSTRALIAN BATTALION ORDER NO. 25.

8th. April, 1917.

REFERENCE MAP 57C 1:40,000.

INFORMATION. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will capture HERMIES on 9th. instant.

The 60th. Light Infantry Brigade (Imperial) will assist by covering fire against HAVRINCOURT WOOD.

The 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade, in conjunction with our attack, will seize BOURSIES.

(a) The assault will be carried out by the 2nd. Aust. Battalion which will deploy for attack and move forward from the direction of DOIGNIES to an assaulting position on a line approximately through J. 29.A.0.4.- J.24.A.3.0.

The assault on HERMIES will be made from this line at zero hour and the new line established from J.30.B.9.0. through J.24.D.8.0.- J.24.A.7.2.

(b) The C.O., 3rd. Aust. Battalion, will co-operate with the 2nd. Aust. Battalion gaining the line J.35.Central-J.29.A.0.4. at zero hour. Frontage will include the railway line. When the 2nd. Aust. Battalion has made good the village 3rd. Aust. Battalion will take up the line J.36.A.5.3.- J.30.B.9.0.

4th. Aust. Battalion, less two companies, will be in reserve at J.15.D. and two companies at VELU,

C.O., 1st. Aust. M. G. Coy. will establish two sections Machine Guns East of DOIGNIES for covering fire.

The attack will be launched without artillery support. Normal artillery activity against enemy villages will be carried on till 0400. At zero hour batteries will open on DEMICOURT, Beet Root Factory (J.18.D.), road N.E. from K.19.A.5.0. and Eastern approach to HERMIES.

ACTION. Immediately after dusk posts to contain twelve men will be dug at J.17.A.8.0. and J.17.A.9.4. by "D" Coy. and similar posts at J.17.B.0.8.- J.11.D.0.4.- J.11.A.7.0., touch being established with 12th. Battalion on left, will be dug by "C" Coy. The line of holes running parallel to our front between points named may be used. Digging parties to be protected by strong covering parties and new work to be concealed as much as possible.

When dug the posts will be garrisoned- patrols being kept out in front. A report will be sent immediately posts are established.

In connection with major operation when necessary the 2nd. Battalion will be allowed to pass clear before the troops of this Battalion move. When the 2nd. Battalion is clear troops will move out. Posts will be established as follows :-

By "A" Coy., at J.24.A.7.4., J.23.B.7.6., J.17.D.3.0.
"D" Coy., at J.17.D.Cent..

On BOURSIES being seized by 12th. Battalion, "C" Coy. will push forward strong posts to cover 12th. Battalion's right flank which will rest about J.6.C.5.4.

Close watch by "BC" Coys patrols will be kept on the progression of action by 12th. Battalion so that posts may be established before daylight.

(c) When the enemy is met with during the advance of the Battalion he will be attacked and driven out.

(d) O's. C. Coys. will ensure that communication is maintained by them with advanced posts and that supports are available in a handy position in event of counter attack and that proper escort of infantry is provided for Lewis Guns in advanced posts.

444

3. A contact aeroplane will be in the air after dawn on 9th. instant and on aeroplane sounding its Klaxon Horn RED signal flares will be lighted in advanced positions only.

4. O's. C. Coys. will decide on position of advanced Coy. Headquarters beforehand.

5. DRESS. Battle order- 50 extra rounds to be issued to each man in bandoliers- 24 hours rations to be carried in addition to iron rations.

Fifty (50) flares will be issued to each of "A", "C" and "D" Coys. who will distribute them amongst troops who will occupy advanced positions.

6. "B" Coy. will move and occupy by 0300 trenches South and West of DOIGNIES reporting when in position.

7. Battalion Dump will be established near advanced Battalion Headquarters.

8. R.A.P. forward will be established under arrangements to be made by R.M.O.

9. Zero hour will be 0415 on 9th. April, 1917. Watches will be synchronised with Battalion Headquarters at 1900 on 8th. instant and 0300 on 9th. instant.

10. Advanced Battalion Headquarters will be established by 1130 tonight 8th. instant in old German trench at J.16.C.4.9.

8/4/1917.

Lieut.,

Adjutant, 1st. Aust. Battalion.

(Time issued 1715.)

Distribution of Copies.

No. 1.	A Coy.
2.	B "
3.	C "
4.	D "
5.	1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
6.	File.

SECRET.

COPY NO...9...

OPERATION ORDER NO. 7.SECOND AUSTRALIAN BATTALION, 8/4/17.REFERENCE MAPS 57C 1:40,000
HERMIES 1:10,000.

1. OPERATION. The 2nd. Battalion will attack HERMIES on the 9th. inst., at time to be notified later, and establish a line of posts North and East of the village, running approximately from K.25.A.0.0. to J.24.A.7.2.

2. INFORMATION, Our forces. The 3rd. Battalion is to move forward on the right of the 2nd. Battalion, South of VELU - HERMIES - HAVRINCOURT Railway line, and establish a line of posts from approx. J.36.A. to K.25.A.0.0. The 1st. Battalion is to establish a line of posts on the left of the 2nd. Battalion from J.24.A.7.2. to J.10.B. Two Companies of the 4th. Battalion will be in reserve in J.15.D. and two Companies in VELU. The 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade is to seize BOURSIES.

Enemy. As Intelligence Summaries.

3. POSITION OF ASSEMBLY. Companies will assemble for the attack as follows...A. and B. Coys. in Sunken Road in J.16.C. C. and D. Coys., in Sunken Road J.16.B. and J.17.A.

4. ROUTES. A. and B. Coys., will move via I.34.D. - I.30.D. railway line to J.21.C. - J.22.A. C. and D. Coys., via I.35.A. VELU - BEAUMETZ - DOIGNIES Road.

Times to be notified later.

5. DEPLOYMENT. The Companies will deploy for attack as follows by 0300 on the 9th. inst., the deployment will be covered by a screen of scouts and small patrols.....

A. Coy., plus one platoon of C. Coy., on a line approx., from J.22.A.8.8. to J.16.D.6.2.

B. Coy., on a line approx from J.16.D.6.2. to J.17.C.2.6.

C. Coy., less one platoon on a line approx., from J.17.C.2.6 to J.17.Central.

D. Coy., in rear of C. Coy., on a line approx., J.17.C.0.8. to J.17.A.5.0.

Company Commanders will report to Bn. H.Q. when their Companies are in position.

6. OBJECTIVES. At zero hour A. Coy., will attack and clear that S.Western portion of HERMIES bounded on the East by road running from J.23.D.4.0. to J.30.C.25.80. and will seize the enemy works in J.29.A. and B.

B. Coy., will attack and clear that portion of HERMIES bounded on the right by road from J.23.D.4.0. to J.30.C.25.80. and on left on a line from J.24.C.2.2. to J.30.B.1.0.

C. Coy., less one platoon will attack and clear remainder of village.

D. Coy., will establish a line of posts at K.25.A.0.0. - K.25.A.0.3. - J.24.D.6.4. and J.24.A.7.2. and intervening posts.

When A., B., and C. Coys., are satisfied that HERMIES has been cleared they will arrange to strengthen D. Coy., in line of posts.

7. METHOD OF ATTACK. At 0330 companies will move forward simultaneously towards their objectives. The left of A. Coy., and the right of B. Coy., will rest on the HERMIES - DOIGNIES Road.

A., B., and C. Coys., will attack their objectives and will move through the town to the railway line. In order to avoid collision with the 3rd. Battalion they will not cross railway line.

D. Coy., will move direct to the line allotted them. They will establish a defensive line facing East, and will capture or kill any Germans attempting to escape from the town.

444

8. CONSOLIDATION. Two sections of the 3rd. Field Coy. A.E. will be available for the construction of strong points at K.25.A.0.0. - K.25.A.0.3. - J.24.D.6.4. and J.24.A.7.2. They will not move from Battalion Headquarters until the objectives have been gained.

When they have cleared the sector allotted them A. B. and C. Coys., will assist in the work of consolidation and defence of the town against any possible counter attacks, and will relieve D. Coy., of part of its line as follows:-

- A. Coy., from K.25.A.0.0. to K.25.A.0.3. inclusive.
- B. Coy., from K.25.A.0.3. to enclosure at J.30.B.9.6.
- C. Coy., from J.30.B.9.6. to J.24.D.6.4. exclusive.

9. DRESS. Battle order, with ground sheet. In addition each man will carry two bombs, two sandbags, one ground flare- if available- and 48 hours rations.

Bombers and Rifle bombers will carry six bombs each.

Tools have been allotted to Companies.

No maps, papers, or documents of any military value will be carried forward of the position of deployment.

10. MEDICAL. R.A.P. is at J.16.C. Central. The 2nd. Field Ambulance will evacuate wounded from the R.A.P.

11. TIME. Watches will be synchronised by the signalling Officer at the position of assembly.

12. DUMPS. Brigade Dump of S.A.A. and bombs is at LEBUCQUIERE. Battalion Dump at Battalion Headquarters J.22.A.3.8.

13. COMMUNICATIONS. Lateral communication will be established by D. Coy., with the 3rd. and 1st. Battalions. All companies will carry forward telephones and wire.

14. CONTACT AEROPLANE. A contact plane will be in air from 0500 on the 9th. inst.. Flares will be lit when the plane calls for them by sounding Klaxon Horn and at 0500.

The Battalion Sig. Officer will arrange for the Battalion ground sheet and call to be displayed when necessary.

15. PRISONERS. Prisoners will be sent under escort to Battalion Headquarters.

16. Battalion Headquarters. Battalion Headquarters will be established at J.22.A.3.8. where reports will be received.

(Signed) W.A.TROTT, Capt.,

Adjutant Second Aust. Bn.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

To. 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.

444

3rd Australian Battalion Copy No 10
 Operation order 8/4/17

Ref Map 54C 1:40,000.

- (1) The enemy occupies the line BOURSIES - DEMICOURT - HERMIES - HAURINCOURT WOOD. With advanced posts in front.
- (2) The 1st INF BRIGADE will capture HERMIES on 9th inst.
- (3) The assault will be carried out by the 2nd Aus. Battalion which will deploy for attack & move forward from the direction of DOIGNIES to an assaulting position on a line approximately through J 23 D 3.4 to J 24 A 30.

The assault will be made from this line at ZERO hour & the new line established from J 30. B 90. through J 24 D 8.0 - J 24 A 7.2

- (4) The 3rd Aus Battalion will co-operate & clear the area CANAL BANK to HERMIES - VELU RAILWAY (Railway inclusive) & join up with 2nd Battalion.

and Ait

(2)

(5) C + D Companies will carry out the attack + establish a line of posts on line from approximately J36 A 5.3 to J30 B.9.0.

(6) Position of assembly
D. Coy in sunken road from J34 D 5.8 to road junction J28 C 9.1.

C. Coy in sunken road J28 C 9.1 to railway J28 A 2.3. Two platoons of A Coy (in support) will occupy this road when C + D move out.

(7) Routes - A. C + D will move via stream J33. A + B J34 A 16 place of assembly.

(8) Deployment - C + D Coys will deploy for attack by 0330 on 9th inst. covered by a screen of small patrols. O.C. Coys to report to Battalion Hd. Qrs when their Companies are ready to move.

(9) At ZERO. D Coy will attack + clear enemy works + trenches in J35 A + B. + J36 A + B including CEMETERY. + establish posts on line J36 A. 6-2 to J30 D 4-2 at ZERO

444

C. Coy^C will attack enemy works on RAILWAY + clear the area. J29 C+D. J.30 C+D + establish a line of posts from J30 ~~D~~ 4-2 to J30 B9-0. O.C. C Coy will get in touch with 2nd Battalion on left.

(10) TIME. Matches will ^{be} synchronized by Signal officer at position of assembly

(11) MEDICAL. R.A.P. will be established at High Bank J33 B9-5

(12) DRESS. BATTLE order. 24 hours Rations and IRON RATIONS Water bottles to be filled. Each man will carry Two Bombs + one ground flare Picks + shovels will be carried as allotted. BOMBERS + RIFLE Bombers will each carry Six bombs

(13) Battalion DUMP will be at J33 B. 9-6.

(14) Flares will be lit when called for by contact aeroplane on KLAXTON HORN. Ground sheets.

444

and Battalion call will be in position

(15) Bn. Hd Qtrs will be in Sunken road
at J28 C. 8. 2.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Dymore Lt Col

~~Commdy 3rd BN ATF~~

Commdy 3rd BN ATF

8/4/17.

Extra Copies to

14010 1st INF BDE

11 2nd Aust BN.

4/17/10

444
REPORT ON OPERATION OF 1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
ON 8/9TH. APRIL, 1917.

Battalion Headquarters
11/4/17.

With reference to the part played by this Battalion in the operation of the 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde. against HERMIES - DEMICOURT on the 9th. inst., I have to report as follows:-

Copy of the order issued to the Battalion for the operation was despatched to Brigade Headquarters at 1730 on the 8th. inst..

At 2350 I established ^{advanced} Battalion H.Q. on the DOIGNIES road at J.15.B.2.2.

D. and C. Coys., dug in posts at dusk on line given in order, J.17.A.8.0. - J.17.A.9.4. - J.17.B.0.8. - J.11.D.0.4. - J.11.A.7.0.

All companies were in position ready to move forward by 0330 at which hour the 2nd. Battalion passed through our lines to attack HERMIES, and moved forward to take up their positions allotted as soon as the 2nd. Battalion passed clear.

At 0430 the Battalion Intelligence Officer returned from the front line and reported that A. Company was all correct on the line allotted it and digging in.

At the same hour C. Coy., reported by telephone that the 3rd. Brigade on left had not succeeded in taking BOURSIES.

At 0605 information received by telephone from 12th. Battalion that they had captured BOURSIES and had established posts on other side. I accordingly instructed the O.C. C. Coy., to move his left flank forward and get touch with the 12th. Battalion.

At 0610 message was received from the O.C. D. Coy., that he believed DEMICOURT to be evacuated. Of this fact I informed you by telephone at once.

At 0620 I instructed all Coys., to push patrols forward as close to DEMICOURT as possible and establish themselves there; Coys., to be prepared to move forward and occupy the village on receipt of orders.

At 0635 I was officially informed by the O.C. A. Coy., that he was well established on his allotted line, and in touch with the 2nd. Battalion on his right.

At 0640 your instructions to move forward and occupy the village of DEMICOURT were received.

On night of 8th. instant in accordance with instructions from you I made preparations to occupy DEMICOURT on the slightest sign that it was being vacated. I instructed O's. C. of A., D. and C. Coys. to push forward patrols in conjunction with advance of Battalions on right and left. At same time I explained to them the action to be taken. A. Coy. was to advance on it from right flank working round South Eastern side of village. C Coy. was to advance on it from left flank and work round North West end of village. D.Coy. was to watch flank Coys. and on their approaching the village was to move his Coy. against the village from direct front.

On village being taken the Coys. would begin on a line about 200 yards East of village, facing East and frontage was divided between companies.

In the event of our moving 2nd. Battalion was asked to protect Battalion's right flank. At 0630 telephonic communication with forward companies broke down and was not re-established till 0730. I accordingly had to prepare written orders "copy attached" to companies and these were despatched by runner at 0715, advance being timed for 0800. This was acknowledged by companies at 0745 and I also gave verbal instructions over telephone at that time.

In accordance with instructions issued by me at 0620 C Coy had sent forward a strong patrol of Lieut. SAMPSON and 24 O.R. This patrol though fired on by Machine Guns from left flank gradually worked its way forward towards the village taking advantage of the ground, leaving party of 9 on ridge to assist by covering fire.

444
455

On nearing the village, probably about 0800, he saw the enemy leaving it and rushed it with his men, dividing his party right and left. Shortly afterwards the enemy returned about 50 strong but the patrol lined a road bank and fired on them and enemy retired.

This patrol remained in the village and about an hour afterwards they gained touch with a party of A. Coy. which had moved into the village from right flank about 0930.

At 0730 I ordered B. Coy. to move forward to the sunken road in J.16.C. to be in support. At 0750 A. Coy. reported that their advanced patrols were held up near the HERMIES- DEMICOURT Road by Machine Gun fire.

At 0752 C. Coy. reported that DEMICOURT was re-occupied by the enemy. I then telephoned your headquarters and asked for artillery fire of the village from 0800 to 0805. This support was given with effect.

At 0800 Coys. moved forward to attack DEMICOURT. The senior Major going forward to control operations there and took up his Headquarters at D. Coy's Headquarters at J.16.D.8.1. and kept me informed of situation.

At 0840 it was reported that A. and C. Coys. were round the right and left flanks respectively of DEMICOURT and D. Coy. in front. This was telephoned to you.

At 0848 artillery was asked to shell 250 yards East of DEMICOURT. The F.O.O. reported that he saw the enemy in that vicinity and that hostile artillery was shelling our troops. I informed the Brigade Major of this at 0850. At 0855 C. Coy. were reported to be retiring under artillery and machine gun fire and D. Coy. digging in in front of the village under heavy artillery fire.

At 0910 A. Coy., reported that he was in his original position taken up after the 2nd. Battalion advanced at 0330.

At 0940 enemy M.G.'s. were reported to be firing from J.12.D.70.55. and K.7.C.10.55. and that D. Coy., under heavy ~~artillery~~ artillery fire retired to previous position.

At 1000 C. Coy., reported ~~back~~ in previous position but that an Officers patrol under Lieut. SAMPSON was still in DEMICOURT. Companies instructed to keep patrols out.

At 1015 A. Coy., reported they had taken the BEETROOT FACTORY on the DEMICOURT - HERMIES road.

At 1050 A. Coy., reported that his patrols had entered DEMICOURT and I informed your office at once.

At 1055 the 12th. Battalion informed us that the position at BOURSIES was uncertain.

At 1100 I sent up two platoons of D. Coy., with remainder of Company ready to follow them to assist A. Coy., to consolidate DEMICOURT and instructed C. Coy., to move forward and gain touch with D. Coy's. left flank in front of DEMICOURT. This was done, one platoon establishing a post at J.12.Central. Report was received shortly after that whole of D. Coy., was in DEMICOURT; later that touch was established all along line and men were digging in.

The senior Major returned to Headquarters at 1045.

At 1130 I decided to move Headquarters forward, advising Brigade of the fact. Senior Major remained in command until I was established in J.23.B.3.3. where I arrived at 1230.

At 1235 I went forward to reconnoitre front line on the right and in part of the village found position very suitable for defence. The left flank was exposed owing to the Battalion on left not putting posts in the North Eastern portion of BOURSIES, but I ordered a Vickers Machine Gun onto a spur which covered the valley, and at dusk further posts were established which made left flank secure. I received great assistance from Lieut. L.G. SEWELL of 1st. Aust. M.G. Coy., who was untiring in his efforts to get his guns well placed, not sparing himself either day or night. The F.O.O. who was stationed at 2nd. Battalion Headquarters, Lieut. RICHARDSON of 9th. Battery, also rendered valuable assistance and kept me informed of every movement as well as getting artillery fire brought to bear where needed.

I cannot speak too highly of the great daring and initiative shewn by Lieut. SAMPSOM in getting forward into, and occupying the village. His action undoubtedly prevented the enemy from returning to the village and holding it in strength.

Three (3) prisoners were taken in BOURSIES by the left Company, 2 being wounded. One (1) NADSEN Automatic Rifle was taken. Two prisoners were taken during advance of right Company to their first position but as they assaulted their escort and endeavoured to escape were both killed.

Telephonic communication was maintained with companies throughout the operation though as mentioned the line was broken for some time.

The casualties suffered by the Battalion during 9th. April were 1 Officer 10 O.R. Killed 3 Officers 42 O.R. wounded.

(Signed) B.V. STACY Lieut.Col.

Commanding 1st. Aust. Infantry Battalion.

444

ISSUED TO COMPANIES AT 0715 ON 9TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. Enemy is reported to have evacuated DEMICOURT.
2. The Battalion will move through DEMICOURT and take up a line about 200 yards East of the road from HERMIES to DEMICOURT as far North as sunken road which leads from 12.D.Central to K.7.C. (this road is reported to contain dugouts).
From this road the line will bend back linking up with 12th. Battalion in J.6.C.
A. & C. Companies will attack from the right and left flanks respectively.
D. Company will be in centre. Companies will move forward protected by a thin screen.
On new line being taken up the frontage of Companies will be:-

A. Coy.,	J.24.B.3.3.	-	J.18.B.7.2.
D. Coy.,	J.18.B.7.2.	-	K.7.C.3.5.
C. Coy.,	K.7.C.3.5.	-	Left flank.

 Companies will act in co-operation.
The advance will take place at 0800.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) J.C. BOOTLE Lieut.,

Adjutant 1st. Aust. Battalion.

In the Field 9/4/17.

11/4/17.

444.

The 1st Aust. Inf. Bde.
.....REPORT ON OPERATION AGAINST HERMIES.
.....

1. The Battalion moved from HAPLINCOURT at 1930 on the 8th inst., and proceeded by routes previously reconnoitred to the position of assembly laid down in Second Bn. Order No. 7, a copy of which (No. 9) was forwarded to you. Bn. H.Q., were established at J.22.A.37^{at 2130} on the 8th inst.
2. The deployment, under cover of patrols and scouts, was completed without incident at 0315 on the 9th inst., and at 0330 the advance to the Assault position was commenced. Acting on instructions received to keep to the East of the Hermies..Doignies Rd., the original deployment scheme was altered, and the right company was formed up in advance of the right centre company but without altering its disposition.
3. During the advance a number of enemy posts, well dug in, were encountered, which brought Machine gun and Automatic rifle fire to bear on our troops and caused a number of casualties. These positions were rushed, and the advance continued. It was at this stage that the left centre company lost all its officers. The movement was not checked here, however, as the objectives had been made known and the N.C.Os took charge. This company checked about 100 yards short of the village. but the officer commanding the left co., noticed them in time and, before any damage resulted, got them on the move again and directed them through the village.
4. serious opposition was first encountered by the right co., in J.23.D., and it was not until some sharp fighting had taken place, and the bayonet brought into play, that this co., was able to continue the advance. Some good individual work was done here and the opposition was overcome. The company had to fight very hard for an hour and a quarter to make progress. Fifty-one unwounded prisoners surrendered to this company, and this ended the opposition here. It was not until 0600 that it reached the railway line, and at 0700 it gained the final objective.
5. The assault was delivered at 0415 approx., from the line laid down in 1st Bde., Order 24, para 3(a), and all companies had to fight their way from this line forward. The left company was in position on the final objective at 0520, but hard fighting continued in J.29.A. and B., in the village, and along the railway line through J.29. and 30., for some time after that hour. The retiring enemy was caught between two fires and suffered heavily. The left co., was delayed by a strong point at J.24.D.95., and this allowed more Germans to escape than would otherwise have been the case. Two automatic rifles were captured here. By 0540 the centre companies reached the railway line and then worked round to the final objective.
6. Touch was maintained with the 1st Bn., on the left throughout the operation, and the left flank company was able to carry on with greater confidence on this account. On the right the Third Bn., established itself on the road from J.36.A.O.O. to J.30.C.25., with a post in the cemetery in J.36.A., and this caused my right company to feel a little nervous as to its ~~right~~ flank for some hours. Touch was maintained by occasional patrols, and the Third Bn., came up to J.36.B., during the night of the 9/10th. Communication between companies and H.Qs., was frequently broken, and was greatly hampered by lack of telephone cable. Practically all the early reports had to be sent by runners who, as usual, behaved splendidly. The right co., maintained telephone communication with H.Q., up till 0530, but after that

444

could not find the necessary wire and had to abandon their station. The left co., was in touch, at intervals, throughout.

7.

~~on~~ receipt of information, at 0650, that our men were in position, I despatched two sections of the Third Field Co., to construct strong points at the localities previously decided upon in conference with the O.C., Field Co. This work was well carried out and was completed by 1900, when the engineers were withdrawn.

The Line was firmly established by nightfall, and all ranks were awaiting with confidence the counter attack which, though ardently wished for, did not develop.

8.

At 0630 on the 9th inst., the enemy were seen to be massing on the ridge East of DEMICOURT, and several times during the day others appeared near HAVRINCOURT, but our artillery was able to disperse them.

9.

Supplies of SAA, bombs, and water were sent forward by all men available, including regtl., police, cooks, and H.Q., batmen, but the shortage of these was never acute.

10.

Twenty officers went into action, of whom fifteen went with companies. Of these eight are casualties. When the line had been established I called up four of the officers left behind, and they were able to relieve the officers in the line of some of their duties.

On the experience gained in this action I am convinced of the wisdom of having some officers out of the first assault.

11.

The evacuation of wounded was greatly assisted by twenty men from the Fourth Bn., and by the employment of German prisoners on this duty. When the supply of stretchers temporarily failed prisoners carried wounded men "pick..a..back."

All cases at the R.A.P., were cleared in good time, and the R.M.O., then went forward under fire and attended to some that had been overlooked in Hermies and NO Man's Land. By midday all those wounded in the attack had been attended to.

12.

Our casualties total...

KILLED, 2 officers,
 ..Lt. V.W. Robins,
 Sec. Lt. M. Paterson.. and 56 other Rks.

MISSING, .. 5 " "

WOUNDED, 6 officers,
 ..Lt. Barnes,
 " Cooper,
 Sec. Lt. Smith,
 " " Watson,
 " " White,
 " " Paviour, and 116 other Ranks.

TOTAL CASUALTIES, 8 officers, 178 other Ranks.

Known enemy casualties. (not including wounded not prisoners).

PRISONERS counted at Bn., H.Q. 1 officer, 172 others.

DEAD ON GROUND, 1 " 90 "

TOTAL, 2 officers, 262 others.

13.

Our captures include, 1 Machine gun, with heavy mount.
 38 Automatic rifles..equivalent Lewis
 2 Telephones, guns.
 and a quantity of ammun., equipment, etc.

444

14.

There were a number of very fine individual acts, and I intend to submit recommendations for immediate awards for your consideration.

15.

In conclusion, I consider that a large measure of the success of the operation was due to the training which we were able to carry out recently.

Shirringham

Lieut. Colonel,

COMMANDING, SECOND AUSTRALIAN BATTALION.

SECRET.

(COPY)

Headquarters,
1st. Aust. Infantry Brigade.

ATTACK ON HERMIES 9/4/17.

1. To assist 2nd. Aust. Battalion in their attack on HERMIES, two companies of this Battalion were assembled in road J.34.D.4.9. to Railway at J.28.A.3.2. for the assault, supported by a third company assembled in the same road.

2. The right company was ordered to clear up the area J.34.B., J.35.A. & B., J.36.A. and the CEMETERY and establish a line through J.36.A.5.1. to J.30.D.2.2.

The left company was ordered to assault and clear up the area NORTH of right company to RAILWAY (inclusive) and establish a line from J.30.D.2.2. to J.30.B.9.0. and connect with 2nd. Battalion at that point.

The support company remained at point of assembly ready to move when ordered. This company was not employed in the assault.

3. At 0345 the assaulting companies advanced from assembly position to gain the assaulting position J.29.A.0.4. - J.24.A.3.0. by 0415 - zero time.

4. Immediately after leaving the assembly position enemy opened with M.G. and rifle fire. The advance was continued to assaulting position and reached it at zero. From this point the left two platoons of left company could not advance owing to hostile M.G. fire and heavy entanglements of barbed wire. The troops at this point suffered a number of casualties including a platoon Officer.

The O.C. left company left his left two platoons to hold the attention of the enemy at the Railway Station and pushed on with the remainder supported by the right company to the objective.

5. The line was consolidated:-

J.36.A.1.2. - along road to J.30.C.3.6. and posts established at CEMETERY and J.30.C.5.6.

6. Two V.M.G's. were got into position to cover this front.

7. Three enemy M.G's. were captured, one at STATION one at J.35.B.9.8. and one at CEMETERY. 28 prisoners were taken.

8. Communication was established with 2nd. Battalion in new line at 0530.

Communication was well maintained from Battalion to Company Headquarters by runner and by telephone at 0600.

9. Enemy artillery fire was slow in opening; our troops passed the shelled area before he opened.

10. Our casualties:-

1	Officer	Killed,
1	"	Wounded,
18	O.R.	Killed,
39	O.R.	Wounded,
3		reported missing.

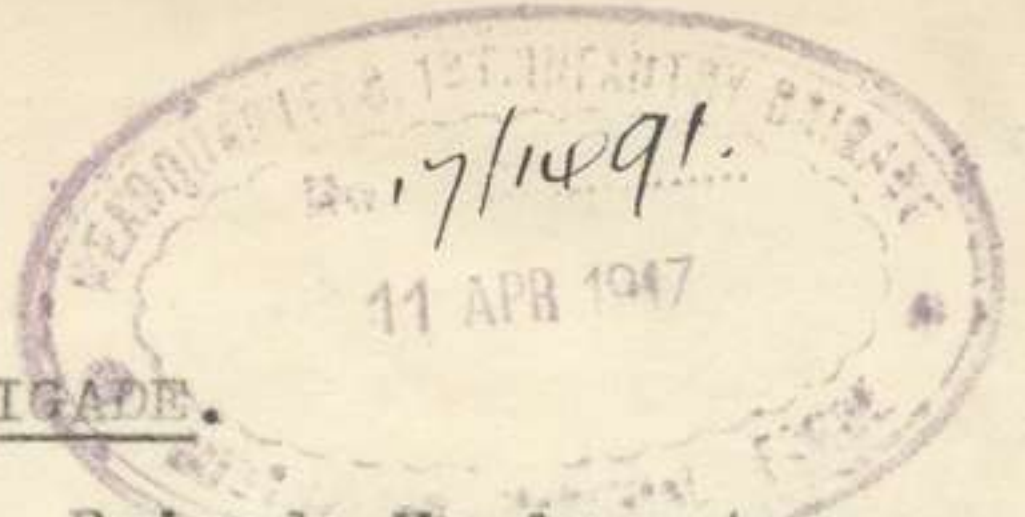
(Signed) D.T. MOORE, Lt. Col.

10/4/17.

Commanding 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.

SECRET

Appendix No. 4/17/11

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
10th. April, 1917.SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 9TH. APRIL, 1917.

The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade attacked HERMIES on the morning of 9th. inst., in accordance with the instructions contained in Brigade Order No. 24.

In their advance the 2nd. Battalion avoided the long belt of wire but encountered considerable difficulty with Machine Gun fire. By 0510 a company had entered the village where a considerable amount of hand to hand fighting took place. The centre company was temporarily held up but overcame the opposition and entered the village. The line to the East of HERMIES was taken up by 0850.

The 3rd. Battalion sent forward 2 companies on the South side of the railway line and engaged the South Western defences at the same time as the 2nd. Battalion assualted on the Northern and N.W. side, but encountered considerable opposition from Machine Gun fire and were repeatedly held up, having to deal with enemy posts one after another, but by 0545 they had reached a line J.35.B.7.0. - J.30.A.2.8. and were in touch with the 2nd. Battalion. They gradually worked Eastwards along the line of enemy trenches South of HERMIES and along the railway line, establishing touch with the 2nd. Battalion at J.30.A.9.0. They were unable to advance their right on account of Machine^{Gun} opposition but established a post in the Cemetery.

The 1st. Battalion worked forward on the left flank of the 2nd. Battalion but the left flank was held up till after 0600 owing to want of communication with 12th. Battalion. At 0628 the 1st. Battalion advised that it appeared that the enemy were in sunken road East of DEMICOURT, and instructions were issued for the guns to lift to sunken road and for the 1st. Battalion to take the village. They were, however, afterwards held up as the enemy re-occupied the village when the artillery fire lengthened. At 0807 "A" Group opened on West edge of village for 5 minutes and then resumed on sunken road to facilitate the assault. The right company were afterwards held up at BEETROOT FACTORY but by 0940 had made it good. They afterwards entered DEMICOURT and established themselves on the East side.

After making good the line in advance of HERMIES the 2nd. Battalion and 2 sections 3rd. Field Coy., A.E. consolidated the position, three strong points being constructed. At 0850 an enemy counter attack from the North East was dispersed by artillery fire.

The 3rd. Battalion went forward after dark and established itself with two companies on the required line East of HERMIES and to the South of the railway, their right in touch with the 60th. Brigade.

Artillery fire was opened on various favourable targets during the day and at 1730 was directed on enemy massing near HAVRINCOURT.

Though the enemy still had small bodies in various positions between our line and the Canal du Nord no further counter attacks were made.

The work done by all ranks was most commendable, and the artillery aid was of great value. The Field Coy., pushed forward through HERMIES very early during the fight and commenced their role in the establishment of strong posts.

(2)

444
Communications were maintained throughout without intermission.

The total casualties will probably amount to 250.

Fully 200 prisoners together with four machine guns and several automatic rifles were captured

Brig.-General,

Commanding 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM 0600 9TH. APRIL TO 0600 10TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Our line now runs:- approximately J.35.B.8.1. to J.36.A.5.1. to J.36.A.6.5. to J.36.A.9.6., from here in a series of posts seven in number to J.30.D.7.8. - J.30.D.8.9. - K.25.A.0.0. thence East to K.25.A.80.05. - K.25.A.5.3. - K.19.C.0.5. - J.24.A.7.2. (The line from K.25.A.80.05. to J.24.A.7.2. is a strong line with strong points at J.24.A.7.2., K.19.C.0.5., K.25.A.5.3., J.30.D.7.8.) J.24.B.15.95. J.18.D.3.6. - J.18.B.5.1. - J.18.B.6.2. - J.18.B.7.6. - K.7.C.0.2. - K.7.C.2.5. - J.12.D.7.6. - J.12.D.1.9.

Patrols. Patrols report sunken road from K.7.C.8.5. running S.E. is strongly held by enemy with M.G's.

A strong standing patrol occupied Square Copse at J.25.D.6.6.

Three standing patrols at K.25.C.50.10., K.25.Central and K.25.B.3.4.

One patrol reports seen enemy digging in on ridge between our position and HAVRINCOURT, estimated 1000 yards from HERMIES.

2. ARTILLERY. 4.5 Howitzers and 18 pounders registered on corner of HAVRINCOURT WOOD in J.32.A. and 18 pounders registered on points in village of HAVRINCOURT during day. During afternoon the 18 pounders dispersed enemy working parties at K.31.A.0.2. and fired on troops in village of HAVRINCOURT. Results could not be ascertained.

3. MACHINE GUNS. Our Lewis guns were active during the night. Between 2130 and 2200 we fired on enemy patrol which was observed about K.19.B.2.2. At the time attack was launched on DEMICOURT by the Battalion on our left, about 40 enemy troops were seen running to the rear. Our machine guns were brought to bear with good results. A captured machine gun and ammunition is being used by us at K.19.C.1.1.

4. SNIPING. Our snipers, situated at K.25.A.2.9. were active when suitable targets presented themselves.

5. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. The enemy shelled HERMIES village intermittently during the past 24 hours with small calibre guns. Railway cutting, K.25.A.3.0. received particular attention.

About 60, 4.2 H.E. and 12, 77 m.m. shells fell at about J.36.A.05.70. and enemy shelled West and N.W. of DEMICOURT heavily during our attack.

Enemy Movement. Considerable movement of enemy was observed in N.W. of HAVRINCOURT WOOD and in village of HAVRINCOURT. Our artillery fired on these parties.

At 1500 a party of 100 men with M.G's were seen at J.12.B.3.7. more joined them from K.1.A.9.5. after we had captured DEMICOURT.

6. MISCELLANEOUS. Fires were observed in HAVRINCOURT at 2030, 0110 and 0230. Explosions were also heard in HAVRINCOURT before 1200 on 9th.

Our attack on HERMIES was evidently a surprise judging from condition of dugouts on HERMIES-DEMICOURT Road, where supplies of food and fuel were stored sufficient for several days.

HERMIES appears to be more systematically destroyed than other villages we have passed through.

A. Hardie

Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

444

Appendix No.

4/17/13

A.A

45

1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SECRET.

1st. Aust. Battalion,
 2nd. Aust. Battalion,
 3rd. Aust. Battalion,
 4th. Aust. Battalion,
 1st. Aust. M. G. Coy.,
 1st. Aust. L. T. K. Coy..



Brigade Headquarters,
 10th. April, 1917.

The boundary of the Brigade sector has been amended and now runs through road junction, J.13.S.06.68. to J.S. Central.

The advanced line will be held at an outpost line; forward line of resistance being BEAUMONT- DENICOURT- BOUSSIES.

The sector between our present left and J.S. Central will be taken over by the 1st. Battalion on 10th. instant. Details will be arranged by Battalion Commanders concerned.

The outpost line will be occupied by two Battalions; the boundary between right and left battalions will be the line J.24.A.0.0.- K.S.D.0.0.

The forward line of resistance will be placed in as strong a state of defence as the means at our disposal permit. Posts will be established around all villages, and the ground between villages will be covered by carefully placed intermediate posts.

Services of Field Engineers for the establishment of strong posts can be obtained on application to Brigade.

The Brigade Reserve Line will be established along the line, approximately, J.24. Central- J.23. Central- J.13. Central- MORCHIES.

BEAUMONT will be organized as a defended locality in connection with this system.

The position occupied by the 2nd. Battalion will be taken over at 2000 on 10th. instant by the 3rd. Battalion who will hold this line in addition to their present frontage. 2nd. Battalion will be billeted at BEAUMONT. The 1st. Battalion will be relieved on the 11th. instant by the 4th. Battalion at a time to be arranged between Battalion Commanders concerned. The 1st. Battalion will bivouac in the vicinity of BOISSIES and form the outpost reserve.

O.C., 1st. Aust. M. G. Coy. will arrange to relieve the personnel of M.G. posts in the front line periodically, such relief not to take place on the same day as a Battalion relief.

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

B.M.

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM 0400 10TH. APRIL TO 0600 11TH. APRIL, 1917.

444

1. RELIEF. The 3rd. Battalion took over the portion of line East and North of HERMIES held by 2nd. Battalion. Relief was completed at 2145 without incident.

At about 2000 our left flank was extended to about 400 yards to the North of BOURSIES taking over posts at J.6.C.2.3., J.6.C.5.8. and J.5.D.4.9. from the 12th. Battalion. The relief passed quite easily.

2. PATROLS. A patrol left our line at J.36.A.5.3., crossed Canal by a plank at J.36.B.4.2. and proceeded to edge of wood at K.31.C.2.9. No enemy were located and patrol returned by same route

Reconnoitring patrols report a sniper at J.6.D.0.9. and a M.G. at J.6.D. Central.

Reconnoitring patrols report that the enemy hold a line of disconnected holes running from K.7.D.5.5. to K.7.A.8.2. to K.7.A.2.5. A hostile M.G. was located at K.7.D.5.4.

A party of about 20 were seen at J.6.D.5.1. digging and putting out wire.

Outpost at J.12.A.9.2. report a Light Trench Mortar about 800-1000 yards to their immediate front.

Patrols were pushed well out N.E. from HERMIES but no enemy movement was observed.

3. HOSTILE ACTIVITY. Artillery. Enemy artillery was generally more active during period. Off and on throughout the day sunken road from J.35.B.9.3. to J.35.B.95.90. was shelled with 4.2 H.E. and 77 m.m. shrapnel. It was most severe at 1530. Large silt dump in J.34.D. was shelled intermittently by same batteries in direction S.W. of HAVRINCOURT. HERMIES was shelled during night with 4.2 H.E. and shrap. from direction of J.27. Central.

Sniping. Enemy snipers were active from a trench about K.7.A.8.2. but were quietened by artillery fire.

Machine Guns. Enemy machine gun, which appears to be firing from K.26.B.2.4. swept our front continuously.

Observation Post. An enemy O.P. consisting of 6 men located at J.36.B.9.2.; relief changed over at 0630.

Movement. Constant movement across from wood to sunken road. Enemy appear to cross Canal by bridge at K.31.A.0.2. and move along road to K.31.A.8.7.

Enemy moving freely through roads in wood K.31.A. and K.31.C. Parties were seen carrying picks and shovels to trench located at K.32.D.2.8. or thereabouts, across to wood about K.27.D.4.0.

A party of 12 men, apparently a relief, was observed to disappear on road at about K.31.A.2.3. Shortly afterwards another party appeared from same spot and crossed Canal into wood; relief at 0645.

Working party located at what appears to be a trench at road K.33.A.4.8. - 0650.

At 1830 three parties of enemy were seen moving in fours at about 100 yards distance from FLESQUIERES to K.22. Central along the road - each party was about 200 strong.

4. OUR SNIPERS. Our snipers were busily engaged during the day firing at long ranges towards HAVRINCOURT, they claim two victims.

5. MISCELLANEOUS. Various houses in HAVRINCOURT were seen in flames. At 1000 a train was seen entering HAVRINCOURT from direction of Canal bank.

V. R. Hardie

Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

Handwritten mark

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM 0600, 11TH. APRIL TO 0600, 12TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. PATROLS. Patrol left our line at 2350 from K.25.A.5.1. and returned to same spot at 0145, moving parallel to railway line at K.25.B.5.2. observed an enemy patrol of 6 men which retired in direction SQUARE COPSE.

At 2100 a patrol of one officer one N.C.O. and 6 men left from J.36.A.4.2., proceeded to K.31.B.6.8., thence to SQUARE COPSE returning through line at J.30.D.6.7. at 2300; no enemy encountered or movement seen.

2. ARTILLERY. Our artillery was not so active during 24 hours along our sector. An enemy working party was temporarily dispersed in K.20.D. by 18 pounders shrap. Other points engaged were in village of HAVRINCOURT; results could not be ascertained.

A Battalion O.P. has been established at K.25.A.3.2. Strong Point. A strong point is under construction by 3rd. Field Company at J.6.C.7.7.

3. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. During the day the enemy shelled the sunken road in J.23.A.3.3. with 4.2 H.E., also sunken road between HERMIES and DEMICOURT, direct hits being observed on BEEBROOT FACTORY, J.18.D.

Enemy artillery was active on area in vicinity of J.30.B. and J.30.D.

<u>Time.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Size.</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
1010-1120	J.30.B.8.0. to 8.6. and J.30.D.7.5.	20	4.2.	Centre of HAVRINCOURT.
1725	K.25.A.4.0. to K.25.C.2.8.	7	5.9	Due East.

Movement. From 0940 to 1115 considerable movement of enemy was observed. A cart drawn by 4 horses with party of 6 in rear was observed moving along road from K.29.D.4.8. to K.20.D.8.0.

From 0940 to 1115 several working parties; strength from 5 to 15 digging along line approx. K.20.B.8.4. to K.20.D.9.8. and in two communication trenches leading to the rear from this line.

Parties moving in K.20.C.; did not appear to be working party.

At 1530 working party digging along road K.27.A.4.0. to A.3.2.

At 1625 enemy removing railway lines in K.27.A. & B.

4. MISCELLANEOUS. Aerial. Two enemy planes were seen over our sector during the 24 hours flying high. Our anti-aircraft batteries at VELU engaged them and they returned over their own lines.

5. ENEMY MACHINE GUNS. The enemy gun still located at K.7.C.8.5. fired a few rounds during the night, also sniping from K.7.C.8.5. and K.13.B.8.4.

J. L. Hardie
Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.



SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS - FOR PERIOD ENDING 12/4/17. (Trench.)

444

I have to report as follows:-

On the 5th. inst., the 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade took over the right sector of Divisional front from the 14th. Brigade.

The 3rd. Battalion went into the right sub-sector on the night of the 5/6th., on the line approximately VELU WOOD - DOIGNIES, and immediately pushed forward approximately 2000 yards and occupied a line held by series of posts running from J.34.D.8.8. to J.28.A.3.9. Communication was established by patrols with the Oxford Regiment of 60th. Brigade on the right.

The 1st. Battalion took over the left sub-sector on the same night and occupied a position held by posts along road running through J.22.A. & C. and round the Eastern outskirts of DOIGNIES to N.10.C. Central and touch with the 3rd. Battalion was established.

The 2nd. Battalion occupied the BEUGNY - YTRES (Corps) line which was taken over from the 29th. Battalion.

The 4th. Battalion remained in reserve in FREMICOURT.

On the night of 6/7th., our line was pushed forward 200 - 300 yards to the East of DOIGNIES and the line J.22.A.3.6., J.16.D.6.2., J.17.A.3.7. to J.10.D.8.8. occupied.

A considerable amount of patrolling was done on nights of 6/7th., and 7/8th., by both 1st. and 3rd. Battalions to gain information about the enemy defences in vicinity of HERMIES and his outpost line between that village and DOIGNIES, and the results of this reconnaissance proved of great value in subsequent operations.

On afternoon of 8th., inst., the 2nd. Battalion was relieved by 5th. Battalion in the Corps line and the 4th. Battalion moved to VELU.

During the night of 8/9th. the 1st. Battalion advanced their line to support the attack on HERMIES which was launched by 2nd. and 3rd. Battalions at 0415 on 9th. A copy of summary of operations in connection with the capture of HERMIES and DEMICOURT ^{has been already forwarded to you} is attached herewith for information.

After the capture of these villages our line was consolidated and strong points have been established to the S.E. and East of HERMIES and to the East of DEMICOURT.

On night of 10/11th. our left flank was extended about 400 yards to J.5.D.4.9. taking in the village of BOURSIES and in the right sub-sector the 3rd. Battalion took over the frontage previously held by 2nd. Battalion which moved back to BEAUMETZ.

On night of 11/12th. the 1st. Battalion was relieved by 4th. Battalion in left sub-sector and after relief the 1st. Battalion moved to DOIGNIES.

At 1500 on 12th. Brigade Headquarters were moved to BEAUMETZ.

During the 11th. and 12th. the situation remained quiet. Our line was further straightened and consolidated. Active patrolling resulted in the gaining of a good deal of information regarding the ground in front of our line and the location of enemy posts.

12/4/17

M. Deane

Brig.-General,

Commanding 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

BM

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM 0600, 12TH. APRIL TO 0600, 13TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Patrols. In order to locate H.G. position in vicinity of K.14.A.3.0., between 1505 and 1545, two scouts worked along road from K.19.A.3.0. to K.13.D.5.0. where they were fired on by M.G. located at Cross roads.

Artillery. Our artillery activity during 24 hours was normal. At about 1200 our 18 pounder batteries dispersed enemy working party at K.8.C.5.5.

4.5 inch howitzers and 18 pounders fired on N.E. of HAVRINCOURT WOOD and in village of HAVRINCOURT at K.27.D.

18 pounders shelled road in K.20.D. with shrapnel.

2. HOSTILE ACTIVITY. Artillery. Enemy artillery was very quiet during 24 hours.

Time.	Location.	No.	Size.	Direction.
0900 -	Vicinity railway cutting in K.25.	10	8" How.	Approx. 47 deg. true from K.25.
1200,	A. & C.	2 blind	5.9 H.E.	A.5.3.
1400 -			4.2.H.E.	
1730				
1700 -	N.E. edge of	8	4.2 H.E.	
1800	BEAUMETZ			

BOURSIES was shelled intermittently all day with 5.9 H.E., 4.2. and 77 m.m. coming from the hill in the front of CAMBRAI. Shelling around DEMICOURT, casualties caused.

Machine guns. Enemy machine gun fired on our left post from direction of K.7.D. Central.

Movement. Considerable enemy movement was again observed. At cross roads at K.14.A.3.0. about six men were seen to disappear. Shortly afterwards similar party left cross roads and went over ridge at K.14.B. Cross roads was afterwards found to be a machine gun and snipers post.

About 15 of enemy wiring at K.8.D.4.2.

Observation post located at K.13.B.9.5. (approx.). Enemy observed in trenches K.14.B.1.2. and K.14.B.2. at 1430.

From 1130 to 1210 large party about 80 in number working in vicinity of K.8.C.5.5. carrying large pieces of timber, they were dispersed by 18 pounder shrapnel at about 1230.

At 1230 an enemy working party was observed digging N.W. of FLESQUIERES, others carrying timber and some using wheel barrows in K.16.

At 1335 a second enemy working party was digging trenches N.W. of FLESQUIERES, others carrying posts and timber in K.16.

Observation. Enemy has good observation, as he shells small parties on ridges and roads around BOURSIES.

Signals. During hours of darkness enemy flares were continually fired on East side of HAVRINCOURT WOOD. At about 2345 a signal lamp or electric torch was seen about J.36.D.

2. MISCELLANEOUS. A heavy gun, believed to be H.V., was observed firing from a bearing 58 degrees from K.25.A.45.30.

W. A. W. H. R.
For Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

Appendix No. 4/17/16

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Supplement to Summary of Intelligence of today's date.

1. PATROLS. A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 O.R. left our lines to investigate sunken road K.7.C. and proceeded along the road for 150 yards, they saw 3 of an enemy patrol. Patrol returned at 0400.

A patrol left our line at J.6.C.8.6. for purpose of examining road as far as Chapel on CAMBRAI road and ascertained if building is occupied. Patrol left at 2130 and went in an Easterly direction. House is occupied by snipers and sounds of digging, possibly wiring were heard; building is intact.

A patrol also patrolled road running N.E. from J.12.D.70.65. as far as J.12.D.9.9. no enemy were seen.

At 0215 a patrol left HERMIES - DEMICOURT road at BEETROOT FACTORY and proceeded in an Easterly direction for 600 yards to approximately K.13.C.4.1. No enemy were seen and patrol returned at 0245.

2. WORK. Strong point situated at J.6.C.8.6. about 50 yards were fire stepped and trench deepened, work was carried on again last night.

3. MISCELLANEOUS. At 1200 smoke was seen issuing from Chateau in HAVRINCOURT as if it had been fired.

Between 0900 and 0915 two big explosions took place in HAVRINCOURT on S.E. side.

Smoke was seen issuing from chimneys shewing some of billets were occupied.

13/4/17

Creighton
For

For Major,

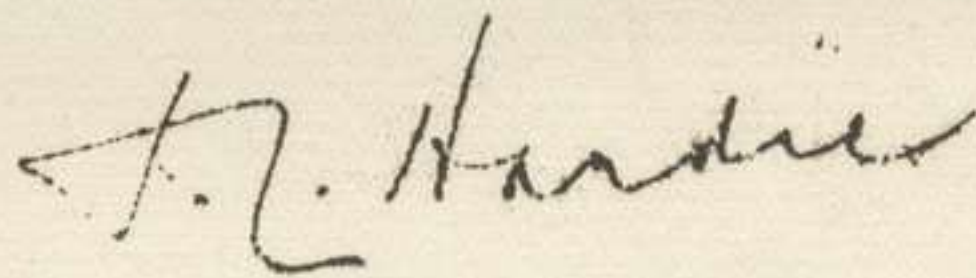
Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

War Diary

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 25.Brigade Headquarters,
13th. April, 1917.444
REFERENCE MAP 57C N.E. 1:20,000.

1. Disposition of enemy troops is as shewn in Intelligence Summaries.
2. The 60th. Brigade on our right holds a line of posts on Western edge of HAVRINCOURT WOOD.
On the left our line is in touch with 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade at J.5.B. Central. The 3rd. Brigade will in co-operation with our advance move forward to-night to a position with its right at D.30. Central.
3. The 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will push forward to-night and occupy a line approximately J.36.B.8.9. - K.25.D.7.8. - K.20.C.3.2. - K.20.A.2.9. - K.7.B. Central - D.30.D.9.1.
4. Commanding Officers, 3rd. and 4th. Battalions, will establish a series of strong posts in their Battalion Sectors on the forward line of resistance indicated in para. 3.
The present front line will become the support line.
5. The advance will commence at 2000.
6. The 3rd. Field Coy. A.E., will assist in consolidation.
7. 1st. Battalion will stand to arms at 2000.
8. Each post will take forward at least one set of rockets or flares for S.O.S. signals.
9. Reports to Brigade Headquarters BEAUMETZ.

A C K N O W L E D G E.



Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..

DISTRIBUTION.

Extra copies to:-

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| No. 13. | 3rd. Field Coy. A.E. |
| 14. | 60th. Light Inf. Bde. (Imperial). |
| 15. | 3rd. Aust. Infantry Brigade. |
| 16. | 2nd. Aust. Infantry Brigade. |
| 17. | 5th. Div. Artillery. |
| 18. | "A" Group Artillery. |
| 19. | Heavy Artillery. |

Appendix No. 4/17/18

444

C O N F I D E N T I A L .FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 13TH. APRIL TO 0600, 14TH. APRIL. 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Our line was advanced 1000 to 1500 yards on night of 13/14th., and we now occupy a line of posts approximately K.36.B.1.3. N.E. to K.25.D.5.4. along sunken road to K.25.D.1.8. thence North to K.25.B.1.4., K.20.A.1.3., K.13.B.8.2. thence through K.7.D. Central, K.7.B. Central to D.30.D.8.1. linking up with the 3rd. Brigade on left.

Prisoners. Two of enemy were killed and two prisoners (one wounded) were brought in. The Germans were in force at K.7.C.8.7. but retired as our troops came up.

Patrols. The house on CAMBRAI Road at K.1.A.90.45. was found to be unoccupied and a post has been established there.

Patrols have covered ground in most cases to a depth of 100 yards in front of present line.

Artillery. Our artillery was active during the day. 63 rounds were fired on to suspected M.G. emplacement at K.14.A.4.0. The Eastern bank of Canal in K.20. and K.26. was swept with shrapnel and 4.5. H.E. and the South and East of HAVRINCOURT was also shelled.

2. HOSTILE ACTIVITY. Artillery. Enemy's artillery was very quiet during 24 hours.

At 1200 about 10 shells of 4.2. calibre were fired on Silt bank in K.34.D. from wood South of HAVRINCOURT.

At 1830 a 4.2.c.m. gun firing from East of HAVRINCOURT put 24 shells in vicinity of J.28.C.8.2.

At 2200 four 4.2. H.E. were fired into village of HERMIES from East of HAVRINCOURT.

Machine Guns. During our advance enemy M.G's. were firing from supposed strong point in vicinity of K.20. Central.

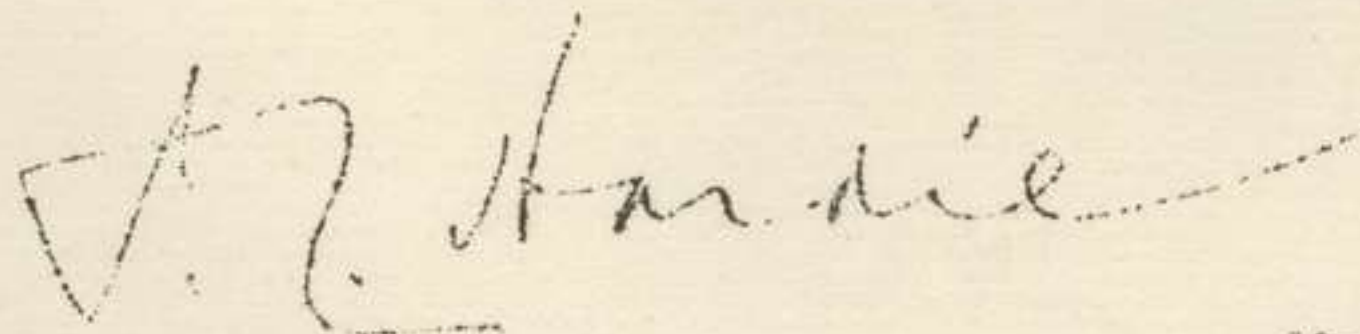
Aircraft. Enemy balloons were observed during the day on the following bearings from J.19.D.4.0., 21 deg., 110 $\frac{1}{2}$ deg., 116 deg. 109 deg., 167 deg..

At 1730 three enemy planes were seen to rise from vicinity of CAMBRAI and flew due West over our lines.

3. MISCELLANEOUS. Enemy mines. An explosion took place at 1400 on a bearing of 122 deg., (Mag.) from J.29.C.6.0. judged to be in village of BEAUCAMP.

^{Was observed} Flares and Signals. Searchlight sweeping sky from 2200 to 2310 $\frac{1}{2}$ in a Northerly direction from HERMIES.

4. LATER. Two posts have now been established in square Copse J.25.D.



Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

4/17/19

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.HERMIES - DEMICOURT - BOURSIES, 15/4/17.

At 0400 enemy's artillery opened both on our line and on villages in rear, and at 0415 his Infantry attacked from the North East. His left flank came as far South as K.14.C.

Two posts of 4th. Battalion on our left were captured and the flank was pushed back gradually to a line approximately J.6.A.3.5. - J.6.D.3.9. - J.12.B.9.6.

The 1st. Battalion were gradually absorbed in the forward line, at first protecting our left flank and then in strengthening our line on the left. The line was never pushed back further than the line occupied by the Brigade after the capture of HERMIES and DEMICOURT, and that part of the line occupied by the 3rd. Battalion remained intact. This was in great part due to the efforts made at consolidation, two sections of the Field Company Engineers and working parties having been engaged several nights in the preparation of strong points all along the line.

The left of the enemy's attack came against the 3rd. Battalion and it was swept away by Lewis gun and rifle fire, 200 bodies being afterwards counted in front of one company in this section.

No further Infantry action took place in this section though it was threatened by Infantry on the line of the Canal from K.26.Central to K.20.Central.

By 0650 the left post of 4th. Battalion had been pushed back but we still held the CHAPEL on which hold was never lost throughout the day. The right of the 11th. Battalion was pushed back and one company of the 1st. Battalion was sent up to cover the flank. Two more companies were required by 0712 to make the position an assured one, provided the Battalion of the 3rd. Brigade on our left could hold the enemy who were very strong.

Two companies of 2nd. Battalion were by order of Divisional Commander sent to 3rd. Brigade area at 0810 leaving the Brigade with two companies in reserve.

Lieut.-Colonel STACY, 1st. Battalion, took over a portion of the left of the line from C.O. 4th. Battalion, and later on the Units were re-organised and the 1st. Battalion were given the sub-section bounded on the right by the line K.1.D.0.7. - K.12.A.7.7. (CRUCIFIX inclusive to 4th. Battalion).

Enemy planes, six in number flew very low over our lines for nearly 20 minutes in the early morning. They were engaged with machine gun and rifle fire.

Our line was exposed to very heavy shelling during the day and HERMIES, DEMICOURT and BOURSIES were consistently shelled.

Five prisoners were taken. Our casualties are estimated at 7 officers 169 O.R.

Brig.-General,

Commanding 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

Appendix No. 4/17/19A

444

1ST. AUST. BATTALION.REPORT ON OPERATION ON 15/4/17.REFERENCE MAP 570 N.E. 1:20,000.

With reference to the work done by B., C. and D. Companies 1st. Battalion in reinforcing the 4th. Aust. Battalion at J.6.C.7.5. during the attack made by the enemy on 15/4/17 I have to report as follows :-

B Company moved forward to report to Major SASSE, D.S.O., at J.6.C.7.5. at 0700.

At 1000 when C and D Companies were ordered forward to report to the same officer at the same locality I went forward. I proceeded forward and reported to Major SASSE at 1030 assuming tactical command of B, C and D Companies under his direction. B Company was then disposed, 1 Platoon in the line at J.6.D.5.9. and one platoon at J.5.B.1.8. and two platoons in support in the road in J.6.C. Under Major SASSE'S direction I disposed C and D companies as follows, C company 3 platoons in road in J.6.C. and one platoon at J.12.A.7.5. D company 2 platoons at J.5.D.7.3. and two platoons in road in J.6.C., both companies to be in support to the firing line and took up my Headquarters with him at J.6.C.7.5. to assist him in the firing line should the necessity arise.

The situation as regards enemy Infantry action was then normal. A heavy attack by the enemy had been driven off during the morning and he could be seen consolidating a position on the road in J.24.A and C - D.29.B. and it was known that about 1000 enemy Infantry were located in the valley in D.29.C. and D. and that he had established a line of posts roughly from J.6.B.9.0. to D.29.D. Central.

Owing to the intermingling of companies and Battalions which had taken place during the action, it was decided to re-distribute the garrison and allot a portion of the front to the 1st. Battalion.

At 1330 a conference was held by Major SASSE attended by Major WOODFORDE and the O's.C. B. C. and D. companies 1st. Battalion and O.C. B. company 4th. Battalion.

It was arranged to allot the front from J.6.D.5.9. to D.29.D.2.2. to B. and C. companies 1st. Battalion under my command under the direction of Major SASSE.

It was decided to relieve such parties of the 4th. Battalion remaining in those positions by daylight to begin at 1430.

I then allotted from J.6.D.5.9. to J.6.A.0.0. to B. company and from J.6.A.0.0. to D.29.D.2.2. to C. company. I informed you of this by message at 1455.

I instructed each company to hold their position with three platoons in the line as picquets with sentry groups as necessary in front, and one platoon to be in support - the picquet line to will be the line of resistance. This relief was completed at 2100, slowness due to energetic enemy M.G. fire from his posts.

At 1530 the enemy brought trench mortar fire on our important post at J.6.C.5.9., causing several casualties. Major SASSE requested Stokes Mortar support and at 2100 two guns arrived and were allotted to the 4th. Battalion one being placed by them to cover this posts

444

(2)

At 2100 tools were sent to the front line companies and picquets consolidated their positions.

Posts were established as follows:-

J.6.A.5.9. 1½ platoons and 2 L.M.G's.
 J.6.B.0.1. 1 N.C.O. and 12 men.
 J.6.A.70.25. 1 platoon and 1 L.M.G. with 1 V.M.G.
 J.6.A.4.2. 1 N.C.O. and 5 men and 1 V.M.G.
 J.6.C.Central 1 platoon and 1 L.M.G. "B" coy., support and "B" coy., H.Q.
 J.5.B.7.1. 1 N.C.O. and 5 men, listening post.
 J.5.B.2.4. 2 N.C.O's. and 16 O.R. and 1 L.M.G.
 J.5.B.1.7. 1 platoon and 1 L.M.G.
 D.29.D.2.2. 1 platoon and 1 L.M.G.
 J.5.A.7.5. 1 platoon and 1 L.M.G. "C" coy support and "C" coy., H.Q.

At 2100 Major SASSE departed on orders from C.O. 4th. Battalion leaving the sector taken over by B. and C. companies directly under my command with D. company as reserve. At 2300 I changed my H.Q. to J.11.B.9.8. At 2400 telephonic communication was established with your Headquarters and command of the sector passed into the hands of C.O. 1st. Battalion. At this hour I visited the front line and found all correct and the position in process of consolidation; touch was established between companies and with Units on our flanks. I returned to my H.Q. at 0200 and informed you by telephone that all was quiet and positions all correct.

At 2040 I informed you by message of the frontage allotted to companies and the method of distribution of companies. Location report of posts, V.M.G's. and supports was furnished to Lieut. SPARKE for you by me at 0230.

At 2200 I received your BVS 28 explaining instructions issued to companies by you per ES 126. I decided to remain at advanced H.Q. until daylight.

At 0600 the ^B company reported that no signs of the enemy could be found in the positions occupied the night before. This information was telephoned to you at once. I then enquired from C. company if he had to report similarly. At 0700 O.C. "C" company reported a few enemy seen at dawn in the positions occupied the night before.

At 0945 on 16th. inst., I closed advanced H.Q., the posts being well established and situation normal. During the period covered by this report enemy Infantry action was normal. Enemy artillery activity was much above normal on the village of BOURSIES, in J.6.C. and D., J.11. and 12. and on our left company front until 0400 on the 16th.

I reported back to the C.O. 1st. Battalion at 1st. Battalion H.Q. at 1030 on 16th. inst.

17/4/17.

(Signed) P.S.S.WOODFORDE, Major,
1st. Battalion, A.I.F.

I enclose herewith report by Major P.S.S.WOODFORDE who was forward with companies of this Battalion during operations on 15/4/17. Such companies being under command of LAMP.

Since the whole Battalion came under the orders of LAMP I personally had no command and merely reported to C.O. LAMP until I took over portion of line at 2340.

(Signed) B.V.STACY Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 1st. Aust. Battalion.

REPORT ON ENEMY ATTACK ON 15/4/17.END& AUST. BATTALION.

444

At about 1600 I received orders from the C.O. 11th. Battalion to send one of the two companies of the 2nd. Battalion temporarily under his command to fill a gap on his front. The company I selected was "C" company 2nd. Aust. Battalion who was situated in the sunken road from approximately D.28.C.4.8. to D.28.C.4.0. This company was to move to D.28.A.4.6. to D.28.D.7.3., moving out after dusk. The company Commander with one of his subalterns reconnoitred the position at dusk and the company took up its position and dug in, being in touch with both the right and left companies respectively on its flanks. No opposition was met with in taking up this line.

Company Headquarters were situated in sunken road at D.28.C.4.4.

One German prisoner, who was evidently on patrol, found behind the lines, was captured.

This company was relieved about 2400, 15/16.

18/4/17.

(Signed) C.W.WATSON, Major,

2nd. Aust. Battalion.

3RD. AUST. BATTALION.

- 444
1. At 0400 on 15th. inst., enemy placed heavy artillery barrage on several points principally HERMIES and outskirts.
 2. At 0405 right post of left outpost company observed enemy advancing on the post. Twenty seconds after the alarm being given the full fire power of this platoon post was developed. This post was situated K.20.A.2.4. The remaining two platoon posts of this company opened fire at 0408.
 3. Three platoon posts were heavily engaged and another was able to give supporting fire with rifles and L. gun.
 4. Enemy appeared to have attacked in two lines with intervals of one to two paces between men. At one post only did he advance within bombing range and on meeting our Mills bombs he retreated hurriedly.
 5. Four Lewis guns were in action. The cross fire was very effective and although all my posts were not visible to each other these guns covered the whole front.
In one case 20 magazines were fired without a jam from one gun.
 6. Enemy flares greatly assisted fire direction and control. The enemy used a number of flares all fired from his trenches in rear of his attacking troops.
 7. I estimate the enemy casualties at 200 killed and many wounded. During the fight itself my posts engaged suffered 6 casualties, 1 killed and 5 wounded.
 8. Rifle grenades were used with good effect.
 9. After the action the enemy removed many of his wounded under cover of Red Cross flag; this had to be suffered as the only post that could bring fire to bear was kept under fire by two enemy M. guns. This was owing to:-
 - (i) Commanding position of enemy,
 - (ii) The post was sited in the previous pitch dark night.
 Eight casualties were inflicted by these two M. guns including one officer and 3 N.C.O's. of one post, that is after the fighting had ceased.

17/4/17.

(Signed) D.T.MOORE, Lieut.-Col.,

Commanding 3rd. Battalion A.I.F.

16/4/17.

REPORT OF GERMAN ATTACK ON 4TH. BATTALION ON 15/4/17.REFERENCE MAP 570 N.E. 1/20,000.

At 0400 on 15th. a heavy bombardment ~~started~~ of hostile artillery was clapped on to DEMICOURT and BOURSIES and certain roads and lines of approach. It appeared to be a concentration of all available weights of artillery in enemy's hands firing rapidly. Before telephone wires could be cut a brief message was got through to Brigade and reserve company ordered to be in readiness. Reports from front companies stated no infantry movement detected and then wires were cut. Enemy activity appeared to be greatest towards our left.

4th. Battalion front at this time extended from K.14.A.2.2. along the arc of a circle to K.1.A.5.3.- thence to D.30.C.0.0. where our left post had touch with neighbouring battalion. This front was divided roughly into three approximately equal fronts and allotted to C, D and B Companies with A Company in reserve, Headquarters and two platoons in sunken road about J.18.A.9.9. and two platoons about J.17.A.7.7. Battalion Headquarters are at J.22.B.9.9. and R.A.P. at J.17.A.7.7.

After 0415 hostile bombardment eased down and became more scattered as if searching back areas. About 0445 a message was received from D Company that enemy was attacking in force on both sides of sunken road in K.7.D., that he was being held off in the main but that by weight of numbers and use of FLAMENWERFER he had overcome post at K.7.D.5.4. and had established a M.G. there. D. Company at once brought up its two platoons in support to counter attack but the enemy was now advancing in large numbers and the company was having its work cut out to hold them up. One platoon of Battalion Reserve Company was at once sent to reinforce D. At 0500 a runner message from B Company announced that this company was being heavily attacked and very hard pressed. At this hour an enemy balloon was up in direction of FLESQUIERES while a patrol of six hostile aeroplanes flew low over our lines from BOURSIES to DEMICOURT- HERMIES. B Company reported that its two platoons in support had been sent forward to N.E. and N. of J.6.Central, that their left posts had been driven back fighting to this locality, and that at least the two right posts of Battalion on our left had been driven in. Garrison of strong post 100 yards N. of Chapel (J.6.D.2.9.) was successfully holding up large bodies of enemy and inflicting heavy losses. Remaining three platoons of Battalion reserve were immediately sent to reinforce B and to establish a flank N. of BOURSIES. The Senior Major was sent to take charge in this locality and report on the situation. Brigade was asked to send one company 1st. Battalion to replace Battalion reserve. C Company now reported that they had been attacked but had driven off the enemy with heavy losses. A platoon of C was ordered to attack from right flank, the enemy who had established himself in D Company's right post at K.6.D.5.4. It was now full daylight and this attack was held up by M.Gs. firing from K.14.C. as the men came down the forward slope of ridge and platoon Officer was amongst the wounded. Senior Major now reported that situation on left was very serious. We still held strong point at Chapel but line of posts on right of it between D and B Companies had been broken while enemy was coming down valley and road through D.30. in such large numbers that all our posts were driven back on to line J.6.D.2.9. to J.5.B.8.7. The reserve company was sent at once to be at disposal of Senior Major. Brigade was asked to send one company of 1st. Battalion to support about J.11.D. and one company and two V.M.G's. to J.11.B. This request was made because of repeated reports that enemy was to be seen in large numbers digging in on ridges and along BAPAUME- CAMBRAI Road and that he was advancing in droves across valley D.29. and 30 and from road junction D.24.A.6.6. down roads to BOURSIES and LOUVERVAL respectively. Brigade and Artillery were kept advised as to these movements and V.M.G's. were got into position to fire on all these parties while rifles and L.Guns fired on closer targets.

(2.)

444

It was now apparent that the attack was on a big scale and it appeared to be his intention to get in behind us and retake BOURSEES. Two prisoners had by this time been taken and it was noted they had up full kits, blankets, W.P. sheets as well as a plentiful supply of food. Another platoon was sent to reinforce D Company in K.7.C.

Enemy battery of four field guns (77 m.m.) was observed firing from Lock 6 about K.3.A.7.6. and this continued to shell road in K.7.C and D. throughout most of the day. By about 9 o'clock our fire had steadied enemy advance down and he began to dig in principally in sunken road, K.7.D.7.4 - K.8.C.7.0., on spur K.7.Central - K.1.D., across valley K.1.C., on slopes in J.6.D. and B., across valleys in D.30. and 29 and on spur in between. During these operations enemy was continuously harrassed by fire of our artillery, M.G's. and rifles and these localities as well as ground in front of our posts are dotted thickly with German dead. It is estimated that, on 4th. Battalion front, three hundred casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. Our casualties were 7 Officers and 130 other ranks including a large proportion of N.C.O's. The situation remained as above described during the whole of the 15th. and night of 15/16th. but before daylight on 16th. the bulk of the enemy withdrew.

A glance at the ground will shew that the high ground near the Chapel was a vital point in the defence of the Battalion area and the magnificent stand made thereby B Company cannot be too greatly ~~express~~ stressed. That such a stand was possible was largely due to the energetic measures taken by Capt. WOODMAN with the assistance of a small section 3rd. Field Company, A.E., to put the locality in a state of defence. These well placed defences and thorough reconnaissance of the ground enabled the company to give a good account of itself though greatly outnumbered by the enemy. Major C.D.SASSE, D.S.O., shewed good judgment in the way he handled and disposed of the various reinforcements on the left and before evening on the 15th. the different units had been sorted out and re-organised, 4th. Battalion holding with four companies and one company of 2nd. Battalion, reserve, line from original right to Chapel (exclusive) while 1st. Battalion took over from Chapel (inclusive) to D.29.D.2.2.

(Signed) I.G.MACKAY Lieut.-Col.,

Commanding 4th. Aust. Infantry Battalion.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 14TH. APRIL TO 0600, 15TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Our line in right sub-sector was advanced at certain points and is now approx. K.31.A.7.8. to K.25.D.9.7., K.25.B.6.7., K.19.D.9.6. through K.20.A.40.45. to K.14.A.2.3. The left sub-sector is unchanged.

2. OUR ARTILLERY. 4.5. Howitzers engaged points in enemy breastworks and fired on cook house North of HAVRINCOURT. Direct hits were observed on Cooker.

At 1040, 18 pdrs. fired 10 shrapnel at supposed anti-aircraft guns at K.3.B. and 21 rounds on hut at K.27.D.5.8. At 1240, 10 shrap. were fired at enemy party in K.15.B. At 1400 party of 20 enemy in K.16.D. were dispersed by 6 rounds.

3. HOSTILE ACTIVITY. Artillery. Hostile artillery was not very active before 0400. Throughout the day about 20 shells fired from the direction of N. 38 deg. E. from J.24.A.7.6. fell in vicinity of J.24.A.7.6. and village of HERMIES. BEAUMETZ was shelled from 0730 to 0900 with 30, 4.2's.

Movement. Great decrease in movement of enemy during the day. A party was dispersed in K.15.B. at 1240. Another party of 20 walking across K.16.D. was also dispersed by our artillery.

Right Sub-sector. At 0400 on 15th. enemy opened up a severe bombardment along Battalion sector. Village of HERMIES and Railway in vicinity received particular attention. All ground between Railway and Canal from sunken road in J.34.A. and J.29.C. forward to SQUARE COPSE was thoroughly searched and swept, Cemetery in J.36.A. and precincts being most heavily shelled.

Our outpost line except in vicinity of SQUARE COPSE was not shelled. Shelling died down about 0600.

The left company was attacked but the attack was repulsed with very heavy losses. ~~The attack still continues.~~

Left Sub-sector. Enemy also bombarded this sector heavily at 0400 and made a determined attack with Infantry from the N.E. The left company of our left Battalion after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy fell back on the support line as our flank was in danger.

4. MISCELLANEOUS. At 1535 what appeared to be observation posts situated in trees were located in BOURLON WOOD. Approximate positions F.13.B.2.8., B.35.B.3.3. and F.13.D.3.3.

At about 1500 enemy destroyed bridge across Canal at K.20.B.1.8.

5. AIRCRAFT. Enemy balloon ascended at 0500 from village of FLESQUIERES about N. 70 deg. East (mag) from J.29.C.6.0.

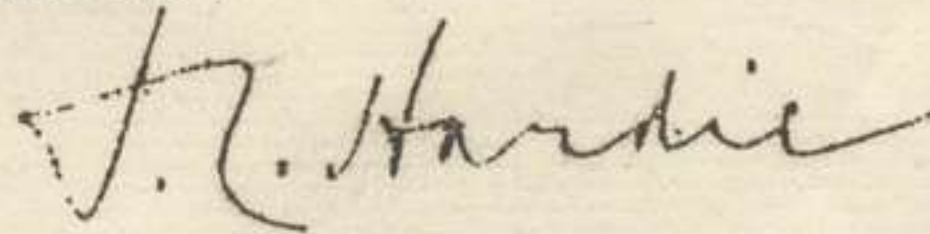
J. Hardie

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 15TH. APRIL TO 0600, 16TH. APRIL, 1917.

- 444
1. OPERATIONS. After a short and sharp preliminary bombardment the enemy attacked our outpost line about 0415 on 15th. One post of our centre company, left Battalion was overpowered by a "Flammenwerfer" and another post was captured. The main part of the attack was against our left flank which was pushed back to a line running from J.6.A.3.5., J.6.D.3.9., J.12.B.95.60.
Enemy also attacked Right Battalion in K.14.C. Three posts were engaged heavily. Enemy was driven off with heavy losses leaving 150 dead while all our posts remained intact on this part of the line.
It is estimated that at least 1000 of the enemy were engaged against our left flank company which was defending BOURSIES.
We took three prisoners during the day, two from the 360th. Regiment and one from the 93rd. Regiment.
During the night we consolidated our new line and a strong post was made at about K.7.C.3.5.
 2. RELIEF. At 2340 the 1st. Battalion took over part of the 4th. Battalion frontage on the left. The inter Battalion boundary being J.12.A.1.9., J.6.D.5.9. to E.25.D.0.0.
 3. PATROLS. Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men left line at 0100 from K.25.B.8.5. covering ground to a depth of 120 yards to K.19.D.9.6. No signs of enemy could be seen. Patrol returned at 0220.
 4. MACHINE GUNS. Our machine guns were very active throughout the day firing on targets at K.7.D.5.5., K.8.Central, K.7.D.9.2, and K.7.D.8.8. Several working parties were engaged at ranges of about 400 yards and a number killed. S.A.A. expended 15,000 rounds.
 5. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. Enemy artillery was very active throughout the day. Barrages were put on BOURSIES, DEMICOURT and DOIGNIES at 1445, 1545 and 1645; shrapnel, H.E. shrapnel, 5.9's. and 4.7's. were used during each barrage. All roads as far back as the road running from DOIGNIES to J.27.B.95.60 were shelled at frequent intervals during the day, and the ridges and valleys searched.
HERMIES was shelled with 5.9 H.E., 4.2. H.E., and 77 m.m. H.E. and shrapnel. 5.9. and 4.2. H.E. fell along road and railway line in K.25.A. and in vicinity of road at J.24.D.8.5. SQUARE COPSE was also shelled with 4.2. H.E. and 77 m.m. H.E. and shrapnel.
An enemy battery of 4 77 m.m. guns was located at the sugar factory at E.29.A.8.9. Flame and smoke could be observed every time the battery fired.
Aircraft. Enemy balloons were ascending and descending during early part of 15th. on Mag. bearings of N. 29 deg. East, N. 65 deg. East, N. 77. deg. East, S. 104 deg. East, S. 115 deg. East taken from O.P. at J.24.D.9.2.
Shortly after dawn on 15th. 6 enemy planes flew very low over our lines for a quarter of an hour and were fired on by M.G's. and rifles.
 6. MISCELLANEOUS. Mines. Engineers removed 30 lbs. of explosive from ground at cross roads at J.30.A.6.8.
An explosion occurred in HERMIES at 2220 on night of 15th. ~~at Mine~~ blown up in J.30.A.
Enemy Ruses. Under cover of Red Cross flag and semi darkness enemy dug in two M.G. emplacements.



Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 16TH. APRIL TO 0600, 17TH. APRIL, 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Relief. The 2nd. Aust. Battalion relieved the 3rd. Aust. Battalion in the HERMIES sector of the line from Canal at K.31.A.7.3. to K.14.A.1.2., on night of 16/17th. April.

The 1st. Aust. Battalion took over 500 yards of front from 4th. Battalion, line separating Battalions is now K.1.D.0.7. to J.12.A.6.6.

Disposition. Our front line has been pushed forward along the centre Battalion front and now runs K.14.A.0.4., K.7.D. Central, to K.7.B.0.4. to J.12.B.8.8. Otherwise unchanged.

Patrols. Patrols went out from left company front left Battalion to try and ascertain if trench at J.5.B.8.9. was occupied by the enemy and also to try and get in touch with him. At 2130 patrol reported that this trench was strongly held with sentry group posted in front. Patrol at 0400 reported seeing enemy about 80 or 90 strong. This party was engaged by Lewis Guns and enemy dispersed.

Patrols went out to about K.1.D.2.4. and to about K.7.B.4.8. No signs of the enemy were seen.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. Artillery was fairly active during the night. Eight 5.9. H.E. fell in HERMIES.

Our right Battalion front was shelled intermittently with 77 m.m. and 5.9's. HAVRINCOURT - HERMIES road received attention with 77 m.m.

Heavy shelling throughout the day on and around DOIGNIES. At 1400 several shells landed in the vicinity of J.15.B.4.3.

Machine Guns. A machine gun firing from approximately K.20. Central sweeps our posts in vicinity of K.14.A.0.0.

Movement. Small enemy working parties were observed digging in trenches in E.26.C., K.2.A. and K.3.C. Enemy in trenches at K.2.A. sniped at our posts during the day.

Enemy were observed during the day on ridge opposite 6th. Battalion in numbers varying from 1 to 20 and in trench opposite J.5.B.8.9.

Enemy still continues to use road from GRAINCOURT running through K.4. and K.9. troops are constantly observed moving up and down this road. Enemy was working all day laying wire in K.3.A and D, K.4.B and C, K.10.B and D.

Silt dump at K.20. Central is evidently strongly occupied. Flares are fired from this point at frequent intervals during the night, and in daylight movement can be seen, which indicates an observation post.

Aircraft. At 1100 a squadron of 5 enemy planes flew over our lines.

At 1300 three enemy balloons were sighted at 70 deg. 40 deg. and 97 deg. Bearings taken from J.29.A. Central.

3. MISCELLANEOUS. A large fire was seen in HAVRINCOURT about 2030.

At 1020 mine was sprung in centre of HERMIES.

The location of battery of four 77 m.m. guns which fired continuously throughout the action on the 15th. has been checked and found not to be the Sugar Factory at E.29.A.8.6. but Lock No. 6. at K.3.A.6.6.

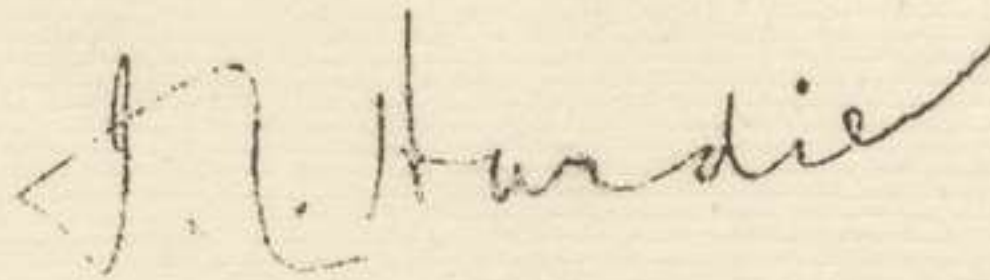
A. J. Hardie

Major.

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

C O N F I D E N T I A L .FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 17TH. APRIL TO 0600, 18TH. APRIL, 1917.

- 444
1. PATROLS. Our patrols were active during the night. The sunken road running through K.1.C. and country in vicinity was reconnoitred but no enemy encountered. Patrol also went out from K.7.D. Central and failed to get into touch with the enemy. A German machine gun in good condition was found by this patrol and is being retained for use against the enemy.
 2. ARTILLERY. Our 18 pdrs. shelled HAVRINCOURT about 1700. 4.5. howitzers fired about 50 shells into HAVRINCOURT between 1600 and 1645. On request for retaliation our 18 pdrs. fired about 60 rounds of H.E. and Shrap. on the bluff at K.20. Central time 1845. Good shooting was observed.
 3. MACHINE GUNS. Indirect fire was carried out during the night and early morning on targets K.20.C.8.8., K.20.B.1.5., K.14.D.5.6. S.A.A. expended 2500 rounds.
 4. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. The shelling in J.12.A. and B. and K.7.D.5.5. was above normal. About 200 shells (5.9's., 4.2's. and 77 m.m.) fell in this area during the day. Most of this shelling came from the North. Enemy shelled HERMIES with 5.9 H.E. between 1420 and 1500. About 15 shells were distributed in various parts of the village. At 1915 our support trench at K.25.A.1.6. was shelled with H.E., about 20 shells (77m.m.) being sent over. Shelling ceased at 2030. Our front was shelled intermittently during the night with 77 m.m. The vicinity of SQUARE COPSE was shelled at intervals. A battery of 77 m.m. firing on J.6. Central from TADPOLE COPSE were very active during the afternoon. From 1000 to 1100 the DOIGNIES - BOURSIES road was shelled by 5.9's. During the night the Cemetery in J.5.D. was shelled with 4.2 and 77 m.m. Machine Guns. Our posts at approx. K.20.A.1.1. were swept with M.G. fire from time to time. Machine gun was located at K.20.C.7.7. Enemy indirect fire played on Company Headquarters at K.19.C.1.5. A machine gun fired occasionally during the day from about K.8.B.7.3. Trench Mortars. Enemy fired about 15 rounds from a Light Trench Mortar in vicinity of K.20.A.1.1. Trench Mortar located at strong point K.20. Central. Movement. Movement of enemy transport was heard during the night along CAMBRAI road through K.1.A. A patrol which went out to investigate reports transport was moving towards CAMBRAI. A light was seen at cross roads K.1.A.9.4. Two explosions were heard in K.1.A. early in the evening, each explosion being preceded by a RED flare. Small enemy parties and transport, moving to and from GRAINCOURT, still continued to use road through K.9.B. - K.10.A. Aircraft. Aeroplanes flew low over our area during the night from 2245 till about midnight.



Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.1ST. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.FROM 0600, 18TH. APRIL TO 0600, 19TH. APRIL. 1917.

1. OPERATIONS. Patrols. One N.C.O. and 4 men left our lines from post K.25.B.7.2. at 1450 to gain information of enemy in vicinity of Canal. They proceeded along railway line in an Easterly direction for 400 yards to approx. K.26.A.5.1. Voices were then heard 50 to 100 yards in front. Enemy fired flares from this point and patrol was unable to proceed further.

A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men left post K.25.D.5.4. at 0325 to reconnoitre Canal in search of enemy. They proceeded along sunken road to K.32.A., thence N.E. along Canal to K.26.C.8.4. No enemy were encountered. Flares were sent up from Eastern side of Canal approx. K.26.D.2.0. Patrol returned at 0345.

Patrols pushed out to 500 yards in front of our line in K.13.B., none of enemy were encountered.

Work. A new post was established at J.6.A.95.05. Strong post at J.6.B.3.3. was lengthened towards the left. Work was also pushed on at J.6.D. Central. On our left about 40 yards of shallow trench were dug towards the 6th. Battalion's right post, also about 60 yards connecting up trench dug between posts along line running from J.5.B.3.8. to J.5.B.4.4. A new post about 30 yards in length was dug at J.5.B.7.4. and other posts lengthened and strengthened.

Artillery. Our batteries were fairly active during the day. At 1515 our 18 pdrs. and 4.5. howitzers opened on the bluff at K.20.A. Fire was directed on suspected M.G. and T.M. emplacements. We also registered on trench K.15.C. to K.21.A. where enemy could be seen moving. Shelling ceased at 1700 approx. 200 rounds expended.

On request for retaliation at 1830 and at 2300 our batteries fired on the bluff and HAVRINCOURT, good shooting observed.

Counter battery fire was carried out against 5.9 inch guns shelling from N.E.

Machine Guns. Indirect fire was carried out during the night and early morning on K.20. Central, road in K.14.B., K.15.A.4.2., also in the vicinity of K.1.B.7.7. S.A.A. expended 9,000 rounds. Hostile M.G. replied to our fire and searched for gun in K.25.A. without success. No enemy planes were seen during the day.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY. Artillery. A battery of 77 m.m. fired on the Chapel at J.6.D.5.9. from TAPPOLE COPSE.

The DOIGNIES - DEMICOURT road was shelled during the day with 5.9's. and shrap. from direction of MOEUVRES.

Two H.V. shells of large calibre fell in VELU about 1440.

5.9 H.E., 4.2., 77 m.m., and shrap. were freely used on our right Battalion front, while ten 8 inch shells were fired on Eastern portion of HERMIES.

Two 5.9 guns firing from N.E. shelled our right flank company area continuously from 1445 till 2400.

Trench Mortars. Our posts at K.20.A. were subjected to an almost continuous bombardment by trench mortars (and 4.2 H.E. shells) from 1600 to 2300 and occasionally from 2300 to dawn.

Several "Pineapple" bombs were fired at our post in K.7.D.5.5. during the night. Position of the mortar could not be ascertained.

Movement. Transport was heard moving in the vicinity of LOCK No. 6 during the night.

Two of enemy were seen at Chalk pit K.27.C.9.1. and three at K.32.A.6.3. (working parties)

A caterpillar engine was heard moving East from HAVRINCOURT at 2030.

Enemy batteries are suspected on East side of HAVRINCOURT in wood. Bluff at K.20.A. is evidently strongly defended.

P.T.O.

(2)

3. MISCELLANEOUS. An explosion took place in the cellar of a house in VEU at J.25.A.5.2. at 1145 on 18/4/17. One officer and 8 O.R. killed and 9 O.R. wounded.

A cable which could be used for telegraphic purposes was located in our post at K.19.D., buried 3 feet, running roughly in N.E. direction. The cable has been cut.

J. L. Hardie

Major,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade.