

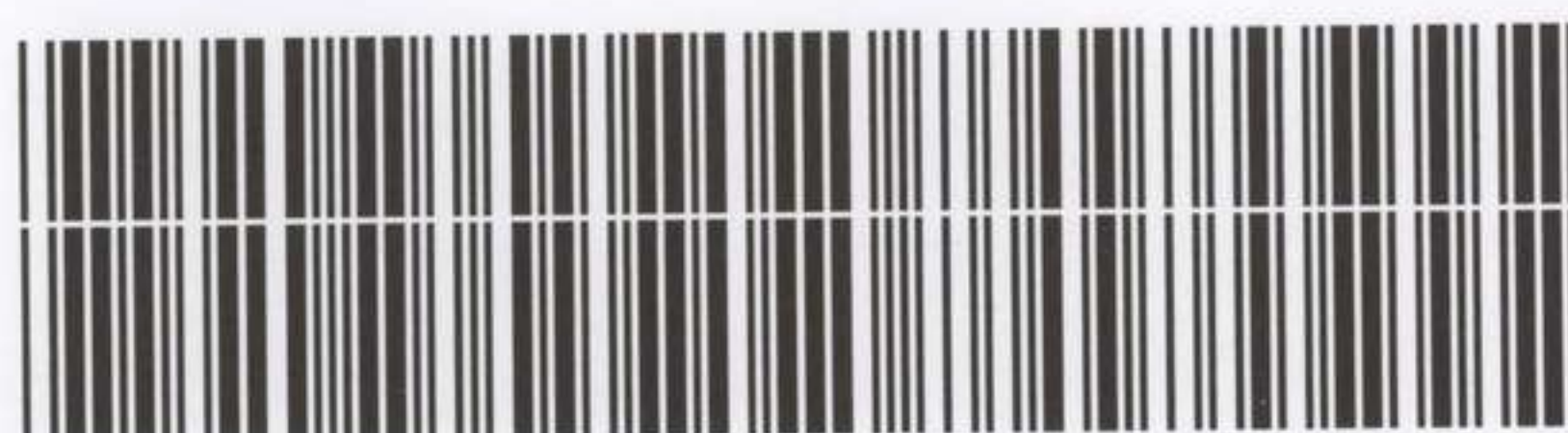
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/9/18

Title: 9th Infantry Brigade

April 1918



AWM4-23/9/18

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

9th Aust. Infantry Brigade

FOR

April 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. H. Tain

Major
Brigade Major
9th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Charles G. Smith

Brig. Gen.
9th Aust Inf Brigade.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references Appendix
	<u>1918.</u>			
GENTELLES. (Reference Map: Sheet 62D. 1/40000.	April 1		Night passed without incident excepting the capture of three of the enemy who strayed into the front held by 35th Battalion. One was captured alive.	
		2.30 a.m.	Command of 61st Divisional Sector passed to 18th Division. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade now comes under the orders of the 18th Division, resuming the role of counter-attack Brigade for action in the event of the enemy penetrating any portion of the line held by 18th Division, i.e. from the River LUCE on the South (near HANGARD) to the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT Road (1,000 yards West of the latter place). The 35th Battalion is now disposed with three Companies forming a line of posts between MARCELCAVE and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT, 1,000 yards West of both villages; one Company is held in reserve at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Eight Vickers machine guns are attached to the 35th Battalion who are tonight placing four machine guns in the line in relief of five furnished by the Canadian Machine Gun Corps and retaining four in reserve at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	
		5.30 p.m.	35th Battalion is now adequately covered by 8 18-pdr batteries, 3 4.5 Howitzers, 2 9.2 Howitzers, 10 6" Howitzers and 1 6" gun.	
		7.0 p.m.	About 20 5.9 shells fell in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	
		10 p.m.	Two 5.9s. shelled CACHY until 7.15 p.m. - about 30 shells in all. Situation on 35th Battalion front and dispositions explained to 18th Division.	
			Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.2. issued, vide APPENDIX 1.	APPENDIX 1.
GENTELLES.	April 2	9.0 a.m.	Brigadier visited Divisional H.Q., C.R.A., and 35th Battalion with reference to dispositions of 35th Battalion and with reference to orders received for the institution of a switch line covering GENTELLES and CACHY from any enemy attack from an Easterly direction, vide APPENDIX 2.	APPENDIX 2.
		1.30 p.m.	Brigadier and Brigade Major consult with C.Os. at Church at CACHY in connection with construction of switch line and change in dispositions of 35th Battalion. 35th Battalion will tonight put the fourth Company into the line in order to give each of the four Companies of the Battalion its own defence in depth; 33rd Battalion will move up to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in support of 35th Battalion, vide APPENDIX 3.	APPENDIX 3.
			Switch line reconnoitred and actual siting decided upon (vide APPENDIX 3). 34th and 36th Battalions to dig this line. 9th A.M.G. Company to reconnoitre	

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references. Appendices.
	<u>1918.</u>			
GENTELLES.	April 2nd (cont).	1.30 pm. (cont)	to reconnoitre for machine gun positions in same. During the afternoon enemy shelled VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, CACHY and GENTELLES lightly with 5.9. Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.3. issued, vide APPENDIX 4.	APPENDIX 4.
GENTELLES.	April 3rd	8.0 a.m.	34th and 36th Battalions commenced to dig the Army switch line covering CACHY and GENTELLES on the Eastern side. Owing to lack of material these positions will for the present be unwired.	
		9.0 a.m.	Brigadier visited switch line and examined work in progress.	
		11.0 p.m.	Enemy was comparatively quiet during the day.	
		11.0 p.m.	Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.4. issued, vide APPENDIX 5.	APPENDIX 5.
			Information received from Division to the effect that the enemy was expected to make an attack on our front early on the morning of the 4th instant. This information was gathered from a prisoner captured by the Brigade on our right. Information later confirmed by prisoner captured on our front, and all units were warned to be prepared to meet a heavy enemy attack the following morning.	
GENTELLES.	April 4th.	5.30 a.m.	Enemy bombardment commenced and attack began along the whole of our front, vide APPENDIX 6.	APPENDIX 6.
BLANGY- TRONVILLE		5.0 p.m.	Brigade Headquarters moved to BLANGY-TRONVILLE. Brigadier and Brigade Major proceeded to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX to clear up situation.	
		6.30 p.m.	Two Platoons of stragglers of all units were collected on the AMIENS--VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Road and were organised for purposes of attack. Brigadier moved off towards the North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX across country in order to locate 34th Battalion. Brigade Major moved on to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX with two Platoons of stragglers.	
		11.0 pm.	Brigadier holds Conference in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and it was decided to attack and capture the high ground along the railway line in the vicinity of V.l.b. The attack to commence at 1 a.m. 5.4.1918 vide	APPENDIX 6.
		12.0 midnight	Brigade Major proceeded to 35th Bn. H.Q. having handed over Platoons of stragglers to Captain S.W.Hawkins, 35th Bn., on outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX,	

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks reference Appendix
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 4th (contd)		then proceeded to 36th Divisional Artillery H.Q. and later to BOVES - finally report to Advanced Divisional H.Q. GENTELLES at 5 a.m. on 5th instant and to Brigade Headquarters BLANGY-TRONVILLE at 7 a.m.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 5th	6 a.m. 7 p.m.	The attack had now died down, vide APPENDIX 6. Relief of units in the line by 17th and 18th Battalions (5th Australian Infantry Brigade) commenced, vide APPENDIX 7. vide appendix 7. This relief was not completed until daylight on the 6th instant and even then owing to inadequate arrangements being made by the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. one Company of the 36th Battalion could not be relieved. It may here be noted that it is impossible to relieve troops in the front line by daylight.	APPENDIX 6. APPENDIX 7. APPENDIX 7.
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 6th	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)	Brigade Major and Assistant Staff Captain visited all units which subsequent to the relief on the night 5th/6th April moved to locations as follows:-- <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 33rd Battalion 34th Battalion 35th Battalion 36th Battalion 9th A.M.G. Coy. 9th A.L.T.M. Bty. </div> <div> BOIS d'AQUENNE. BOIS d'AQUENNE. BOIS l'ABBE. BOIS DE BLANGY. BOIS l'ABBE. remained on the N.W. outskirts of BOIS l'ABBE attached to the 7th London Regt. under whom they had been constructing trenches on the Army line. It had been decided to preserve the 9th A.L.T.M. Battery from action on the 4th and 5th instant owing to shortage of Trench Mortar ammunition and a desire to retain the Trench Mortar Battery intact for operations more suitable for the action of Stokes Mortars. During the day orders had been received from 18th Division to place a Battalion (the 34th) at the disposal of the 18th Battalion A.I.F. in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX for counter-attack purposes. 33rd Battalion moved to cellars on the Western outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. </div> </div>	
		6 p.m.		

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 7th	10 a.m.	Conference of Commanding Officers at Brigade Report Centre, O.35.c. - railway crossing.	
		7 p.m.	34th and 35th Battalions moved to cellars in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, 36th Battalion remaining in BOIDDE BLANGY.	
		7 p.m.	Orders received from 18th Division relieving the Brigade of the responsibility for holding in hand one Battalion at the disposal of the C.O. 18th Battalion for counter-attack purposes in the event of a hostile operation directed against VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	
			Report on operations of Brigade on 4th/5th instant forwarded to 18th Division, vide APPENDIX 6.	APPENDIX 6.
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 8th	5.0 a.m.	VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was lightly shelled with all calibres during the night without causing us any casualties.	
		10 a.m.	Brigade Major and Signal Section Officer visited the three units in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and made arrangements for the establishment of an Adv. Brigade H.Q. in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in the event of serious hostile action.	
			Extract from TIMES, London, 8th April 1918, in connection with operations on 4th/5th instant.	
			"War Correspondents' Headquarters April 7th.	
			"While they (3rd Cavalry Division) held the line news came that the German thrust in the area of MARCELOCAVE was very threatening and Dragoons and Lancers went up to head it off. Here they co-operated with the Australian Infantry, and afterwards the Commanding Officer of the Australians wrote a charming letter, which I have been, to the Cavalry leader speaking of the magnificent behaviour of the Cavalry and the pride and delight it was to fight with them."	
		9.0 p.m.	Warning order issued for the attachment of 34th and 36th Battalions to 5th Aust.Inf.Bde. to commence on 9th instant when these two Battalions go into the line in relief of 19th and 20th Battalions A.I.F., vide B.M.38 and Bde.Operation Order No. 22, vide APPENDIX 8.	APPENDIX 8.
			A quiet night on the Divisional front.	

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks a reference to Appendix
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 9th	9.30 a.m.	Brigadier and Brigade Major visited Headquarters 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. at GENTELLES to finalise arrangements for the move of 34th and 36th Bns. into the line tonight. The Army line running on the high ground on a line between GENTELLES WOOD and BLANGY-TRONVILLE was reconnoitred. A strong line of entanglements has now been constructed in front of this line which consists of small posts about 15 yards long and 50 to 100 yards apart with a second line of posts covering the gaps in the front line.	
		12 noon.	Operation Order No. 22 issued, vide APPENDIX 8.	APPENDIX 8.
		12 noon.	Staff Captain visited 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. in connection with Brigade Operation Order No. 22.	
		7.0 p.m.	Heavy reciprocal bombardment heard in the direction of MOREUIL which appears to be extending in a Northerly direction towards HANGARD. No information yet received.	
		7.0 p.m.	Relief of 19th and 20th Battalions by 34th and 36th Battalions respectively commenced, vide B.M. 38 and Brigade Order No. 22 (APPENDIX 8).	APPENDIX 8.
			Owing to signs of hostile attack on front 36th Battalion was deployed about a mile West of BOIS DE HANGARD ready for counter offensive measures in the event of a hostile attack North of HANGARD.	
		7.0 p.m.	Under cover of a heavy bombardment the enemy succeeded in capturing the CEMETERY on the North-Eastern outskirts of HANGARD and actually entered the village itself. The enemy was immediately ejected, however, by an immediate counter-attack launched by French troops supported by a Company of English troops and the original line was restored.	
		9.0 p.m.	All quiet on the Divisional front and relief resumed.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	April 10th	4.0 a.m.	Relief of 19th and 20th Battalions by 34th and 36th Battalions completed, the dispositions assumed being as follows:- Each Battalion 3 Companies in the line and one in Support, with one Company of English troops in reserve to the 36th Battalion.	
		9.0 a.m.	Information now to hand to the effect that the heavy bombardment of last night along our front was apparently with the idea of deceiving us as to the actual point of attack namely HANGARD.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	1918. Apl 10	9 am.	Brigadier, Brigade Major and Signal Officer proceeded to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX by car where conference was held at Advanced Brigade Report Centre, O.28.d.3.4, attended by C.Os. 33rd and 35th Battalions and 9th A.M.G.Coy. Brigadier outlined proposed redistribution of units of the Brigade in accordance with verbal orders received from Divisional Commander vide Brigade Order No. 23 of 10.4.1918 (APPENDIX 9). 33rd Battalion and 2 Sections 9th A.M.G. Coy. are detailed for the immediate defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX assisted by 256th Tunnelling Company R.E. and 9th A.L.T.M. Battery. 35th Battalion and 9th A.M.G. Coy. A.M.G. Coy. (less 2 Sections) will remain in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in Divisional Reserve. 34th and 36th Battalions remain temporarily attached to 5th A.I.Bde. vide Brigade Orders Nos. 22 and 23.	APPENDIX 9.
		10.30 am.	Brigadier and Brigade Major reconnoitred area between BOIS de GENTELLES and BOIS de BLANGY for positions of readiness for a Divisional Reserve consisting of 35th and 36th Battalions and 9th A.M.G.Coy. (less 2 Sections) in connection with proposed future operations.	
		11.30 am.	Brigade Major visited H.Q. of 34th and 36th Battalions and part of Support line, explaining and outlining in general proposed future operations.	
		7.30 pm.	Information received of enemy offensive between LA BASSE and MESSINES which appears to have had a certain degree of initial success but which operation is assuming the character of a diversion on a grand scale.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apl 11	6 am.	Our artillery shelled forward and rear defences and paid special attention to HANGARD WOOD. Our Machine Guns fired on roads East of HANGARD in U.30. during the night and were active against enemy aircraft during the day. Our Snipers were active in BOIS d'HANGARD inflicting 12 known casualties although it is believed possible that 40 of the enemy were accounted for. Patrols did not encounter the enemy. Enemy artillery occasionally during the period shelled the forward area with 5.9 H.E. and 77 mm.	
		10 am.	Brigadier attended Conference at H.Q. 18th Division in connection with proposed future operations, returning at 1 p.m.	
		5 p.m.	Letter regarding detail of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX defences and the role of 33rd and 35th Battalions despatched to units, vide APPENDIX 10. This letter defines the responsibility for the defences of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	APPENDIX 10.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apr 12	6 am.	During the night patrols of 34th and 36th Battalions (attached to 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.) actively patrolled their portion of the Divisional front between HANGARD at U.29.a.7.9 and U.11.b.9.5 obtaining valuable information concerning enemy defences. A strong point was discovered at U.23.d.0.4, and the enemy has constructed entrenchments in the vicinity of U.30.b.9.6. During the preceding 24 hours enemy forward and rear defences were actively shelled special attention being paid to HANGARD WOOD, houses at U.25.b.3.8, trenches in U.29.b., U.24, V.1.d., V.7., V.1.3, and MARCELCAVE. Machine guns were active against fleeting targets and low-flying enemy aeroplanes. Enemy artillery was quieter than usual during the period; enemy aircraft more active than usual.	
		9 am.	Word received from Division that the enemy is attacking HANGARD with powerful artillery support and appears to have made slight progress, whilst his attacks to the North of HANGARD are held up by 36th Battalion. The French are reported to be holding the Western outskirts of the village.	
		9.30 am.	35th Battalion and 9th A.M.G. Coy. ordered to move from VILLERS-BRETONNEUX to a position of readiness in Square T.11. (North of BOIS de GENTELLES), vide APPENDIX 11.	APPENDIX 11.
		11.5 am.	35th Battalion and 9th A.M.G. Coy. commenced to move from VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. (It might here be pointed out that communication with units in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX is carried out by despatch rider).	
		11.15 a.m.	Brigade Major visited 33rd and 35th Battalion H.Q. in order to explain details in connection with forthcoming operations.	
			Lieut.-Col. J.A. MILNE, D.S.O., commanding 36th Bn., and his Adjutant (Captain T.R. MACNEE) were both killed by enemy shell-fire at their H.Q. at U.21.a.4.6.	
		3 pm.	Major F.G. Grant, 35th Battalion, and Major W.A.S. Dunlop, Assistant Brigade Major, assume duty as C.O. and Adjutant respectively of 36th Battalion as a temporary measure.	
		3 pm.	Information to hand indicates that the enemy has been held in HANGARD by French troops who are preparing a counter-attack in conjunction with the English troops (Essex and Kent Regiments) which are both at the disposal of the 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. as counter-attack Battalions.	
		4 pm.	Verbal orders received from Division to hold 35th Battalion and 9th A.M.G. Coy in Square T.11. until required by the Divisional Commander. Information also received from Division to the effect that 34th and 36th Battalions will tonight move out of the line upon relief by two Battalions of 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Upon relief 36th Battalion proceeds to N.36, Bois de Blangy, whilst 34th Battalion moves to U.21. where it will remain as counter-attack Battalion	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	1918. Apr 12	4 pm.	counter-attack Battalion. It is proposed tomorrow to relieve 34th Battalion in U.21. whereupon both 34th and 36th Battalions will proceed to BOVES to billets remaining there in Divisional Reserve. 35th Battalion and 9th A.M.G. Company, if the situation permits, will return to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.		7.30 pm.	Under cover of artillery barrage 10th Essex Regiment in conjunction with French on our right successfully counter-attacked the village of HANGARD. Three machine guns and 40 prisoners were captured. The operation re-established our line at the junction with the French and HANGARD was retaken. As a result of this attack prisoners of 6th Company 107 Regiment and 24 Ersatz Regiment were captured. Our observers report that German dead can be seen everywhere round HANGARD; this is confirmed by statements made by prisoners.	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	Apr 13	1.10 am.	Relief of 34th and 36th Battalions by 18th and 20th Battalions in the line complete. 36th Battalion moved to BOIS de BLANGY in Divisional Reserve and 34th Battalion to U.24. as counter-attack Battalion.	
		2 am.	Report received from Division to the effect that the French Division on our right report enemy concentrating along the front between MORIEUL and HANGARD in large numbers. Attack expected. Corps on our left (Australian Corps) report concentrations opposite their front. Attack expected. Neither of these attacks eventuated during the day.	
		9 am.	G.H.Q. report regarding situation between LA BASSEE and YPRES received. Our line in that area now runs: GIVENCHY - FESTUBERT - LE PACQUAT; then East of MERVILLE and DOULLEIU to BAILLEUL STATION; thence to STEENWERCK STATION, then along railway line to NIEPPE defences; the line then turns Northwards along the NIEPPE defences to COURTE RUE; thence South and East of HILL 63, West of MESSINES, East of WYTSCHAETE to the South-West end of DAM STRASSE to HOLLEBEKE. The enemy is pressing his attacks from the direction of PLOEGSTEERT.	
		9.45 am.	Brigadier visited 58th Divisional H.Q. and arranged for 33rd Battalion and 9th A.L. T.M. Battery to remain in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX whilst 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions consolidate the line BOVES - BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	
		12 noon.	Brigade Major visited 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions to explain proposed Brigade dispositions to come into force subsequent to the relief of 34th Battalion by a Battalion of	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	Apl 13	12 noon.	of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade in the counter-attack position in U.21.	
		2.0 pm.	Brigadier and Staff Captain reconnoitred BOVES-BLANGY-TRONVILLE line.	
		3.0 pm.	18th Division relieved by 58th Division. The Brigade now comes under the orders of 58th Division 3rd Corps.	
		4.0 pm.	Aeroplane report, timed 3.15 pm., states no enemy movement seen opposite Divisional front. The enemy trenches in the vicinity of HANGARD appear strongly manned.	
		7.0 pm.	Our patrol activity for the night commenced along whole Divisional front.	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	Apl 14	6 am.	Enemy artillery during the 24-hour period below normal. The enemy during the past 24 hours has maintained a passive attitude. Prisoner of 107 R.I.R. captured at HANGARD on 15th instant confirms this.	
		9 am.	Brigadier, Brigade Major and Staff Captain visit 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions in the BOVES - BLANGY-TRONVILLE line and then visit Divisional H.Q. 58th Division.	
		6 pm.	Orders received for relief by 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. of 175th Infantry Brigade in the Left Sub-sector Reserve Line which runs from GENTELLES on the South to the AMIENS - VILLERS-Brettonneux Road in O.26.d. on the North, on the 15th instant.	
BLANGY-TRONVILLE.	Apl 15	6 am.	Orders for relief of 175th Inf. Bde. by 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. issued, vide APPENDIX 12.	APPENDIX 12
		9 am.	Brigade Major and Assistant Staff Captain visit 175th Inf. Bde. H.Q. at GLISY with reference to this relief.	
		9.12 am.	Following wire received from 58th (London) Divisional H.Q. regarding minor operation at 3.10 a.m. this morning. "Situation 7.45 am. AAA Parties of 5th A.I.Bde. have had to withdraw from copse at U.29.b.8.7 and U.23.d.8.6.AAA Vicinity of cross-roads U.23.d. and high ground U.24.c. strongly held with M.Gs. AAA Unable to dig in in the time owing to concentration of M.G. fire AAA Line now held is original line with additional Posts at U.23.d.4.5. 85, U.22.b.95.15, and U.22.b.70.65 AAA Our casualties known 30 including all 3 Officers AAA Total prisoners captured total 20, all 107 R.I.R. AAA Enemy have allowed us to bring in our wounded from cross-roads U.23.d.2.6 AAA Our stretcher-bearers counted 78 enemy dead in vicinity of cross-roads AAA."	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apl 15	10 am.	Brigadier, Brigade Major and Staff Captain held conference with G.Os. 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions at WHITE CHATEAU on the main AMIENS Road, O.26.d.O.5.	
	(cont)		During the day enemy lightly shelled the AMIENS - VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Road in the vicinity of the BOIS l'ABBE and North of BOIS de BLANGY.	
		4.30 pm.	34th Battalion moved from BOVES - BLANGY-TRONVILLE line to Reserve Line.)	
		5.30 pm.	35th Battalion moved from BOVES - BLANGY-TRONVILLE line to Reserve Line.)	vide APPENDIX 12 APPENDIX 12.
		7.30 pm.	Relief of 175th Infantry Brigade in Reserve Line complete.)	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE	Apl 16	6 am.	58th (London) Divisional Intelligence Summary states: "Our patrols active on Divisional front. Our artillery engaged several working parties in the vicinity of enemy front line during the period. A report was received that the enemy was concentrating in the Valley in U.23.b. which was kept under fire by our Batteries for one hour. Hostile machine gun fire from U.24.central was neutralised by our artillery. We carried out the usual harassing fire on roads, tracks and other targets behind the enemy's lines. Our aircraft active as usual over enemy lines."	
		9.30 am.	Brigadier, Brigade Major and Assistant Staff Captain visited all Battalions with reference to strengthening the Reserve Line, the defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, dispositions in the event of taking over the Left Brigade front covering VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, and the organisation of "B" teams in accordance with S.S.135. It has been decided that each Battalion shall retain out of the line 100 other ranks with a Lewis Gun organised and prepared to move forward in the event of an action involving heavy casualties to our troops.	
		5.30 pm.	Divisional Commander visited Brigadier.	
		5.30 pm.	Orders issued to 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions for cable-burying parties to bury cable between O.34.b.7.8 and O.27.d.7.8. This bury. This bury will cover four pails which it is intended shall be held for the use of the two Battalions in the line, the Bn. holding the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX defences, and the Artillery Group Commander covering the Brigade front South of the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - ABANCOURT Road.	
			During the day the enemy heavily shelled the area immediately South-West of CACHY and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was harassed by artillery fire at intervals.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	1918. Apr 16	8 p.m.	Cable-burying as mentioned on page 10 commenced. Much chalk and flint encountered retarding progress of the bury considerably.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apr 17	4.0 am.	Cable-burying parties cease work. It will be necessary to employ at least 500 men on the same work for 4 hours.	
		4.30 am.	Enemy commences to bombard VILLERS-BRETONNEUX with gas shell and H.E.	
		9.0 am.	Enemy shelling BOIS l'ABBE and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX with gas shells of all calibres.	
		11 a.m.	33rd Battalion report 51 casualties through two large gas shells bursting near cellars.	
		11.30 am.	All quiet.	
		4.45 pm.	Enemy resumed gas bombardment of BOIS l'ABBE, BOIS d'AQUENNE and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	
		6.0 pm.	Information received from prisoner to the effect that enemy will shortly conduct an offensive operation with a view to capturing VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and the CACHY RIDGE. Prisoner further states that VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and BOIS l'ABBE are both to be drenched with gas prior to the assault and attacking troops have orders not to enter any of the areas thus dealt with.	
		6.5 pm.	Gas Bombardment ceases. This bombardment appears to be confined to the abovementioned localities and the CACHY RIDGE, shells of all calibres being used. A new gas is suspected.	
		6.30 pm.	Divisional Gas Officer reports estimated number of gas shells fired by the enemy during the day is as follows:	
			VILLERS-BRETONNEUX 8,000.	
			BOIS l'ABBE 3,000.	
			BOIS d'AQUENNE 1,000.	
		7.45 pm.	33rd Battalion report as a result of bombardment they have sustained casualties to 5 Officers and 150 other ranks all of whom had to be evacuated. 34th Battalion does not appear to have suffered, whilst 35th and 36th Battalions have a few casualties.	
			During the day the enemy persisted in intermittent counter-battery bombardments.	
		midnight.	Information received from 33rd Battalion to the effect that the strength of the four Companies now totals 6 Officers and 183 other ranks.	
			Information received from Divisional Headquarters (58th Division) to the effect that the counter-attack Battalion for the 174th Brigade (holding the line East of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX) has been heavily gassed during the day and is now unfit to maintain the role	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C1118/15.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLANGY- TRONVILLE	1918. Apr 17	midnt.	the role of counter-attack Battalion. We are ordered to arrange for 35th Battalion to assume this role.	
		12.15 am.	35th Battalion ordered to hold itself in readiness as counter-attack Battalion for the 174th Infantry Brigade in place of the 6th London Regiment which was bivouacked in O.34. In the event of the 35th Battalion being called upon to counter-attack it will move forward from the Reserve Line North of GENTELLES with four Machine Guns of the 9th A.M.G. Coy. under the orders of the G.O.C. 174th Infantry Brigade. Should the 35th Battalion be required to counter-attack it will be replaced in the Reserve Line by the 36th Battalion (less 1 Company) and a Section of M.Gs. detailed by 58th M.G. Battalion.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apr 18	12.30 am.	36th Battalion ordered to send forward one Company to strengthen the garrison of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX which has suffered heavy casualties during the day from gas shelling.	
		6 am.	Gas shell bombardment of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and BOIS l'ABBE commenced at 4 a.m. and lasted about two hours. 33rd Battalion remained in the defences of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX which town is clear of all troops with exception of 33rd Battalion H.Q. which has not yet been affected. The enemy has not yet shelled the North-West part of the town.	
		2.30 pm.	Ten Officers and 139 other ranks arrived and were immediately sent up to reinforce 33rd Battalion	
		5.0 pm.	Information received from 9th Aust. Field Ambulance confirming report that Lieut.-Colonel L.J.MORSHEAD, D.S.O., C.O. 33rd Battalion, has been gassed and evacuated.	
		6.0 pm.	Owing to heavy casualties incurred within the 33rd Battalion the Brigadier decided to relieve the 33rd Battalion with the 36th Battalion (less one Company), vide APPENDIX 13.	APPENDIX 13.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY- TRONVILLE.	Apl 18	9.15 pm. 11.10 pm.	36th Battalion moved up to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in relief of the 33rd Battalion. Relief complete without incident and 33rd Battalion, after marching along the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX-AMIENS Road as far as 0.25.c., proceeded to BOVES by motor-lorries provided by 58th Division. The remnant of the 33rd Battalion was then provided with warm baths and a change of clothing and the men billeted in BOVES.	
BLANGY- TRONVILLE	Apl 19	9 am.	Forecast of probable moves of units and formations of III. Corps received. The 8th Division is to relieve the Southern Brigade of the 5th Australian Division and the Northern Brigade of the 58th Division. This will leave our order of battle as follows:- 58th Division from HANGARD (exclusive) to the MONUMENT about 1,000 yards South-East of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - the 8th Division from this point to the North as far as the Southern end of BOIS de VAIRE - the 5th Australian Division from this point astride the River SOMME to SAILLY-le-SEC inclusive - the 3rd Australian Division from SAILLY-le-SEC (exclusive) astride the ANCRE River to BUIRE (inclusive) - the 2nd Australian Division from BUIRE (exclusive) to the North. This Brigade is to be relieved in the Reserve Area by the 23rd Infantry Brigade, vide Brigade Order No. 25 (APPENDIX 14) and upon relief will return to the 3rd Australian Division as Reserve Brigade.	APPENDIX 14.
		10.0 a.m.	Brigade Major reconnoitred crossings over the River SOMME between CAMON and CORBIE - Decided that units of the Brigade upon relief will march to 3rd Australian Divisional Area via CORBIE (for 36th Battalion and 9th A.L.T.M. Battery) and via VECQUEMONT (for other units) vide Brigade Order No. 25.	
		11.30 pm.	The enemy has not persisted in the gas bombardment of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and BOIS l'ABBE since the evening of the 18th instant; he is now employing his artillery with for destructive effect with H.E. - very little shrapnel is being used and that only from 7.7 cm. Enemy inactive along the whole Divisional front. In all probability certain Reg - imental reliefs are in progress, as stated by a prisoner captured at BOIS de HANGARD on 17th instant. Our artillery carried out harassing fire throughout the night on probable approaches for relieving troops.	

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Army Form C. 2113

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
BLANGY-- TRONVILLE.	Apl 20	10.0 a.m.	The relief of 34th and 35th Battalions commences, vide Brigade Order No. 25. These two Battalions completed their relief by 2.30 p.m. and proceeded by march route to FRANVILLERS and LAHOUSOYE respectively.	
FRECHEN - COURT. (Chateau).		4.0 pm.	Brigade Headquarters established at Chateau, FRECHENCOURT.	
		7.30 pm.	Relief of 36th Battalion A.I.F. by 2/Devons in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX commences.	
		10.25 pm.	Relief of 36th Battalion and 9th A.L.T.M. Battery complete. 36th Battalion proceeded by march route to LAHOUSOYE vi. CORBIE, and 9th A.L.T.M. Battery by motor lorry to BOVES for baths and change of clothing.	
Chateau, FRECHEN- COURT.	Apl 21	4.30 am.	36th Battalion arrives in billets at LAHOUSOYE.	
		9.30 am.	Brigade Major and Staff Captain visit all units of Brigade in new area. Billets satisfactory.	
		12 noon.	33rd Battalion arrives by motor lorry from BOVES. This unit was unfit as the result of the enemy gas shell bombardment on 17th/18th instant to march from BOVES to the new Area on 20th instant in accordance with Brigade Order No. 25.	
		3.0 pm.	3rd Australian Division issue verbal orders for the reconnaissance of the Second Zone line from BONNAY to HEILLY and the bridge headline covering crossings of the River ANCRE.	
		6.30 pm.	Brigade Major visited 13th A.I.Bde.H.Q. at 1.40 a.m. 1 1/2 miles East of PONT NOYELLES with reference to the bridge headline and the Second Zone. 13th A.I.Bde. is at present attached to 3rd Australian Division and is charged with the duty of furnishing nucleus garrisons for both these lines.	
Chateau, FRECHEN- COURT.	Apl 22	9.45 am.	Brigadier visited Divisional Commander at Divisional H.Q. ST.GRATIEN.	
		10.0 am.	Representatives of all units meet Brigade Major at 13th A.I.Bde.H.Q. for conference to the furnishing of nucleus garrisons in the bridge headline in the BONNAY-HEILLY line.	
		10.30 am.	Reconnaissances of these two lines commenced.	
		11.45 am.	Corps Commander visited Brigadier at Brigade H.Q. and then proceeded to call on all units of the Brigade.	
		3.0 pm.	Initial reconnaissances of the Brigade line and the bridge-head line completed.	
		5.45 pm.	Army Commander (General Rawlinson) called on Brigadier.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	1918. Apl 22 (cont)	11.30 pm.	Information received from Divisional Headquarters to the effect that the Fourth Prussian Guards Division will attack tomorrow morning at 3 a.m. with VILLERS-BRETONNEUX as an immediate objective - final objective unknown.	
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 23	6.0 am.	Enemy fairly inactive along the Divisional front. Attack on VILLERS-BRETONNEUX did not eventuate. Our artillery engaged selected targets with gas shells during the night. 5th Australian Division on our right carried out periodical bursts of fire on a number of points of assembly.	
		10.0 am.	Brigadier visited 35th Battalion at LAHOUSOYE.	
		4.30 pm.	Colonel CHARTERIS, Fourth Army Machine Gun Officer, and Fourth Army Liaison Officer visited Brigade H.Q. and discussed machine gun tactics employed by us in the successful defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. It will be remembered that on this occasion we had four machine guns in the front line to be used solely for direct fire. These four guns were particularly effective in breaking up enemy frontal attacks and in preventing the enemy from exploiting successes gained against the 14th Division on our left. (The 14th Division on that occasion could hardly be called a fighting force as the troops on our left flank are reported to have immediately retired on the appearance of the enemy, leaving our left flank exposed).	
		7.5 pm.	Wire received from 3rd Australian Division, timed 6.25 pm., stating Alsatian deserter thinks attack on large scale intended for today (23rd), vide APPENDIX 15.	APPENDIX 15.
		10.30 pm.	Following orders issued verbally by telephone to units of the Brigade. "35th Battalion will be prepared to move at one hour's notice to BONNAY in order to be in a handy position for a forward move to resist a hostile attack which might take place tomorrow morning. Should the 35th Battalion be required to counter-attack or to reinforce the line it will do so under the orders of the G.O.C. Right Brigade (11th Aust. Inf. Bde.). In the event of the 35th Battalion being ordered to move forward from BONNAY it will be replaced in that village by the 36th Battalion. 36th Battalion to be ready to move at two hours' notice. "B" teams will be left at present billets in the event of a forward move. Mobile echelons of tools and ammunition will be sent forward under the orders of Brigade H.Q. from the Brigade Transport lines if the Brigade is required to act.	
		11.0 pm.	Divisional H.Q. informed us that vigorous counter-preparation will take place at intervals during the whole night on the front of our Division and the Division on our right (5th Australian Division) in order to forestall a possible hostile attack.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	1918. Apr 24	3.15 am.	Enemy fired on PONT NOYELLES-FRECHENCOURT Road with heavy calibre gun at rate of about one round per five minutes; this continued until 6 a.m.	
		3.45 am.	A violent bombardment has broken out along our front and appears to extend a long way to the South.	
		4.0 am.	Lines to Divisional H.Q. and to all Battalions cut by heavy shells coming from the direction of BRAY-sur-SOMME.	
		5.45 am.	Lines to Division restored. G.S.O. III. gives following information. Forward areas of 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions heavily bombarded from 3.45 a.m. Our Right Brigade received a proportion of gas shell. Enemy also employed gas shell along the valley of the SOMME. Bombardment nearly ceased. Enemy artillery opened fire just before our counter-preparation began, hence he received an immediate reply to his bombardment. No infantry action yet reported.	
		5.50 am.	Telephonic communication without Battalions re-established.	
		6.0 am.	All quiet.	
		10.15 am.	Divisional Commander orders 34th and 35th Battalions to be ready to move at a moment's notice owing to the enemy succeeding in taking the high ground North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The situation now appears as follows:--- 3rd Aust. Divisional front reported intact with exception of Right Battalion Right Brigade which from which no information has as yet been forthcoming. South of the River SOMME the 5th Aust. Division holds its line intact but has been compelled to form a defensive flank facing Southwards owing to enemy success against the 8th Division. The enemy is reported to be in occupation of the outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX on its Eastern side. The 4th Aust. Division has been ordered to establish its H.Q. at BLANGY-TRONVILLE and to move there at once with two Infantry Brigades. The 8th Division is at present launching one Brigade to counter-attack.	
		10.30 am.	Heavy bombardment in progress South of the River SOMME - probably our artillery action in support of 8th Divisions counter-attack.	
		11.18 am.	Situation report, timed 11.2 a.m., received from 3rd Aust. Division, vide APPENDIX 16.	APPENDIX 16.
		11.45 am.	Situation report, timed 10.45 a.m., received from 3rd Aust. Division, vide APPENDIX 17.	APPENDIX 17.
		11.32 am.	Situation report, timed 11.32 a.m., received from 3rd Aust. Division, vide APPENDIX 18.	APPENDIX 18.
		11.45 am.	3rd Australian Divisional Order No. 88 received. The clauses which materially affect this Brigade are as follows:-- 1 (i). The 3rd Australian Division (less Artillery and one Brigade Group) will be relieved in "B" Divisional Sector and Area by the 4th Australian Division (Less Artillery	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	1918. Apl 24	11.45 am. (contd.)	and one Infantry Brigade Group) on the nights 25th/26th and 26th/27th April 1918. 1 (iv). The 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. will remain as at present disposed and for tactical purposes will be placed under the orders of the G.O.C. 4th Australian Division. 2 (i). On relief the 3rd Australian Division (less Artillery and one Infantry Brigade Group) will form the Corps Reserve with two Brigades in close support disposed as follows: "A" - MONTIGNY AREA. "B" - QUERRIEU AREA.	
		2.15 pm.	Situation wire received from 3rd Australian Division, timed 2.10 pm. vide APPENDIX 19.	APPENDIX 19.
		3.46 pm.	Situation report, timed 3.25 pm., received from 3rd Australian Division, vide APPENDIX 20.	APPENDIX 20.
		4.23 pm.	Wire from 3rd Aust. Division advising that 5th Aust. Div. had been placed under the tactical command of the 3rd Corps from 3 pm. today, vide APPENDIX 21.	APPENDIX 21.
		7.18 pm.	Situation wire, timed 6.55 pm., received from 3rd Australian Division, vide APP. 22.	APPENDIX 22.
Chateau, FRECHEN COURT	Apl 25	12.22 am. 8.11 am. 10.0 am.	Wire from 3rd Aust. Division reporting presence of two Zeppelins, vide APP. 23. Situation wire, timed 7.45 am., received from 3rd Australian Division, vide APP. Brigadier visited Divisional Commander with a view to ascertaining probable future moves of the Brigade. Owing to the battle waging at present at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, it is probable that the Division will not be relieved in accordance with Operation Order No. 88 which was received yesterday. For the present the Division will remain in the line and it is likely that this Brigade will relieve the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade in the Right Area on about 29th instant.	APPENDIX 23 APPENDIX 24
ANZAC DAY.		11.0 am.	Assistant Brigade Major visited H.Q. of both Brigades in the line for liaison purposes and to ascertain existing dispositions.	
		12 noon.	The situation on the Divisional front remains unchanged, the line extending from J.24.c. to D.24.d. Each Brigade has in the line two Battalions with one Battalion in support and one in reserve, the Support and Reserve Battalions being in close proximity to the forward system and available for immediate counter-attack. The situation South of the River SOMME now appears satisfactory (vide 3rd Aust. Division wires embodied in this Diary of even date). 5th Australian Division has maintained its line intact. The retirement of the 8th Division has necessitated the employment of the Reserve Brigade of the 5th Aust. Division in addition to one Brigade of the 4th Aust. Division. These two Brigades (13th and 15th) have succeeded in retaking VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 25	2.27 pm.	Wire from 3rd Australian Division, timed 2.10 pm., stating Right Division reports enemy in large numbers advancing in P.26.a. and c. and in P.25.d., vide APPENDIX 25.	APPENDIX 25.
		5.11 pm.	Wire from 3rd Australian Division, timed 4.40 pm., giving situation, vide APPENDIX	APPENDIX 26.
		7.0 pm.	Bde. Operation Circular No. 1 issued, vide APPENDIX	APPENDIX 27.
		8.20 pm.	Following report from 3rd Australian Division received: All quiet on Right Division front AAA VILLERS-BRET ONNEUX cleared except small enemy post at O.36.c.6.3 now being dealt with AAA Tank moving to engage enemy in wood U.6. AAA Heavy casualties with artillery and small arms inflicted on enemy parties seen throughout the day AAA Line now runs U.29.a.5.8 - U.22.d.7.0. - U.22.b.5.8. - U.22.a.2.9. - cross-roads, U.15.b. 5.8. - U.4.d.5.3. - Posts to U.5.d.5.0. - thence line to U.5.b.8.6. - gap to U.36.b.1.2 being filled - thence to P.20.a.0.0 - thence original front line AAA Air reports indicate our Posts U.6.c.2.0 to MONUMENT AAA Captures up to present 13 Officers, 601 other ranks, 27 machine guns; others not counted AAA Five E.A. crashed, 3 out of control AAA	
		9.0 pm.	The day spent by units in reorganisation, re-equipping and instruction in Lewis Gun. A statement showing the number of reinforcements arrived is included in this zzzzzz Diary as APPENDIX	APPENDIX 28.
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 26	10 am.	Brigade Major and Intelligence Officer visited the forward defences in the Right Brigade Area. The main line of resistance practically coincides with the old French (AMIENS) line as far as J.23.b.3.3. where our main line has been dug towards the North-East to link up with the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the left. A tracing showing the defences along the Divisional front is attached hereto as APPENDIX The position is an exceptionally strong one and would require a very intense and prolonged bombardment for its reduction. The wire in front of the old AMIENS line is continuous and about 50 yards across; this has been supplemented by single and double apron entanglements erected during the past week. The picquet line varies up to 1,000 yards in advance of the main line of resistance.	
		4.0 pm.	Brigade Major and Intelligence Officer returned to Brigade H.Q. A quiet day on the whole Divisional front. The enemy did not appear to fire a single shell within the Divisional area between 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Our guns fired only a few rounds, probably owing to very low visibility caused by ground mists.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918.			
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 27	10 am.	Brigade Major and Brigade Signal Section Officer proceed to 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. and thence to front line left Battalion Right Brigade with Brig.-Gen. J. Canning, C.B., D.S.O. G.O.C. 11th A.I.Bde. This line is very well sited for distant observation but in parts fails as a fire trench owing to dead ground which is, however, protected by a picquet line about 1,000 yards to the front. The left of the line at its junction with 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. system is arranged to give enfilade fire across 10th A.I.Bde. front. 10th A.I. Bde. is not protected by a picquet line which appears a weakness in the Left Brigade. Whilst at 11th A.I.Bde.H.Q. the Divisional Commander announced that G.H.Q. had decided to place four Australian Divisions in line on the French front from HANGARDS Northwards. The other Australian Division is engaged in the Northern battle area in the vicinity of METELEN. The English infantry which were holding the line from HANGARD to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX are in process of relief by the 4th Australian Division. During the morning the enemy was quiet along the Divisional front and contented himself with firing 12 77cm. H.E. on the Right Company of 10th A.I.Bde.	
		11.26 am.	Situation wire received from 3rd Aust. Division, vide APPENDIX 29.	APPENDIX 29.
		3.0 pm.	Brigadier and Assistant Brigade Major visited Corp H.Q. and Divisional H.Q. It is proposed to proceed in the near future with reorganisation on a three Battalion status owing to lack of result from recruiting effort in Australia.	
		12 noon.	Situation wire received from 3rd Australian Division, vide APPENDIX 30.	APPENDIX 30.
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 28	10 am.	Brigadier and Staff Captain visited 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. Rear H.Q. at IMB.a.l.l. in connection with forthcoming relief. The Divisional Commander has decided that this Brigade will relieve the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. by the night 1st/2nd May 1918.	
		10.30 am.	Brigade Major visited 33rd, 35th and 36th Battalions in connection with captured machine guns (4th/5th April operation).	
		3.0 pm.	Wire from Division received authorising our reconnaissance of Right Brigade Area.	
		6.0 pm.	The following wire was received from 3rd Australian Divisional H.Q. :-- "Prisoner 2nd Company 229 I.R. 50th Reserve Division states under special examination AAA Divisional relief expected tonight (28th) or tomorrow AAA Order of battle unknown AAA Losses from our artillery fire very heavy especially while in reserve AAA Rumours of an attack but very vague AAA Twenty new German tanks seen in hollow outside MORLANCOURT five or six days ago AAA Ends.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>1918.</u>			
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 29	6.0 am.	During the night our artillery heavily bombarded enemy approaches and likely points of assembly as a relief is expected.	
		12 noon.	Brigade Order No. 26 and Administrative Instructions, covering reorganisation of the Brigade on a three-battalion basis, issued, vide APPENDIX 31.	APPENDIX 31.
		2.0 pm.	Brigadier visited all units of the Brigade as well as the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. in connection with forthcoming relief and dispositions to be assumed on completion.	
		2.0 pm.	A careful readjustment of defensive arrangements has become necessary owing to the fact that 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. still retains the four-battalion organisation.	
		8.0 pm.	Brigade Major visited 11th A.I.Bde.H.Q. in connection with forthcoming relief.	
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	Apl 30	1.0 am.	Brigade Order No. 27, of 29.4.1918, issued, vide APPENDIX 32.	APPENDIX 32
		6.0 am.	A comparatively quiet night on the Divisional front.	
		8.30 am.	Brigadier, Assistant Brigade Major, Intelligence Officer and Gas Officer visit 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the line.	
		10 am.	Divisional Commander rang up to define the role of "D" Battalion in Right Brigade Area (vide Brigade Order No. 27). This is an advanced Battalion of the Divisional Reserve and may be used only on the authority of the Divisional Commander. If, however, a grave crisis arises the Divisional Commander delegates to G.O.C. this Brigade the responsibility for employing the 43rd Battalion 42d ("D" Battalion) without reference to him in the event of signal breakdown between Brigade and Division. The Divisional Commander was directly opposed to placing 43rd Battalion in the "D" Battalion Area but he is largely influenced by difficulties of billeting in the Reserve Brigade Area and for reasons for which he is not prepared to discuss. It is not to be imagined that Brigades organised on a three-battalion basis will always have at their disposal a fourth Battalion drawn from Divisional resources.	
		1.1 pm.	Wire, timed 10.35 pm, from G.H.Q. - "Situation 2nd Army front reported this evening as satisfactory AAA FRENCH retook LOCRE today with exception of small bulge in M.17.c.AAA Allied line runs intact AAA Belgian troops on left Second Army have regained certain advanced posts AA Increased enemy artillery activity between SCARPE and LENS; roads and railways in back areas West of YPRES persistently shelled AAA Latest information shows French retook HYDE PARK CORNER by counter-attack AAA Eheds."	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chateau, FRECHEN-COURT.	1918. Apr 30	10 am.	Divisional Order No. 89, covering relief of 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. by 9th Aust. Inf. Bde., received.	
		3.0 pm.	G.O.C. returned from reconnaissance of Right Brigade Area having inspected under cover of mist advanced picquet line.	
		7.0 pm.	Advance parties 34th Battalion move into "A" Battalion Area.	
		7.30 pm.	35th Battalion move into "B" Battalion Area in accordance with Brigade Order No. 27.	
			Extract from ECHO de PARIS under date 24th April 1918 :-- "La 3 ^e et la 4 ^e divisions australienne a Mericourt-l'Abbe et Dernancourt, la division neo-selandaise at Serre, and plus recemment la 5 ^e division australienne, au sud de la Somme, ont servi utilement et courageusement au cours de la derniere phase de l'attaque allemande sur la Somme. Elles ont aide a enrayer definitivement les progress de l'ennemie; grace a la vigueur de leurs defenses, tous ses efforts pour continuer son avance ont ete brises et lui ont coute les plus lourdes pertes. TRANSLATION. "The 3rd and the 4th Australian Divisions at MERICOURT-l'ABBE and DERNANCOURT, the New Zealand Division at SERRE, and more recently the 5th Australian Division South of the SOMME have served usefully and courageously during the last part of the German attack on the SOMME. They have helped to stop definitely the enemy of the enemy; thanks to the strength of their defences, all the German efforts to continue his advance have been broken and cost him the most heavy losses."	
			* Extract from LE MATIN under date 22.4.1918:- "Le 30, les Allemands se heurtemment a une brigade australienne qui les reconduisit dans leurs lignes, la balonnette aux reins et la detachment Carey fut enfin releve." TRANSLATION. "The 30th, the Germans ran up against an Australian Brigade which drove them back to their own lines at the point of the bayonet and General Carey's forces were at last relieved."	
			* This has reference to the operation of the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade on the 30th March last described in War Diary for March 1918.	
			<i>J. H. Fair</i> Major Brigade Major 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

WAR DIARY

APPENDIX.

OF

9TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

FOR

MONTH of APRIL 1918. 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.2. of 1.4.1918.
2	Copy of order received for construction of switch line.
3	Wire (B.M.11) ordering 33rd Bn. to move to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX
4	Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.3. of 2.4.1918.
5	Brigade Intelligence Summary No. X.5. of 3.4.1918.
6	Report on operation before VILLERS-BRETONNEUX 4/5.4.1918.
7	Order for relief of Brigade by 5th A.I.Bde. 5.4.1918.
8	Warning and Relief Orders by 34th & 36th Bns of 19th and 20th Bns. of 5th A.I.Bde. night 9th/10th April.
9	Bde.Order No.23 of 10.4.18 re defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
10	B.M.letter No. 8/118 of 11.4.1918 reference above.
11	B.M.40 - Wire ordering 35th Bn. and 9th A.M.G. Company to move to a position of readiness.
12	Bde.Order 24 for relief of 175th Inf.Bde. 15th/16th.4.1918.
13	B.M.71 - Wire for relief of 33rd Bn. by 35th Bn.
14	Bde.Order 25 for relief of Bde.by 175th Inf.Bde.
15	Wire reporting probable resumption of offensive.
16	Situation report 24.4.1918.
17	Situation report 24.4.1918.
18	Situation report - enemy attacking VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
19	Situation report showing present line at 2.10 pm.24.4.18.
20	Wire giving situation from AUSTRALIAN Corps.
21	Wire advising 5th Aust.Div. placed under tactical command of Third Corps from 3. pm. 24.4.1918.
22	Wire reporting result of our counter-attack.
23	Wire reporting presence of two Zeppelins near ALBERT.
24	Wire giving interrogation of prisoner.
25	Wire reporting enemy seen advancing in large numbers.
26	Wire giving result of 13th and 15th A.I.Bde counter-attack.
27	Operation Circular No. 1 of 25.4.1918.
28	Casualty return showing casualties for month.
29	Wire giving approximate line North of LYS.
30	Wire from 15th A.I.Bde. reporting enemy digging in on our S.O.S. barrage line.
31	Brigade Order No. 26 covering reorganisation of Brigade.
32	Brigade Order No. 27 for relief of 11th A.I.Bde. 30th April/2nd May 1918.

Return showing reinforcements received for month.
Sheet 62D. 1/40,000.
AMIENS 17. 1/100,000.

J. H. Fair

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

1.5.1918.

CONFIDENTIAL.

APPENDIX 1

1.4.1918.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 12.
for 24 hours ending 6 am. 1 4.1918.

Reference Map:
629. 1/40,000.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. Active throughout the day and night firing on
~~HARBEVILLE~~ and WARFUSSE-ARANCOURT.

Aircraft. Very active throughout the day.

General. Situation quiet. One of the enemy sniped at
V.3.a.5.2.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. From 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. on 31st March enemy fired 50
each 4.2 and gas shells into VILLERS-BRETONNEUX little damage
being done. Intermittent activity throughout the day on
forward area.

Trench Mortars. Twenty Light M.W. fell in vicinity of junction
of Railway and Support line between 8.15 a.m. and 9 a.m.
from V.3.

Work. The enemy is very busy working on trenches at
V.4.a.8.0 and towards cemetery South for 200 yards.

Aircraft. Active throughout the day flying low over lines
and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

Movement. Our Lewis Guns turned back two limbers moving in a
South-easterly direction at W.6.central.

Identifications. Three prisoners are reported (one A.M.C.);
particulars to follow.

G. Halford Lt
for

Brig.-Gen.

G.O.C. 9th Aust. Infantry Brigade.



War diary
NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters,
3rd April 1918.

App 2
Headquarters,
3rd Australian Division.

Yesterday the Brigade was ordered to construct an Army Switch Line covering GACHY and BOIS d'AQUENNE. The ground was immediately reconnoitered and work commenced early this morning. The line is to run from U.9.a.9.6., U.3.c.8.7., U.4.a.9.6., O.34.c.9.7., O.34.c.1.9., O.27.d.2.5. This work will be completed by early morning of the 5th instant.

Last night the 33rd Battalion moved from GACHY to VILLERS BRETONNEUX in immediate support to 35th Battalion. 33rd Battalion will be responsible for picketing VILLERS BRETONNEUX and for digging a reserve line about 1400 yards in rear of the front line held by 35th Battalion.

35th Battalion is well covered by artillery i.e., 24 - 18 pounders, 9 - 4.5 howitzers, 2 - 9.2. howitzers, 9 - 6" howitzers, 1 - 6" gun. 5 of our Machine guns cover the front line from rear positions, whilst 3 are held in reserve at VILLERS BRETONNEUX. 35th Battalion now has 24 Lewis Guns whilst 33rd Battalion has 22.

33rd and 35th Battalion Headquarters are within 100 yards of one another, whilst the Artillery Group Commander is about 300 yards away. The Artillery Group Commander has a heavy artillery liason officer with him and is taking advantage of fleeting targets. Until the arrival of this Brigade there was apparently no liason between infantry and artillery, and no counter battery work. This is, however, being rectified.

As telephone communication between Brigade Headquarters and 35th Battalion is not very satisfactory, the 33rd Battalion has been placed at the disposal of 35th Battalion for action in the event of hostile attack.

It has been decided to place VILLERS BRETONNEUX out of bounds to all troops except those on duty. Formed bodies are allowed to move through the town but they must be in charge of an Officer. We are doing our utmost to clean up the town in order to hand over to the French tidy billets. It will, however, be quite impossible to remove the very obvious signs of deliberate looting which appears to have been carried out by troops retiring through the town. Our own troops are not allowed out of their billets without passes and appear to be behaving themselves admirably.



2.

3rd Aust DivisionApril 3rd 1918.

It is expected that we will be relieved in about two days when the Brigade will probably go to Army reserve, (5th Army) but there is no certainty about this. Although 33rd Battalion is supporting 35th Battalion the Brigade is in Corps reserve with the exception of 35th Battalion.

Last night the French took over the line northwards as far as HANGARD. It is rumoured that the enemy conducted an operation against the French during the night, just to the south of us, but this is entirely unconfirmed as yet.

Charles Rosenthal

Brig-General
G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Bde.

(WJF).

"A" Form MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121
(In pads of 100)

Prefix.....	Code.....m.	Words.	Charge.	No. of Message.....
Office of Origin and Service Instructions		This message is on a/c of:		Recd. at.....m.
		Sent		Date.....
		At.....m.	Service.	From.....
		To.....		By.....
		By.....	(Signature of "Frac. Officer.")	
<p>TO { 33/4/5/6 Bns. 9th A.M.C. Company. C.R.A. 8th Aust. Div.) 9th Aust. Fld Amb. } for information.</p>				
* Sender's Number.		Day of Month.		In reply to Number.
B.M. 11.		3.		AAA

33rd Battalion will move tonight to VILLERS-BRENNEMIX in immediate support of 35th Battalion AAA G.O. 33rd Battalion will confer with G.O. 35th Battalion re suitable location for support Battalion and possible methods of counter-attack AAA G.O. 35th Battalion may call upon 33rd Battalion for such assistance as he may require in the event of a hostile attack AAA 33rd Battalion to report completion of move AAA 34th and 36th Battalions will remain in Divisional Reserve in vicinity of GACHY and will be employed upon the construction of Army switch line covering GACHY and BOIS d'AQUENNE, details concerning which will be notified later.

From	
Place	9th Australian Infantry Brigade.
Time	
The above may be forwarded as now corrected.	
Censor.	(2) [Signature] MAJOR Bde-Major 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

* This line should be erased if not required.
(7981) Wt. W493/M1647 130,000 Pads 5/17 D. D. & L. E1187

APPENDIX 4

2. 4. 1918.

CONFIDENTIAL

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. X.3.
for 24 hours ending 6 am. 2.4.1918.

Reference map:
62 D. 1/40,000.

OUR OPERATIONS.

Artillery. The villages of MARCELOUVE, WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT and LAMOTTE were the principal targets and were engaged intermittently throughout the day.

Snipers. Three certain hits claimed in copse at V.9.e.2.9.

Aircraft. Again very active over our own and enemy positions.

Identifications. A prisoner of the 48 I.R. wandered into one of our outposts in P.28.d. He states that his Division (228) came into this sector on the evening of the 1st instant. They had been resting near VERDUN and were brought to the GATRAI district by train. From there they marched to line, taking eight days. His unit has not been fighting lately. He was one of a digging party when he lost his way.

ENEMY ACTIVITY.

Artillery. From 5.30 a.m. till 12.0 noon active at intervals on front and support of the whole of area. - 4.2a and 5.9a. At 11 a.m. and 2 a.m. enemy shelled Eastern portion of VILLERS-BREHOUVEUX from direction of CERISY with 5.9 and gas shells - approximately 30 of each.

Snipers. Very active from concealed portions.

Aircraft. Very active throughout the hours of daylight flying low over our whole front. Three observation balloons were up during the day one of which was brought down in flames at 4.20 pm.

Work. Enemy appears to be constructing a trench system along WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT - MARCELOUVE Road, and a second one approximately 400 yards in rear. In this case enemy appears to be putting out wire.

Movement. Four groups of three men each were seen during the day moving towards MARCELOUVE-WARFUSEE - ABANCOURT Road. Light wheeled transport is heard on this road during the night. The road is kept under observation and fired on intermittently with Lewis Guns.

C. Halford Lt
for

Brig.-Gen.

G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

APPENDIX 5

3-4-1918.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY X 4.
for 24 hours ending 6 a.m. 3-4-1918.
-----Reference Map:
62 D - 1/40,000.OUR OPERATIONS:

Artillery: At 3 p.m. 10 pdrs. fired on suspected Battery position at V.28.a.00.10.
Normal activity throughout the day, firing on villages of VIENCOURT, MARCELCAVE, BAYONVILLERS, LAMOTTE and WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT.

Snipers: Very active - Claim 3 hits.

Aircraft: Very active throughout the day.

Patrols: An information patrol of 1 Officer and 4 other ranks left V.3.a.50.80 at 8.40 p.m. and proceeded to suspected strong point at V.3.b.30.20 with a view to capturing the garrison. A careful search was made in vicinity of this point, but no sign of enemy was seen. The patrol returned at 10.25 p.m. A second patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men left V.2.d.80.40 at 9 p.m. and proceeded to trenches at V.3.c.00.40. The trenches were unoccupied, and no recent trace of enemy was found. Patrol returned at 10.30 p.m.

ENEMY OPERATIONS:

Artillery: Inactive on forward areas. During the day 70 rounds of 8.9's. fell in vicinity of Church in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
1.0 p.m. V.7.c. shelled with 10 rounds 77's from direction of MARCELCAVE.
1.45 p.m. flashes of four guns battery observed at P.36.b.5.4 firing into VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

Snipers: Becoming less active owing to our activity.

Aircraft: Large flights of 'planes operating along our front at intervals throughout the day. Between 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. four enemy planes were over our sector.
Three observation balloons were up.

Lights: During bombardment south of this Sector from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., enemy used large numbers of red and green lights.

Movement: Between 6.30 p.m. and 7.0 p.m. five parties of 5 men each were seen moving back from P.35.a.3.8 and disappeared at P.35.b. Central. They were equipped in full marching order.
1.30 p.m. Transport limber seen on road V.16.d.40.20 moving north.
3.50 p.m. Two men seen carrying stretchers at V.10.c.70.05.
4.40 p.m. About a company of men seen at P.20.a.75.60 moving south.
6.55 p.m. Party of 20 men enter large farmhouse at V.5.a.10.10.
4.20 p.m. Explosion in BAYONVILLERS (Q.32.c.5.5.) Dense clouds of black smoke which lasted for 5 minutes.
2.0 p.m. Seven men observed working at P.35.c.3.8. The observer suggests construction of gun pits.

G. Halford Lt ---
for

Brig-General.
G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

(E.M.R.)

appendix
SPECIAL ORDER.

by

BRIG-GEN. C. ROSENTHAL, C.B., C.M.G. G.O.C. 9TH AUST. INF. BDE.

Brigade Headquarters,
6th April, 1918.

In connection with the heavy onomy attack on the 4th instant, General Sir John MONASH has asked me to convey his congratulations to the troops concerned. He is very grateful that the Brigade has done so well, and higher Commanders of this Army (including the Army Commander himself) are very complimentary concerning the gallant defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX put up by Units of this Brigade on that day.

My own feelings are that the Brigade fought as I expected it would, and I am more than ever proud of my Command.

*Charles Rosenthal.*Brig-General.
G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

(ELR)



WAR DIARY

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH INFANTRY BRIGADE
7-Apr-1918
B.M. NO. 33/170
A.I.F.

Brigade Headquarters .
7th April 1918.

G.O.C.

3rd Cavalry Division.

I beg to forward herewith copy of report on 9th Australian Infantry Brigade operations on 4th and 5th April before VILLERS-BRETONNEUX which perhaps you may find of interest.

May I take the opportunity of expressing my keen appreciation of the prompt and most valuable assistance rendered to my troops on my left flank by your 1st Dragoon Guards and 17th Lancers.

As has happened so often during the recent fighting, the cavalry on the morning of the 4th instant undoubtedly saved the situation. My left flank was in danger of serious trouble at the time because the infantry of the 14th Division had fallen back.

My Officers and men are just as enthusiastic in their appreciation of the work of the cavalry of your Division as they were on the 30th March when the 12th Lancers of 2nd Cavalry Division so splendidly supported a counter-attack by my troops.

Personally I am proud to have had the opportunity of fighting on the same battle-ground with the British Cavalry.

Would you kindly inform the 1st Dragoon Guards and 17th Lancers.

Charles Rosenthal

Brig.-Gen.

G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

INTERN AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters.
7th April 1918.

Headquarters

18th Division.

APPENDIX 6

D.M. 53/170.

I have to report as follows upon operations involving the employment of my Brigade on 4th and 5th instant.

At the commencement of operations on the 4th inst. the Brigade was disposed in depth for the defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX as follows: 35th Battalion holding from V.2.d.7.3 to P.28.d.5.4 with three Companies in the line and one in reserve; 33rd Battalion in immediate support of 35th Battalion; 34th and 36th Battalions in Brigade Reserve in BOIS l'ABBE. Brigade Headquarters was located at GENTELLES.

The line had been taken over from 61st Division on the night 30/31st March. Eight Vickers guns had been placed at the disposal of the C.O. 35th Battalion who elected to place four in the line whilst holding four in reserve in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The remaining eight machine guns of the 9th Australian Machine Gun Company were held in Brigade Reserve in BOIS l'ABBE.

The line was held by a series of posts unwired. The only communication, either laterally or from front to rear, was by runner; and this was impossible by day owing to the activity of enemy snipers and the fact that runners had no routes unobserved by hostile snipers. The Reserve Company had dug in a support line approximately 1,000 yards in rear of the front line.

Information received from the front in the late evening of the 3rd instant disclosed much movement in the neighbourhood of MARCELOUVE and WARFUSSE-ABANCOURT, and enemy artillery had been particularly active with all calibres up to 5.9 on VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, CACHY, GENTELLES and BOIS l'ABBE.

At 5.30 a.m. on 4th instant the enemy commenced to bombard our forward system heavily as well as VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, CACHY, and GENTELLES and other portions of the back area.

At 6.30 a.m. the enemy appeared through the mist to be massing in numerous small parties each about the size of a Platoon on the Western outskirts of WARFUSSE-ABANCOURT and at several other points opposite our front line. These were immediately dealt with by machine guns, Lewis Guns and rifles with deadly effect, very heavy casualties being inflicted upon the enemy who immediately retired slightly without persisting in the attack. This action was repeated three times at short intervals.

At 7 a.m. the enemy advanced opposite our whole front. Our S.O.S. signal was sent up and immediately responded to by an accurate barrage which was right on the dense masses of advancing enemy, cutting gaps in his formations. In addition to artillery fire the enemy was subjected to the maximum fire power of all units in the line, causing him enormous losses.

When the enemy had advanced to a distance of 300 yards from our front line the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade on our left fell back exposing our left flank. The enemy, taking advantage, attacked our left by moving along the evacuated trench. This compelled the 35th Battalion's left flank to fall back fighting to the support line covered by our machine guns which later established themselves in the support line. At this stage one of our machine guns was rushed and captured by the enemy, whilst one was destroyed by shell-fire. The Duffs on our right swung back their left flank in conformity with our slight change of front. The enemy was now held up and heavy casualties inflicted on him.

Two Companies of the 33rd Battalion were pushed up behind our left as this appeared to be the threatened flank, and eight more Vickers guns were ordered into the line, making a total of 10. The line was then firmly established from V.1.d.0.7 to V.1.b.9.6, thence North to P.26.e.0.0, thence West to P.25.d.0.3, and

2.

and North to P.25.b.0.1 where touch was gained with the 1st Dragoon Guards which had come up on our left and stayed the enemy's advance North of the WARFUSEE-ADANCOURT - VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Road.

At 10.15 a.m. the cavalry (1st Dragoon Guards, 3rd Cavalry Division) came forward, dismounted, and took up a position on our left North of the WARFUSEE-ADANCOURT - VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Road. This filled the gap caused by the retirement of the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade. The cavalry at once opened fire on the enemy with one Hotchkiss and three Vickers guns, causing the enemy to fall back towards WARFUSEE-ADANCOURT.

The 33rd Battalion was ordered at 10.27 a.m. to move forward to establish a position East of the aerodrome at P.25.d. 80.25. This advance was immediately carried out, improving our line considerably.

At 11.10 a.m. the 34th Battalion was ordered to move from DOIS 1'AMIE to a position of readiness at O.29.a. and b. North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX; whilst the 36th Battalion was ordered to move to O.35.e. and d. to the South. Both of these Battalions were placed at the disposal of C.O. 35th Battalion for counter-attack purposes.

By 3.30 p.m. our line was firmly established, the enemy holding ground 300 yards to our front. The rain during the day had made the ground very muddy. The clean Lewis Guns of the 6th London Regiment were sent forward to our men.

At 3.50 p.m. the 36th Battalion, which had moved to U.5.b., noticed troops of the units on our right retiring in disorder through our lines reporting that the enemy were advancing in thousands. Attempts made to rally them were unsuccessful. The situation appeared critical. By 5 p.m. the enemy had advanced to the road in U.6.a. and were firing at our artillery in U.5.a. and c. C.O. 36th Battalion, having then received orders, launched the whole of his Battalion, less one Company in Battalion Reserve, into a counter-attack South of the VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - MARCELCAVE railway line at 5.15 p.m. The Reserve Company of 35th Battalion was just at this moment counter-attacking just North of the railway line and thus protected the left flank of the 36th Battalion. A party of the "Queens" which was reforming in U.5.d. decided to co-operate and assisted very materially. A party of the "Buffs" digging in in U.5.b. declined to co-operate.

The counter-attacking troops were greeted by heavy machine gun fire from CHATEAU in U.6.a. and later from haystacks at about V.12.b.6.8 but managed to establish a line from V.1.b.3.6 to U.6.c.central. The Reserve Company was then thrown in and succeeded in filling a gap between two of the assaulting Companies.

Three Companies of the 6th London Regiment arrived at this time. Two were pushed forward to further strengthen the line between the two assaulting Companies, whilst the third Company was moved forward into line on the right flank. Shortly after the line had been thus reorganised considerable bodies of the enemy commenced to form up at distances of from 500 to 700 yards in front of our line. These parties suffered very heavy casualties from our Lewis Guns and rifles.

During the advance four enemy machine guns were captured and were utilized in consolidation.

At 6 p.m. the situation on the left flank became obscure, and at 6.20 p.m. the 34th Battalion was ordered to establish a line getting into touch with 33rd Battalion on the right and cavalry on the left. This was carried out successfully by the 34th Battalion moving across the Eastern outskirts of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in a South-Eastern direction in order to take up a line running from railway line at V.1.b.2.8 to P.31.a.8.2. The 33rd Battalion then held from P.31.a.8.2 to P.25.c.6.3, whilst the 36th Battalion together with the Queens and 6th London Regiment held from the railway line to the South as far as U.6.c.central. The cavalry were then holding the line North of 33rd Battalion. About this time the 17th Lancers arranged to advance to restore our line on the left in conjunction with 33rd Battalion, this action being carried out successfully.

At 6.40 p.m. a line running from P.25.d.2.3 to the cross-roads in P.31.c. had been established.

In the meantime three armoured cars had come forward along the AMIENS Road as soon as it was seen that the town was endangered. They patrolled the streets of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX and then moved to our left flank heavily engaging the enemy. These cars did magnificent work particularly in engaging enemy machine guns.

On surveying the situation at about 10 p.m. it was found that our line lay in low ground in the vicinity of the railway line. In order to gain a position giving a good field of fire it was decided to move forward during the night and re-establish support line occupied by the 35th Battalion at 11 a.m. that day. The 34th Battalion was therefore ordered to attack and capture the railway bridge at V.1.b.6.7, whilst the other units of the Brigade were to co-operate and advance their portions of the line accordingly. In preparation for this attack the 35th and 36th Battalions closed to the South and 34th Battalion occupied the line from V.1.a.0.6 to P.31.c.8.6. During the advance strong opposition was encountered along the Northern side of the railway, but our casualties were not severe. Our Lewis Guns, fired from the hip, had considerable moral effect on the enemy. From this time onward the fighting died down and our troops proceeded with the work of consolidation.

The enemy contented himself on the 5th instant with desultory shelling of villages and back areas and was much more inactive than usual. There was no further infantry action worthy of note during the 5th instant.

The Brigade was relieved on the night of the 5th/6th instant by units of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade.

During the foregoing operations we captured 1 Officer, 35 other ranks and 19 machine guns.

Our casualties were as follows:--

Unit.	KILLED.		WOUNDED.		MISSING.	
	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.
33rd Battalion		7	3	75		
34th Battalion		20	5	100		
35th Battalion	3	43	6	191		44
36th Battalion	4	26	8	106		1
9th A.M.G. Coy.		1	1	13		4
TOTALS	..	7 101	23	485		49

An incident worthy of note happened at about 6.30 pm. on the 4th instant. A man dressed as a British Officer came to the lines of the 36th Battalion in the vicinity of U.6.d.9.7 and ordered the men to retire which they refused to do. He was wearing an Officer's tunic and a private's cap with the Queens badge and the name "G.E. Martin" written inside. He carried a pack containing some fancy-work instead of ordinary fighting order which aroused suspicion. He was closely questioned and asked to produce his papers. This he failed to do and in addition could give no satisfactory explanation of his conduct and presence. He was shot.

Another incident which calls for mention is the action of four of our machine guns which operated to the left of our left flank. These machine guns remained in position although the covering infantry had withdrawn until cavalry came up to them later on in the day.

All four Battalions and Machine Gun Coy. acted splendidly. The counter-attack of the 36th Battalion was a particularly praiseworthy action being pushed home at an opportune moment with the greatest rapidity and dash against an enemy who was in great strength. The stubborn resistance which the 35th Battalion opposed to the enemy's initial onslaught in overwhelming

overwhelming numbers is also worthy of the greatest praise.

I am anxious to place on record my appreciation of the splendid work carried out by the cavalry (1st Dragoons and 17th Lancers) in protecting my Northern flank by vigorous offensive action. The timely co-operation of the Queens in the counter-attack of the 36th Battalion was of the utmost assistance and was most helpful at a very critical moment. The 6th London Regiment proved particularly keen and willing to help in staying the enemy advance and was used to very good effect.

A conservative estimate of the casualties inflicted on the enemy during the period under review is 4,000 on the 4th instant and 1,000 on the 5th instant.

The system of holding Mobile Echelons of ammunition and tools at advanced transport lines worked admirably.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. On the night 3rd/4th instant the Main Dressing Station was situated at billets at DOVES. Advanced Dressing Station was under canvas at O.25.d.8.4.
Route of evacuation.

33rd and 35th Dns. by motor ambulance to A.D.S.

34th and 36th Dns. by horse-drawn ambulances to A.D.S.

From A.D.S. by cars to DOVES H.D.S. along main AMIENS Road.

Each Battalion had one squad of bearers attached to it to act as runners to notify A.D.S. of any change in their positions.

The attack and counter-attack.

33rd Battalion: First batch of casualties came through about 8 a.m. At 11 a.m. R.M.O. moved to Station R.A.P. and worked in conjunction with R.M.O. 35th Battalion.

34th Battalion: At dawn had 10 or 12 casualties which were cleared and nothing more was heard of this Battalion till 4.30 p.m. when information came through that R.A.P. was situated in open field about half a mile North of VILLERS-DE TONNEUX, in front of AUDIGNY--VILLERS-DRETONNEUX Road, about O.29.a. One squad was at once despatched with one horse ambulance and wheeled stretchers and the original squad which had come down to notify its position. Half an hour later another message was received from R.M.O. that he was holding up several casualties. One motor ambulance and two more squads were sent up to the R.A.P. The method of evacuation was by wheeled stretchers across the open field to the road at O.19.b., thence by ambulance vehicle to A.D.S. As ambulances were insufficient to cope with the existing casualties at this R.A.P. and as R.A.P. was being heavily shelled casualties were cleared as rapidly as possible and several casualties sent down on two 5-ton lorries.

35th Battalion: R.A.P. located at STATION throughout. After 11 a.m. on the 4th inst. R.M.O. moved from here and worked in conjunction with the 36th Battalion. Means of evacuation:- By cars from this R.A.P. to A.D.S. also by wheeled stretchers to horse-drawn ambulances at O.23.d.2.4. Everything was satisfactory till 10 a.m. on the 4th inst. when there was a slight congestion but this was adjusted by sending up more vehicles. During the night this R.A.P. presented difficulties, as cars were insufficient and owing to the bad condition of the roads were delayed coming to and from R.A.P.

36th Battalion: This Battalion moved during the morning of the 4th inst. Cases were carried across ploughed fields to STATION R.A.P. As darkness set in evacuation was very difficult owing to there being no recognised track from R.A.P. At 9.30 p.m. this R.A.P. was reported clear and was advanced later to ridge some 300 yards away. At dawn on 5th inst. 2 Sergeants and 5 squads were despatched to evacuate this R.A.P. Route of evacuations was then changed, and cases were carried to a point at O.34.b.4.6, and evacuated from here by horse-drawn vehicles. Two motor ambulances were switched on to this position at daylight and after 6.30 a.m. on the 5th inst. evacuation was carried out in conjunction with Imperial ambulances.

A.D.S.: About 4 a.m. on 4th inst. this position was heavily shelled and the men withdrawn to trenches nearby. First batch of casualties came through about this time. Shelling continued off and on all day, but ceased at 5 p.m. and did not recur. A sergeant, 3 bearer squads, 1 motor ambulance and personnel and one horse-drawn ambulance and personnel were detailed to A.D.S. Two more horse-drawn ambulances were sent up about 9 a.m. as well as all available wheeled stretchers. During the night another car was sent up from DOVES, having been

returned from workshops, making 4 cars in all on the road. About 8 p.m. on the 4th inst. reports came through that VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was occupied by the Boche and that he was advancing on the wood then occupied by the Ambulance. Tents were struck and packed on G.S. wagons ready to move if necessary. Evacuations proceeded as usual and cases were held in trenches nearby under bivouacs. After dark it was found impossible to keep records of patients passing through A.D.S. owing to heavy rain. Route of evacuation at this time was along the main LIGNES Road to N.28.d.3.5, thence to DOVES. The road between DOVES and N.28.d.3.5 became blocked after midnight for 4 or 5 hours by artillery, cavalry and one 3-ton lorry which had become derailed and was lying across the road. There were thus no cars available at A.D.S. during this time; this caused a considerable congestion of cases.

Evacuation from DOVES M.D.S. was by M.A.S. cars direct to G.C.S. and no difficulties were met with here. Evacuations from A.D.S. were necessarily slow and slight cases were directed to walk to walking wounded post which was under R.A.M.C. control as previously mentioned. All the staff at A.D.S. were relieved about midday on the 5th instant.

It is estimated that about 700 cases passed through A.D.S. from 8 am. to 6 pm. on the 4/5th inst. Casualties passed through M.D.S. on the 4th inst. 189 on the 5th inst. 180 on the 6th inst. 96. These totals were

wholly stretcher cases and included both French and Imperial troops. It was considered advisable to clear R.A.Ps. first and hold cases at A.D.S. out of shell-fire until they could be evacuated. This necessitated the holding of 60 cases at one time at A.D.S.

36th Battalion supplied cooker which provided the men with hot drinks at the A.D.S.

Although confronted with innumerable difficulties the 9th Australian Field Ambulance carried out the duty of evacuation with the greatest promptitude.

The 9th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery was not employed in the operation.

Charles Pratt

Brig.-Gen.

G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution.

18th Division	2 copies (1 for C.R.A.)
Fourth Army.	
3rd Corps.	
Australian Corps.	2 copies.
3rd Australian Division.	2 copies.
5th Australian Division.	
3rd Cavalry Division.	
10th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
11th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
5th Aust. Inf. Bde.	
33rd Battalion A.I.F.	
34th Battalion A.I.F.	
35th Battalion A.I.F.	
36th Battalion A.I.F.	
9th A.M.G. Company.	
9th A.L.T.M. Battery.	
9th Aust. Field Ambulance.	
War Diary	3 copies.



COPY.12.4.1918.JB.

G.21.
9.4.1918.

G.O.C.

9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

I beg to thank you on behalf of the 3rd Cavalry Division for your letter of the 7th April and for the narrative of the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade sent therewith. The units of this Division which you mention as having rendered assistance to your troops on the 4th instant have been informed of your appreciation of their services.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to you personally, and to the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade, the great confidence and admiration which this Division has felt in fighting side by side with your troops during the critical periods of the 4th and 5th April. The absence of any anxiety as regards the right flank enabled all attention to be devoted to other portions of the line where the situation was not so secure and thus enabled the enemy to be checked at important points on our left.

I thank you for your co-operation and sincerely hope the 3rd Cavalry Division will have the opportunity of fighting at some future date alongside the fine troops which you command.

(sgd.) A.E.W. HARMAN
Brigadier-General
Commanding 3rd Cavalry Division.

9th April 1918.



1st Cavalry Division.
10-4-1918.

My dear Monash.

I was hoping to have come to see you, when the battle allowed, to thank you, your Brig.R.A. and your Brigadiers who were alongside of my Division for your most valuable and encouraging support and assistance, especially on 30th March when we had a hard fight to keep the Bosche out of our position. Q was very much struck by the courtesy of your officers in coming to see me personally and for your own and their keen desire to do everything in their power to help. As you know we had a curious collection of units to do with, and it was a real relief to know that I had your stout-hearted fellows on my left flank and later also on my right flank and that all worry was therefore eliminated as to the safety of my flanks. Your order for the placing of your heavy guns and batteries so as to cover our front was of very real assistance; incidentally they killed a lot of huns, and was much appreciated by us all. Will you convey to all concerned my own appreciation and that of all ranks of the 1st Cavalry Division. It was a pleasure and an honour to be fighting alongside troops who displayed such magnificent moral. I only hope we may have the chance of co-operating with you again and under more favourable circumstances. We have been kept on the move and very busy trying to refit at the same time, and have left your area for the moment or I should certainly have been myself to tender you our thanks and congratulations.

(Maj-Gen. R. L. MULLENS C.B.
Commg. 1st Cav. Div.)

Yours Sincerely
(sgd) R. L. MULLENS.

(JAT)



APPENDIX

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Brigade Headquarters.
5th April 1918.

Headquarters

35th Battalion.
36th " "
33rd " "
34th " "
9th A.M.G. Coy.
9th A.L.T.M. Bty.
9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
18th Division.
5th Aust. Infantry Brigade.
3rd Australian Division.

APPENDIX 7.

B.M. 105.

The 17th and 18th Battalions of 5th Australian Infantry Brigade will be in Square O.34 by 6 p.m. tonight and are available to C.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade in case it becomes necessary to launch counter-attack; if not so used they will relieve all Battalions of 9th Australian Infantry Brigade in line tonight under arrangements to be made mutually between C.O. 35th Battalion and C.Os. 17th and 18th Battalions. Machine Gunners will also be relieved. The two remaining Battalions of 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade will also tonight relieve troops of 18th Division on 9th Aust. Infantry Brigade right flank.

Upon relief the 33rd and 34th Battalions will remain in close support of 5th A.I. Brigade Battalions in Square O.34 and will be at call of C.O.C. 5th Aust. Infantry Brigade in case of serious enemy attack.

The C.O. 9th A.M.G. Company will provide a Section of machine guns for 33rd Battalion and another Section for 34th Battalion. These Sections for tactical purposes will be at the disposal of C.Os. 33rd and 34th Battalions.

The 35th and 36th Battalions, 9th A.M.G. Coy. (less 2 Sections) and 9th A.L.T.M. Bty. will reoccupy bivouacs in vicinity of O.31 and 32.

Brigade Headquarters remain at BLANCY-TREVILLE with Report Centre at crossing of main ALIENS Road with railway in O.28.d.2.4. All units to maintain runners at this Relay Post to which Post all Brigade Orders and messages will be delivered both inward and outward.

Each unit in the line will provide an Officer guide to meet C.Os. of 17th and 18th Battalions and M.G. Coy. at Report Centre at 5 p.m. today.

The C.O.C. 5th Aust. Infantry Brigade wishes 18th Battalion to go into line on the right and 17th Battalion on the left.

Charles Benthley

Brig.-Gen.
C.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

"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:	Reed. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date.....	
			At.....			Service.....	
			To.....			From.....	
			By.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....	

TO

APPENDIX 8

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* B.M. 33.	8		

34th and 36th Battalions will take over half of the Divisional front extending from HANGARD Northwards tomorrow night 9th inst. AAA 34th and 36th Battalions will then come under the orders of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade AAA 33rd and 35th Bns. will remain in Divisional Reserve in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AAA 9th Aust.M.C.Coy. and 9th Aust.L.T.M.Bty. will move on morning of 10th instant to collars vacated by 34th Battalion in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AAA Detailed orders follow AAA 34th and 36th Battalions to Acknowledge AAA

Addressed 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions, 9th A.M.C.Coy., 9th A.L.T.M.Bty. Repeated 5th Aust.Inf.Bde., 175th Inf. Bde., 18th Division, 3rd Aust.Division, 9th Aust.Field Ambulance.

From		
Place	9th Aust.Inf.Bde.	
Time		
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)		
Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.	

* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.

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Secret.

APPENDIX 8

Copy No. 25...

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 22.

Reference map:

62 D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
9th April 1918

1. The 34th and 36th Battalions will relieve the 19th and 20th Battalions respectively in the Southern sector of the Divisional front on the night 9th/10th April 1918.

2. The 34th and 36th Battalions will be temporarily attached to the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade and will come under the orders of the G.O.C. that Brigade.

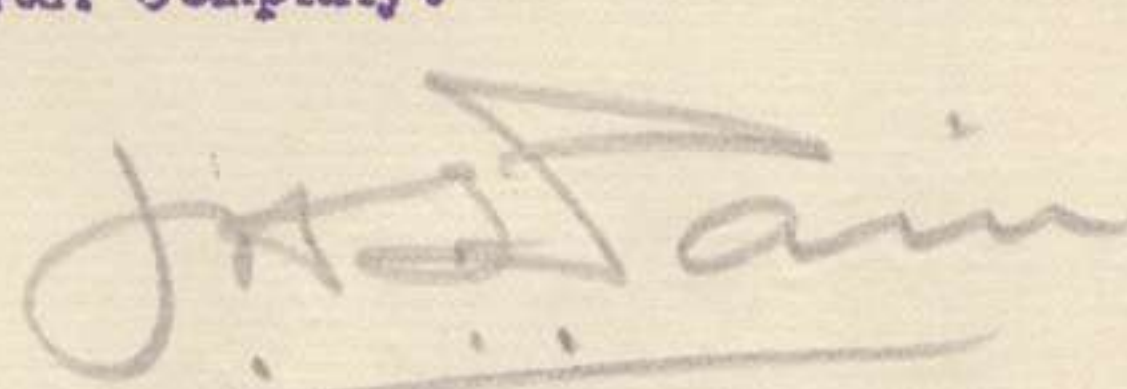
3. 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company and 9th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery will move on 10th instant to cellars in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX vacated by 34th Battalion.

4. Details of relief will be arranged mutually between G.Os. concerned.

5. 33rd and 35th Battalions will remain in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

6. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade (less 34th and 36th Battalions) is now in Divisional Reserve and is not called upon to furnish counter-attack troops as heretofore. All Vickers guns of 9th Australian Machine Gun Company will therefore again come under the command of the O.C. 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.



Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade A.I.F.

Distribution.Copy No.To whom.

1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
4	Brigade Signal Section.
5-6	Brigade Transport Officer.
7	33rd Battalion A.I.F.
8-9	34th Battalion A.I.F.
10	35th Battalion A.I.F.
11-12	36th Battalion A.I.F.
13	9th Aust. Machine Gun Coy.
14	9th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty.
15	9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
16	869th Company A.A.S.C.
17	19th Battalion A.I.F.
18	20th Battalion A.I.F.
19	18th Division.
20	3rd Australian Division.
21	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
22	175th Inf. Bde.
23	66th Divisional Artillery.
24-26	War Diary.
27-29	Spare.

JL.

144
SECRET

APPENDIX

9

41

appendix
APPENDIX 9.

Copy No. 200

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 23.

Reference Map:
Sheet 62 D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
10th April 1918.

1 (a). The undermentioned units will form the permanent garrison for the close defence of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX from today inclusive, the whole being under the command of Lieut.-Colonel L.J. Morshead, D.S.O., 33rd Battalion A.I.F. who is appointed Commandant.

33rd Battalion A.I.F.
2 Sections 9th Aust. Machine Gun Coy.
9th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Bty.
256th Tunnelling Company R.E.

(b). The limits of the defences of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in the North will run along the line 0.30.d.0.4 - 0.30.central - 0.19.central - 0.28.central - 0.28.d.0.5.

2. An Officer has been detailed by 58th Division to act as Staff Officer to the Commandant.

3. The garrison of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX is entrusted with the following duties :-

- (a). To improve the defences of the village;
- (b). To hold the village against attack; and
- (c). To maintain the motor ambulance routes in a trafficable condition by filling in shell-holes and to remove any wire which falls across main routes and forms an obstacle to traffic.

4. An outline of the defences to be constructed will form the subject of a separate communication.

5. The two Sections 9th Australian Machine Gun Company referred to in para. 1(a) will release the eight machine guns of the 58th Division now similarly employed.

6. The Staff Captain will arrange for three days' supply of ammunition, rations and water, and a supply of S.O.S. Signals and aeroplane flares to be stored in the village forthwith for the use of the garrison.

7. 35th Battalion A.I.F. and 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company (less 2 Sections) will remain in cellars in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in Divisional Reserve.

8. 54th and 36th Battalions will remain temporarily attached to 5th Australian Infantry Brigade.

P.T.O.

9. Headquarters of units are located as follows :-

33rd Battalion A.I.F.	O.29.o.7.4, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
34th Battalion A.I.F.	U.9.o.1. 5.
35th Battalion A.I.F.	O.35.a.8.9, VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
36th Battalion A.I.F.	U.21.a.4.7.
9th Aust. M.G. Coy.	VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
9th Aust. L.T.M. Bty.	VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

John F. ...

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To whom.</u>
1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
4	Brigade Signal Section.
5	33rd Battalion A.I.F.
6	34th Battalion A.I.F.
7	35th Battalion A.I.F.
8	36th Battalion A.I.F.
9	9th Aust. M.G. Coy.
10	9th Aust. L.T.M. Bty.
11	9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
12	5th Aust. Inf. Bde.
13	175th Inf. Bde.
14	18th Division.
15	C.R.E. 18th Division.
16	256th Tunnelling Coy. R.E.
17	5th Aust. Division.
18	58th Division.
19	3rd Aust. Division.
20-22	War Diary.
23	File.
24-27	Spare.

APPENDIX 10

8/118

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

.....

Brigade Headquarters.
11th April 1918.

9th A.I.Bde. Signal Section.
 33rd Battalion A.I.F.
 35th Battalion A.I.F.
 9th Aust. M.G. Coy.
 175th Infantry Brigade.
 18th Division.
 58th Division.
 3rd Aust. Division.
 5th Aust. Division.

In continuation of 9th Australian Infantry Brigade
 Order No. 23 dated 10.4.1918.

1. From today inclusive the Commandant VILLERS-BRETONNEUX defences with the units enumerated in para. 1(a) of the above-quoted Order is placed under the direct orders of the 18th Division. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will not therefore exercise command over these defences, and any reports which the Commandant may have to make on the defences or tactical distribution of troops will be made by him direct to the 18th Division, copies of same being forwarded to 9th Aust. Infantry Brigade and 58th Division for information.

2. It is anticipated that in the course of the next few days the 58th Division will relieve the 18th Division. Hence in order to ensure continuity of policy the suggestions put forward by a Staff Officer of the 58th Division when reconnoitring the defences of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX yesterday will largely influence the Commandant in deciding his tactical dispositions.

3. The Commandant may call upon this office to assist in any way possible and may use the Brigade Advanced Report Centre for transmission of despatches to 18th Division.

4. The Commandant is now an independent Commandant directly responsible to the 18th Division for the defences of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. He will establish Battle Stragglers Posts in the town and in the event of a hostile attack may employ all of the troops in the town with the exception of the Divisional Reserve.

5. The 35th Battalion A.I.F. in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in Divisional Reserve will act if required to do so upon the direct order of the 18th Division without reference to Brigade Headquarters. The 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company will act in a similar manner.

J. W. J. Fair

Major
 Brigade Major
 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

28.

29.

COPY.

ARMY FORM C.2121 .. "A" FORM.

APPENDIX 11

To 35th Battalion.
9th A.M.G. Company.
Brigade Transport Officer.

Senders Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to No.	AAA.
B.M.40.	12.	---	

35th Battalion and 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company (less 2 Sections) will move at once to positions of readiness in Square T.11. North of GENTELLES WOOD from which point they will receive orders from 18th Division direct AAA 220 rounds per man will be carried AAA Mobile echelons will await you in T.11. AAA Movement out of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX will be made in small parties in order to avoid observation AAA Guards will be left on kits AAA Commencement of move to be notified by means of bearer AAA Completion by telephone from GENTELLES to 18th Division direct AAA Hostile attack in progress on our right in vicinity HANGARD AAA Brigade Transport Officer to move above echelons to T.11. at once.

From 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Time 9.30 a.m.

(sgd.) J.H.F. PAIN
Major Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

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SECRET.

APPENDIX. 12

Copy No.

45

APPENDIX 12

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 24.

Reference Map:
Sheet 62.D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
14th April 1918.

1 (a). The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade (less 33rd Battalion, 2 Sections 9th Australian Machine Gun Company, and 9th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery) will relieve the 175th Infantry Brigade in the Left Sub-sector Reserve Line on the 15th instant and night 15th/16th instant as follows :-

35th Bn. will relieve 9th Bn. London Regiment in the Southern half of Left Sub-sector.

34th Bn. will relieve 10th Bn. London Regiment in the Northern half of Left Sub-sector.

36th Bn. will relieve 12th Bn. London Regiment in BOIS de BLANGY.

(b). Units will move in small parties to avoid observation. 34th Battalion will not move before 4.30 p.m. 35th Battalion will not move before 5.30 p.m.

2. All shelters will be left standing in present positions and will be handed over upon relief.

3. Brigade Headquarters will remain at BLANGY-TRONVILLE.

4. Subject to the terms of this Order the relief will be carried out under arrangements to be made direct between Commanding Officers concerned.

5. Orders for 9th Aust. Machine Gun Company will be issued separately.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. H. P. P. P.

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution.

Copy No.	1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
	4	Brigade Signal Section.
	5	Brigade Transport Officer.
	6	33rd Battalion.
	7	34th Battalion.
	8	35th Battalion.
	9	36th Battalion.
	10	9th Aust.M.G. Coy.
	11	9th Aust.L.T.M. Bty.
	12	9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
	13	869th Company A.A.S.C.
	14	175th Infantry Brigade.
	15	174th Infantry Brigade.
	16	173rd Infantry Brigade.
	17	58th Division.
	18	3rd Aust. Division.
	19	File.
	20-22	War Diary.

COPY.

APPENDIX 13
 ARMY FORM C.2121. -- "A" FORM.

P R I O R I T Y.
 MESSAGES and SIGNALS.

To

33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th Battalions
 9th Aust.M.G.Coy. 9th Aust.L.T.M. Bty.
 9th Aust.Field Amb. 869th Coy. A.A.S.C.

Senders No.
 B.M. 71.

Day of Month.
 18.

In reply to No.

AAA.

36th Battalion (less 1 Company) will relieve 33rd Battalion in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX defences as soon as possible tonight AAA 36th Battalion will notify Brigade Headquarters location of H.Q. selected if in a new location AAA Upon relief 33rd Battalion will move to BLANGY-TRONVILLE AAA The remaining Company of 36th Battalion will stay at BOIS de BLANGY as counter-attack Company for Left Battalion (34th Battalion) in left sub-sector of Reserve Line AAA In event of 35th Battalion moving forward to counter-attack it will be replaced in the Reserve Line by one Battalion 5th Australian Infantry Brigade AAA

Addressed all Brigade units, 9th Field Ambulance and 869th Company A.A.S.C. Copy to Brigade Transport Officer.

From 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.

J.H.F. PAIN Major

149
SECRET.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

ISSUED IN CONSEQUENCE WITH BRIGADE ORDER NO. 25.

Brigade Headquarters,
19th April, 1918.

Reference Map;
62 D - 1/40,000.

1. **HANDOVER:** (a) Tents and Shelters: All tents and trench shelters will be handed over to incoming units with the exception of those in possession before coming into this Area.

(b) Ammunition: 36th Battalion will arrange to hand-over to incoming unit the ammunition in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX garrison, and forward receipts to Brigade Headquarters.

(c) Barrage Rations: 2,400 barrage rations in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX will be handed over to incoming unit, and duplicate receipt forwarded to Brigade Headquarters.

(d) Mob. Stores: Units will ensure as far as possible that Mob. Stores are complete in every respect before leaving this area, particular attention being paid to tools and ammunition.

2. **NEW AREA:**

(a) Billets: Units will be accommodated in billets as follows :-

Brigade Headquarters, Chateau -	FRECHENCOURT
33rd Battalion	LEHOUSOYE
35th "	-do-
36th "	-do-
34th "	FRANVILLERS
9th A.L.T.M. Batty.	-do-
9th A.M.G. Coy.	BONHAY
860th Coy. A.A.S.C.	FRECHENCOURT.

Complete Brigade transport less cookers and water carts

FRECHENCOURT WOOD.

9th Aust. Field Ambulance to be arranged by A.D.M.S. - probably QUERRIEU.

34th Battalion will reserve accommodation in FRANVILLERS for 3 Officers and 30 other ranks of 9th A.L.T.M. Batty.

(b) Supplies: On the morning of 20th instant rations for consumption on the 21st instant will be delivered at Units new locations.

Re-filling Point

LEHOUSOYE.

(c) Extra Transport: Extra G.S. wagons will be detailed to report to Battalions at 8 a.m. on the morning of the 20th instant. The 2 Limbers at present detailed for the 9th A.L.T.M. Battery will remain with that Battery until relieved, and will move with them to the new area.

Extra baggage wagons will be loaded by 9 a.m. on the 20th instant and will rendezvous at 9.15 a.m. on the road BLANGY-TRONVILLE - AUBIGNY, 500 yards N.W. of BLANGY-TRONVILLE. These will move as a convoy under A.S.C. Transport Officer.

[Signature]

Captain.

Staff Captain.

Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1-4	
5	Brigade Headquarters
6	33rd Battalion
7	34th "
8	35th "
9	36th "
10	Q.M. 33rd Battalion
11	" 34th "
12	" 35th "
13	" 36th "
14	9th A.M.G. Coy.
15	9th A.L.T.M. Batty.
16	9th Aust. Field Ambulance
17	300th Coy. A.A.S.C.
18-19	Bde. Transport Officer
20	3rd Aust. Division.
21-23	50th Division.
24	War Diary
	P 1 1 0.

(E.M.R.)

SECRET.

Copy No. 28.....

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 25.

Reference map :
Sheet 62 D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
19th April 1918.

1. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 23rd Infantry Brigade in the Left Subsector of the Reserve Line and in VILLERS-BRETON EUX in accordance with Table "A" overleaf on the 20th, 21st and night 21st/22nd April 1918.

2. Upon relief the Brigade will move in accordance with Table "A" overleaf to rejoin 3rd Australian Division.

3. Orders covering the moves of the 9th Aust. Field Ambulance and the 869th Coy. A.A.S.C. to QUERRIEU and PONT NOYELLES respectively will be issued separately.

4. All information, Defence Schemes and Works Policies concerning the Reserve Line and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX will be handed over to relieving units.

5. Work on tunnelled dugouts will be handed over by 34th Battalion to relieving unit.

6. Stokes Light Trench Mortar ammunition will be handed over upon relief.

7. Subject to the terms of this order the relief will be carried out under arrangements to be made mutually between Commanding Officers concerned.

8. The transport of units will move under the orders of the Brigade Transport Officer to FRECHENECOURT.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. H. P. P. P.

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Bde.

Distribution.

Copy No. 1-3 Brigade H.Q.
4 Bde. Signal Section.
5 33rd Battalion.
6 34th "
7 35th "
8 36th "
9 9th A.M.C. Coy.
10 9th A.L.T.M. Bty.
11 Bde. Transport Off.
12 9th Aust. Fld. Amb.
13 869th Coy. A.A.S.C.
14 58th Division.
15 8th Division.
16-17 3rd Aust. Division.

Copy No. 18 5th Aust. Division.
19 173rd Inf. Bde.
20 174th Inf. Bde.
21 175th Inf. Bde.
22 23rd Inf. Bde.
23 10th Aust. Inf. Bde.
24 11th Aust. Inf. Bde.
25 15th Aust. Inf. Bde.
26 Command. VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.
27 24th Inf. Bde.
28-29 War Diary.
30 File.
31-33 Spare.

Reference map :
Sheet 62.D. 1/40,000.

TABLE "A"

To accompany 9th Australian Infantry
Brigade Order No. 25 of 19.4.1918.

Serial No.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	Route.	After relief by	Remarks.
1.	1918. Apl. 20.	*34th Battn.	Left Sub-sector Reserve Line (Left Bn)	FRANVILLERS.	VECQUEMENT - PONT NOYELLES.	Sherwood Foresters.	To move at 1 p.m. upon completion of relief.
2.	Apl. 20.	*35th Battn.	Left Sub-sector Reserve Line (Right Bn).	LAHOUSOYE.	VECQUEMENT - PONT NOYELLES.	Middlesex Regiment.	To move at 2 p.m. upon completion of relief.
3.	Apl 20/21	*36th Battn.	VILLERS- BRATONNEUX.	LAHOUSOYE.	CORBIE.	2/Devon Regiment.	To move on completion of relief.
4	Apl 21/22	9th A.M.G. Company.	VILLERS-BRATONNEUX and Reserve Line.	DOMAY	CORBIE.	8th M.G. Battn.	To move to rejoin 3rd Aust.M.G.Bn. upon completion of relief.
5.	Apl 20/21	9th A.L. T.M. Bty	VILLERS- BRATONNEUX.	FRANVILLERS.	CORBIE.	To be notified.	To move upon completion of relief.
6.	Apl. 21	33rd Battn.	DOVES.	LAHOUSOYE.	--	--	By bus or route march; arrangements to be notified.

- * 1. A distance of 200 yards between Platoons is to be maintained on the march.
2. Units will take every precaution to prevent observation by hostile aircraft.

SECRET.

Brigade H.Q.	Bde. Signal Sect.
33rd Battalion.	34th Battalion.
35th "	36th "
9th A.L.T.M.Bty.	9th A.M.G.Coy.
9th Aust.Fld.Amb.	Bde.T'port Off.
869th Coy. A.A.SG.	58th Division.
8th Division.	3rd Aust.Div.
5th Aust.Div.	10th A.I.Bde.
11th A.I.Bde.	War Diary.

Brigade Headquarters.
20th April 1918.

Reference 9th Australian Infantry Brigade Order
No. 25 of 19th instant.

1. Upon completion of relief Brigade Headquarters
will close at BLANGY-TRONVILLE and reopen at FRECHENCOURT at the same
hour.

2. Upon arrival in the new area a Brigade Relay
Post will be established at LAHOUSSEY.

Haslam
Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

JB.

SECRET.

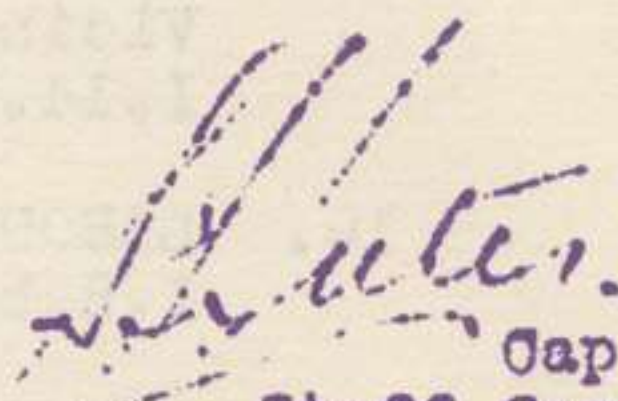
Copy No. 13.....

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
24th April, 1918.ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 2 - ISSUED UNDER NINTH AUST.
INFANTRY BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 25.Reserves of ammunition will be distributed throughout
Second Zone, as per list overleaf.Dumping of Ammunition in the BRIDGE-HEAD LINE will be
carried out by the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade.The Dumps in the three successive systems, excepting dumps
Nos. 14 and 17, will be made by the Brigades at present respon-
sible for the Areas.Dump No. 17 will be arranged by Divisional Headquarters,
and will be used as an alternative Ammunition Re-filling point,
to Dump No. 14, if necessary.

Dump No. 18 is already in existence.

The 3rd Battalion will provide guards over Dumps Nos. 1 -
2 - 3 - 4 and 12.The 3rd Battalion will also supply notice boards on each
dump, viz. - No. 1

S.A.A. DUMP.



Captain.

Staff Captain.

Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1-4	Brigade Headquarters
5	3rd Battalion
6	34th "
7	35th "
8	36th "
9	9th A.M.G. Company
10	9th A.L.T. Battery
11-12	3rd Aust. Division.
13-15	War Diary
16	File.

(MR)

(P.T.O.)

ALIMENTATION SCHEME FOR DEFENSIVE ZONES:

DUMPS TO BE ESTABLISHED AS FOLLOWS:-

SYSTEM:	DUMP No.	LOCATION	S.A.A.	T.M.C.	GRENADES	S.O.S.
STREET C&D.-						
BRIDGE-HEAD LINE:	1.	I.29.b.6.5.	30,000	-	No.23,300	-
	2.	I.24.b.3.5.	30,000	-	No.23,300	-
	3.	J.15.c.5.8.	30,000	-	No.23,300	-
DAIZIEUX LINE:	4.	Vicinity of I.23.d.8.6.	25,000	500	No.23,1000 No.35,200	12
	5.	Vicinity of DONNAY I.16.b.7.9.	25,000	500	No.23,1000 No.34,1000 No.35,200	12
	6.	HEILLY Brickworks I.6.b.2.7.	25,000	500	No.23,1000 No.35,200	12
	7.	G.30.c.9.7.	10,000			
FRANVILLERS SYSTEM:	8.	Vicinity of I.13.c.7.4.	50,000	100	No.23,1000 No.35,200	
	9.	BOIS ESCARDONNEUSE Vicinity of I.14.b.9.6.	10,000	500		
	10.	LAHOUSSEYE I.8.b. or d.	50,000	500	No.23,1000 No.35,200 No.34,1000	
	11.	Vicinity of FRANVILLERS G.23.c.5.2.	50,000	500	No.23,1000 No.35,200	
LAHOUSSEYE SYSTEM:	12.	H.30.c.7.3.	10,000			
	13.	I.13.c.7.4.	(see FRANVILLERS SYSTEM).			
	14.	I.7. Central	50,000			
	15.	G.26.c.7.6.	50,000			
	16.	Wood - G.20.d.4.5. (Wagon Lines)	50,000			
	17.	B.30.b.4.7.	100,000			
ST. GRATIEN LINE:	18.	(Divisional reserve for Forward Systems) - B.20.d.6.2.	500,000	2,000	No.23,5000 No.35,2000	

Brigade Headquarters,
9th Aust. Inf. Bde.
24-4-1918.

(E.H.R.)

SECRET.Copy No. ¹³.....NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.Brigade Headquarters,
24th April, 1918.ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION No. 3 - ISSUED UNDER NINTH
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 25.
-----R E S E R V E R A T I O N S .1,600 Iron Rations.
1,600 Rations of Water.

have been stored in the vicinity of Reserve Ammunition Dumps
at Sheet 62D - I.29.b.6.3. - I.24.b.3.5. and J.13.c.5.8., for
the defence of the Bridge-Head Line.

Captain.
Staff Captain.
Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1-4	Brigade Headquarters
5	33rd Battalion.
5	34th "
6	35th "
7	36th "
8	36th "
9	9th A.M.G. Company
10	9th A.L.T. Batty.
11-12	3rd Aust. Division.
13-15	War Diary
16	F i l e.

(MR)

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Copy No.

Brigade Headquarters,
30th April, 1918.ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 4 - ISSUED WITH FIFTH
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 25.**1. BATTLE STRAGGLER POSTS:**

The following are the existing Battle Straggler Posts in "D" Divisional Area,

Post No. 1 - BONNAY - on Bridge over River.

" " 2 - BELLEVILLE - " " "

" " 3 - BELLERIVE - at Cross Roads at D.27.b.2.0.

Each post is at present manned by 4 men, and one M.M.P. and is visited every four hours by a cyclist patrol.

2. On the outbreak of further offensive operations, the following arrangements will come into force:-

(a) Each of the existing will be augmented by 1 N.C.O. and 4 other ranks.

(b) The following post will be manned by one N.C.O. and 4 other ranks. This system of posts will be known as the second line.

Post No. 1 South East of PONT NOVELLES at Cross Roads

(H.13.g.5.3).

" " 2 East of PONT NOVELLES on AMIENS-ALBERT Road,

(H.12.g.4.2).

" " 3 Cross Roads AMIENS-ALBERT BETHENCOURT-CORBIE Roads,

(I.2.d.6.3).

" " 4 Cross Roads AMIENS-ALBERT FRANVILLERS-BONNAY Roads.

" " 5 Cross Roads AMIENS-ALBERT FRANVILLERS-BELLEVILLE Roads.

(c) An Officer patrol will be established for each Battle Straggler Post System.

(d) The N.C.O. in charge of each Post will be in possession of:-

(i) List of his duties in writing, with special instructions re stragglers who are unarmed.

(ii) A list of the locations of units.

3. The Divisional Straggler Collecting Station and P.O.W. Cage are situated at FRANVILLERS.

4. TRAFFIC CONTROL:

The following are the existing Traffic Control Posts in "D" Divisional Area:-

No. 1 Post - BONNAY

" 2 " - BELLEVILLE

" 3 " - At Divisional Boundary, G.23.b.2.0. - to prevent motor lorries proceeding North on this Road.

" 4 " - At Divisional Boundary, G.25.a.2.0 - to prevent motor lorries proceeding North on this road.

" 5 " - ST. GRATIEN.

" 6 " - At Cross Roads, H.13.g.5.2. - To prevent motor lorries proceeding in the direction of FRENCH MOUNTAIN from PONT NOVELLES.

" 7 " - At H.27.b.3.0.

" 8 " - At H.27.b.3.4.

" 9 " - At H.17.a.5.3.

" 10 " - At H.16.b.0.1. - to prevent motor lorries using the QUERRIEU-ALONVILLE road.

" 11 " - At G.11.d.0.4. - to prevent motor lorries using the ALONVILLE-QUERRIEU road.

" 12 " - At Cross Roads at G.11.b.2.2.

5. In the event of instructions being issued in accordance with "G" Defensive Instructions Nos. 1 and 2, the following additional traffic control posts will be established :-

(P.T.O.)

5. TRAFFIC CONTROL (cont)

- No. 13 Post At Cross Roads, G.29.d. - to direct all traffic from HEILLY East through FRANVILLERS, and to warn all unauthorised transport proceeding Eastward towards ALBERT.
- " 14 " At Cross Roads G.29.a.8.9 - To direct all 3rd Australian Divisional traffic towards BEHENCOURT.
- " 15 " At G.19.a.0.5. - To direct all 3rd Australian Divisional Transport towards FRECHENCOURT, and to prevent transport and troops or other Divisions - with the exception of Artillery and Ambulances - from entering the Divisional Area.
- " 16 " At Cross Roads, B.30.b.3.7 - to regulate traffic.
- " 17 " At B.21.a.0.4. - To prevent Transport other than 3rd Australian Division from entering the Area - with the exception of Artillery and Ambulances.
- " 18 " At Cross Roads, near Church - ST. GRATIEN, to regulate all traffic.
- " 19 " At Cross Roads I.17.c.3.9 - to direct all traffic in the direction of LA HOUSOYE.
- " 20 " At I.2.d.7.3. - To prevent troops proceeding in the direction of BEHENCOURT from LA HOUSOYE.

NOTE: No. 2 Post will receive instructions to prevent all troops - other than those of Third Australian Division, Artillery and Ambulances, ~~and~~ from entering the Divisional Area.

6. A small quantity of S.A.A., Ammunition, will be dumped at each Battle Straggler Post for issue to Battle Stragglers, if necessary.

7. Divisional Salvage Officer will arrange to dump approximately 20 rifles at the Divisional Battle Straggler Station; in order to arm Stragglers if necessary.

8. All traffic proceeding from HEILLY in the direction of FRECHENCOURT or ST. GRATIEN, will move via FRANVILLERS.

All traffic proceeding from LA HOUSOYE in the direction of ST. GRATIEN or ALONVILLE, will move via QUERREY.

9. ACCOMMODATION: In the event of instructions being issued, in accordance with "G" Defensive Instructions Nos. 1 and 2, accommodation will be available as under if required :-

FIGHTING UNITS:

UNIT	FROM	TO
3rd Aust. Pion. Bn Hq.	HEILLY	FRECHENCOURT
9th Field Coy. Engrs	I.27.b.90.50	FRANVILLERS
10th Field Coy. Engrs	HEILLY	FRANVILLERS
11th Field Coy. Engrs.	BONNAY	LA HOUSOYE
3rd Aust. M.F. Bn.	RIDEMONT	LA HOUSOYE
Right Brigade Hqrs and Details	BONNAY	LA HOUSOYE
Left Brigade Hqrs and Details	HEILLY	FRANVILLERS.
Reserve Brigade Hqrs.	"	FRECHENCOURT
Troop 13th Light Horse	LA HOUSOYE	FRECHENCOURT
Platoon Cyclists	BONNAY	PONT NEVELLES.

(P.T.O.)

9. ACCOMMODATION: (cont)

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS:

A.P.M. P.O.W. Cage and Battle Stragglers Collecting Cages. Divisional Train Hqrs. H.Q. Coy. Div. Train	FRANVILLERS FRANVILLERS LA HOUSOYE	FRECHENCOURT ST. GRATIEN vicinity of ALONVILLE. FRECHENCOURT WOOD.
3 Bde. Coys Div. Train	PONT NOYELLES	ST. GRATIEN ST. GRATIEN FRECHENCOURT.
D.A.D.O.S. MOB. VET. SECTION Div. Salvage Coy.	PONT NOYELLES LAHOUSOYE LA HOUSOYE	

Artillery Unit	From	To
Headquarters, Right Group	J.19.a.8.5.	LA HOUSOYE
" Left Group	J.1.c.70.10	near FRANVILLERS.
3rd Aust. D. A. C.	PONT NOYELLES	Vicinity of ALONVILLE.
6th Army Brigade D.A.C.	G.25.c.3.1.	Vicinity of ST. GRATIEN.
3rd Army Brigade D.A.C.	H.15.a.25.25	Vicinity of ST. GRATIEN.
189th Army Bde. D.A.C	BEEHENCOURT	Vicinity of ALONVILLE.
108th Army Bde. D.A.C	H.15.b.3.6.	Vicinity of ALONVILLE.

WAGON LINES:

7th A.F.A. Brigade	G.19.a.15.60	Just N. of QUERRIEU.
8th A.F.A. Brigade	I.9.b.2.8.	" N. " "
189th Army Bde. R.F.A.	FRECHENCOURT	" N. " "
108th Army Bde. R.F.A.	H.17.d.	" N. " "
3rd Army Bde. R.F.A.	FRANVILLERS	FRECHENCOURT, just West of river.
6th Army Bde. R.F.A.	G.23.c.70.10	- do -
Div. A.R. P's.	S.A.A. 5 Grenades	
	I.7.d.10.05	G.24.b.6.7
	18 pdr. & 4.5" Hows.	&
	H.18.a.5.2.	D.14.a.

10. CORPS FIELD PUNISHMENT COMPOUND:

The Corps Field Punishment Compound is situated on the AMIENS ROAD, 1500 yards S.W. of POULAINVILLE (G2D - L.18.a.).

11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

[Signature]
Captain.
Staff Captain.
Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1-3	Brigade Hqrs.	Copy No. 9	Bde. Transport Off.
4	33rd Bn.	10-11	War Diary
5	34th Bn.	12	F 1 1 c.
6	35th Bn.		
7	9th A.M.G. Coy.		
8	9th A.L.F.M. Bty.		

(20)

ARMY FORM G.2121. - "G" FORM.

APPENDIX 15

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number.
I.G.108. 23. --- AAA.

Following from AUSTRALIAN Corps AAA Following from Corps on Right
begins AAA Prisoner captured last night East BOIS SENECAAT belongs
to 3/13th I.R. 13th Division; his Regiment relieved 160th I.R. 15th
Division night 22/23rd AAA A deserter came over to our lines this
morning opposite HANGARD AAA He is an Alsatian belonging to the 7th
Regiment Guards Field Artillery Guards Ersatz Division AAA He thinks
an attack on a large scale is intended for today or tomorrow batteries
have orders to stand to at dawn ready to limber up and move at a moment's
notice AAA The same order was given on March 20th AAA Large numbers
of troops have been moved up out of their billets and are bivouacked
close up near the front line AAA This was also done before offensive
March 20th AAA Ends AAA Addressed all concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division.
Time 6.25 p.m.



Army Form C, 2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 16

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.
C.H.J. 237.

Day of Month.
24.

In reply to No.
--

Following from 5th Australian Division begins AAA Situation
AAA Right Battalion in original position AAA Troops of Division
on right together with our troops have formed a flank as follows AAA
P.14.c.0.0 - through point 104 to a point 300 yards South of cross-
roads in 0.24.a. AAA 56th Battalion astride VILLERS-BRETONNEUX -
FOUILLOY Road in 16.b. and 17.a. AAA Ends AAAA Addressed all
concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 11.2 a.m.



Army Form G.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 17

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.
C.H.J.228.Day of Month.
24.

In reply to Number.

AAA

Following from 5th Australian Division begins AAA 14th
(Right) Brigade report 8.35 a.m. enemy advancing along VILLERS-
FOUILLOY Road AAA 56th Battalion are astride road along ridge
in O.17.c. and O.16.d. AAA 15th Infantry Brigade have been
ordered to continue flank of 56th Battalion until get touch
with troops 8th Division at discretion of G.O.C. 15th Brigade
AAA Battery R.H.A. to report to O.13.d. at disposal of G.O.C.
15th Brigade AAA Surmised enemy have VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AAA
Ends AAA Addressed all concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 10.45 a.m.



Army Form C.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 18

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

G.H.J.238.

24.

--

AAA.

Following from AUSTRALIAN Corps begins AAA Following from
3rd Corps timed 8.5 a.m. begins AAA Left Company Right Battalion
58th Division report 6.45 a.m. enemy advancing under smoke barrage
AAA French wireless report 7.15 a.m. AAA Enemy attacking
HANGARD AAA 8th Division report thick fog hampering operations
AAA Right Brigade Left Battalion Right Company report they have
been driven back along railway AAA Enemy using three tanks North
of railway AAA Counter-attack Battalion being employed to restore
situation AAA Ends AAA Addressed all concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time. 11.15 a.m.



Army Form C.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 19.

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA.
C.H.J.241. 24. --

The following from 4th Army timed 12.30 p.m. begins AAA After heavy three hours' bombardment enemy attacked about 6.30 a.m. from HANGARD to River SOMME AAA First hostile attack appears to have been repulsed AAA Later attack penetrated into BRETONNEUX and line now runs approximately from HANGARD to U.16.b. along original line - U.10.c. to U.5.central - O.36.c. AAA Thence obscure to O.29.central - O.24.c. - P.19. - G.2.8. - P.13.d. AAA Thence original line AAA Counter - attack with tanks being arranged to restore line AAA Ends AAA Addressed C.R.A. and three Brigades.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 2.10 p.m.

144



Army Form C.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 20

To

9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Senders Number.

C.H.J.243.

Day of Month.

24.

In reply to Number.

--

AAA.

Following from Australia. Corps begins AAA Following from
3rd Corps timed 12.45 p.m. begins AAA Situation AAA Line
reported to run as follows AAA From South to North U.28.b.5.0 -
cross-roads - U.22.d.4.6. - U.22.b.4.7 - U 22.a.3.9. - U.15.central
- CACHY inclusive AAA Situation North of this obscure AAA Enemy
reported to be in O.33.central, O.34.a. and c., and 34.b. and Left
Division report line from O.29.a. and B.24c. and D.19.c.-d. and b.
and thence original line as before AAA Heavy fighting continues
on whole of Right Division front AAA Also on right of Left Div-
ision front AAA Ends AAA

Addressed all concerned.

From

3rd Australian Division.

Time

3.25 p.m.



ARMY FORM G.2121. -- "C" FORM.

APPENDIX 21

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to number.	
C.H.J. 245.	24.	---	AAA.

5th Australian Division has been placed under the tactical
Command of the 3rd Corps from 3.0 p.m. today AAA

Addressed C.R.A., 9th, 10th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 4.5 p.m.



Army Form C.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 22

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Senders Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA.
C.H.J.248. 24.

Following from Fourth Army AAA Commences AAA Heavy fighting
has continued on whole of Right Corps front AAA Line now runs U.28.b.
5.0. - U.22.d.4.6. - U.22.b.4.7. - U.22.a.3.9. - U.15.central - U.9.a.5.0.
- U.3.central - U.34.a.5.9. - (round East edge of BOIS d'AQUENNE - O.28.
central - O.28.b.5.9. + O.23.c.5.5. - P.19.c.9.6. - P.19.b.9.8. - thence
as before AAA Counter-attack from West by 8th Division after suc-
ceeding of driving Germans out of BOIS d'AQUENNE was stopped by machine
gun fire from VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AAA Further counter-attacks are
being organised AAA Small attack on Left Corps 4.30 a.m. East of VAIRE
driven off with heavy casualties AAA

Addressed C.R.A., 9th, 10th and 11th Aust. Inf. Bdes.

From 3rd Australian Division.
Time 6.55 p.m.



Army Form G. 2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 23.

To

W.I.B. (9th Australian Infantry Brigade).

Sender's Number .
S.B. 18.

Day of Month.
24.

In reply to Number.

--

AAA.

Two Zeppelins moving West over just North of ALBERT at 11.30 pm.

From

Third Army.

Time

11.53 p.m.

Appendix. 24

Appendix. 24

Army Form G.2121. -- "G" Form.

APPENDIX 24

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA.
G.H.J.251. 25.

Following from AUSTRALIAN Corps begins AAA 13th and 15th
Infantry Brigades reported to have done well and to be East of VILLERS.
BRETONNEUX AAA Prisoner states enemy attack will probably be
resumed this morning AAA Our Flying Corps dawn patrols will make
every effort locate our line East of BRETONNEUX and watch for hostile
concentrations AAA Prisoner states four Divisions to be employed
North of BRETONNEUX Road and one Division South of it AAA Ends
AAA

Addressed all concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division
Time 7.45 a.m.





Army Form G.2121. -- "Cw Form.

APPENDIX 25

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.

G.B. 74.

Day of Month.

25.

In reply to Number

AAA.

Right Division reports enemy in large numbers advancing in

P.26.a. 222 and c. and P.25.d. AAA

Addressed all concerned.

From Third Australian Division.

Time 2.10 p.m.



Army Form C.2121. -- "C" Form.

APPENDIX 26

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA.
G.B.75. 25.

At 2 p.m. a strong enemy attack against 15th Australian Infantry Brigade broke down under our artillery and machine gun fire which caused many casualties AAA Our line now firmly established East of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX AAA Captured reported 1,000 prisoners, over hundred machine guns, 2 field guns and believed 2 German Tanks AAA

Addressed all units.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 4.40 p.m.

144
SECRET.

APPENDIX 27
13
NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Reference map:
62 D. 1/40,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
25th April 1918

OPERATION CIRCULAR No. 1.

"General Defensive Policy and
Role of Reserve Brigade."

1. The Division is at present holding the line from J.24.c. to D.24.d. with 11th Australian Infantry Brigade on the right and 10th Australian Infantry Brigade on the left. The tactical boundaries are as shown on the attached map "A".

2. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade is in Divisional Reserve and is known as the Reserve Brigade.

(a) The Reserve Brigade (either whole or in part) may be employed to reinforce or counter-attack in any part of the Divisional forward area, or on its immediate flanks. G.O.s. of units and as many other Officers as possible should therefore familiarise themselves with all routes, localities and defences in the forward zone.

(b) One Battalion (35th Battalion) will be specially detailed as a garrison of the BRIDGEHEAD LINE which will be occupied upon orders from Divisional Headquarters. When the BRIDGEHEAD LINE is occupied the garrison will come under the command of G.O.C. Right Brigade. The 35th Battalion may be previously ordered to move to a position of readiness in the neighbourhood of DONKEY to be selected by the G.O. beforehand. Brigade Headquarters will be informed of the locality selected.

(c) Nucleus garrisons will be told off for the ANCHOR extension of the BAIZIEUX System (First System Second Zone) from the vicinity of I.22.c.0.0. to the road junction at I.17.a.3.7 (both inclusive), and from I.17.a.3.7 (exclusive) to HEILLY at J.1.c.7,8, and will occupy same when ordered. 34th and 36th Battalions will furnish these garrisons when ordered by Brigade Headquarters, the boundary between Battalions to be at a point in I.11.c. to be arranged mutually by G.O.s. of units concerned.

3. The essential features within the Divisional Area are as hereunder. These will be held at all costs.

(a) The spur running South from J.29.b. because this is the Southern bulwark of our whole position, and its loss would help the enemy to outflank us.

(b) MARETT WOOD spur, because our retention of this spur denies the enemy command of an observation into the ANCHOR VALLEY West of TREUX.

(c) The spur in D.22.a. and c. because its retention by us prevents the enemy from outflanking both this Division and the Division on our left.

4. In the event of enemy attacks the policy will be to retain the positions now held by us.

P.T.O.

71

5. The lines of defence in rear of our forward system are as shown on the attached Map "A". Instructions with reference to the occupation of these lines are being forwarded to Battalion Commanders confidentially.

6. The principle of detailing nucleus garrisons to the defences immediately in front of all troops disposed as supports and reserves will be adhered to (vide 2(c)).

7. The BRIDGEHEAD LINE is shown on the attached Map "A". This line normally will be occupied when ordered by Divisional Headquarters by troops in Divisional Reserve. Battalion Commanders will make the necessary reconnaissance. The duty of holding the BRIDGEHEAD LINE now devolves upon the 35th Battalion, vide 2(b).

8. Artillery action is to constitute one of the chief means of maintaining an active defence. This is achieving its object by:

- (a) Harassing fire;
- (b) engaging enemy assembly positions;
- (c) vigorous counter-battery work; and
- (d) heavy counter-preparation according to pre-arranged plans.

9. Acknowledge.

[Handwritten signature]

Major
Brigade Major

9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution.

Copy Nos.	1-3	Brigade H.Q.
	4	35th Battalion.
	5	34th "
	6	35th "
	7	36th "
	8	9th A.L.T.M. Bty.
	9	Brigade Signal Section.
	* 10	10th Aust. Inf. Bde.
	* 11	11th Aust. Inf. Bde.
	12-14	War Diary.
	15	File.

* No maps issued with Copies Nos. 10 and 11.

J2.



APPENDIX 28

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

RETURN SHOWING CASUALTIES INCURRED
BY THE BRIGADE FOR APRIL, 1918.

DATE.	KILLED.		DIED OF WOUNDS.		MISSING.		WOUNDED.		GASSED.	
	Off.	O/R.	Offs.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off	O/R.	Off.	O/R.
1918.										
April 1				2				10		
2		1		1		1		6		
3		7						16		
4	4	74	1	2	1	68	13	416		
5		8		7		5	2	63		
6	1	4		1		4		14		
7		1		5				7		
8		1						3		
9		1					1	15		
10		2		1				9		
11		1						4		
12	3	19				3	4	39		
13								4		
14		1		1		3		5		
15								6		1
16						3		16	16	347
17								3	16	158
18		2						2		36
19									2	67
20										9
21										3
22										22
23										14
24									1	9
25									2	5
26										7
27										
28										
29										
30										
TOTALS	8	122	1	20	1	83	20	643	37	669.



APPENDIX 29

To

9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA.
G.251.	27.	---	

Following from Fourth Army AAA Begins AAA Following from G.H.Q.
 10.20 p.m. 26th AAA Enemy attacked heavily this morning on front LOCRE
 - LA CLYTTE on both sides of YPRES-COMINES Canal AAA After being
 repulsed three times with heavy losses he succeeded in taking LOCRE
 and also made some progress astride the YPRES-COMINES Canal AAA All
 attacks on the SCHERPENBERG and LA CLYTTE were repulsed AAA Our
 line between BA LLEUL and CANAL believed to be approximately: KOUDEKOUT -
 farm, immediately West of LOCRE - East of SCHERPENBERG - N.8.central -
 KEMMEL BEEK - ELZENWALE - HILL 60 - all inclusive AAA 55th Division
 carried out a local operation North of GIVENCHY and captured 40 pris-
 oners AAA On remainder of front no change; last reports state that
 LOCRE was retaken by the French at 8 p.m. this evening AAA

Addressed all concerned.

From Third Australian Division.

Time 11.10 a.m.



APPENDIX 30

To 9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA.
C.H.J. 256. 27. ---

Report from 15th Australian Infantry Brigade timed 8.15 am.

AAA Begins AAA Enemy now digging in 400 yards in front of our
Left Battalion AAA Our artillery causing many casualties as he is
approximately digging in on our S.O.S. line AAA The enemy advanced
in mass and slaughter caused by our artillery was terrible AAA All
arrangements well in hand for counter-attack by us if necessary AAA
Ends AAA Addressed all concerned.

From 3rd Australian Division.

Time 11.50 a.m.

SECRET

Copy No. 22

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 23

Authority: 3rd Aust. Div.
Q.103/13/1 dated
28th April 1918.

Brigade Headquarters.
29th April 1918.

1. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will be reorganised on a "three-Battalion" basis as from 4 p.m. 30th April 1918.

2. In order to effect the reorganisation required in para. 1, the 36th Battalion will be withdrawn from the Brigade and will form the Training Battalion.

3. All officers and other ranks (except personnel of the Battalion Staff) of 36th Battalion will be absorbed in and distributed among the remaining Battalions of the Brigade as follows:-

"A", "B" and "C" Coys. to 33rd Battalion
"D" Coy. (less 2 Plat.) to 35th Battalion
2 Platoons "D" Company to 34th Battalion.

4. The personnel of the Battalion Staff remaining with 36th Battalion and which it is not desired to absorb in or transfer to the other Battalions or the Brigade, will be sent, together with the Battalion records, to the Divisional Reinforcement Wing, whence they will in due course be despatched to A.I.F. Depots to become the Training Battalion of the Brigade; this will in future be known by the numerical designation of the 36th Battalion.

5.(a) Officers of 36th Battalion will remain with their units on going over to 33rd, 34th and 35th Battalions but will not be shown as transferred until the approval for transfer has been given by the G.O.C. A.I.F.

(b) The transfer of other ranks of 36th Battalion will be carried out, subject only to the usual notifications to Third Echelon.

6. Separate detailed instructions will be issued to govern the following:

- (i) The disposal of Regimental funds to the credit of the 36th Battalion, of band instruments and music, and all other Regimental property and equipment;
- (ii) The disposal of Regimental transport 36th Battalion.

7. Acknowledge.

J. J. Paine

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

J2.

P.F.O. for distribution.

- 2 -

Distribution.

Copy Nos.	1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
	4	Brigade Signal Section.
	5	3rd Battalion.
	6	34th "
	7	35th "
	8	36th "
	9	9th A.L.T.H. Bty.
	10	9th Field Coy. A.E.
	11	9th Aust. Field Ambulance.
	12	66th Company A.A.S.C.
	13-24	3rd Australian Division.
	15	C.R.A.
	16	C.R.E.
	17	10th Aust. Inf. Bde.
	18	11th Aust. Inf. Bde.
	19	3rd Aust. M.G. Bn.
	20	A. D. M. S.
	21-23	War Diary.
	24	File.

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SECRET

77
APPENDIX. 31

Copy No. 22

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Issued in conjunction with

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE : ORD R NO 25

Authority : 3rd Aust
Divisional "Q" 102/13/1
dated 28th April 1918.

Brigade Headquarters,
29th April 1918.

1. The reorganization of the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will be carried out as from 4 p.m. 30th April 1918 as follows :-

C.P. ARCOMBIL
of 36th Bn.

- (a) "A" "B" and "C" Companies to 3rd Battalion.
"D" Coy (less 2 Platoons) to 36th Battalion.
2 Platoons "D" Coy to 14th Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters (less Assistant Adjutant, Quartermaster, Orderly Room Staff and Band) to 3rd Battalion. 36th Battalion Band will be equally distributed between 3rd, 14th and 36th Battalions and will be taken on strength for purpose of returns but will be attached to 9th Brigade Headquarters for rations and duty.

The 36th Battalion Transport personnel will be transferred in equal proportion to 3rd, 14th and 36th Battalions, but will remain with 36th Battalion transport pending further instructions.

- (b) On completion of reorganization the under-mentioned administrative personnel of 36th Battalion will be sent to the Divisional Wing together with 36th Bn. records whence they will in due course be despatched to A.I.F. Depots to become the Training Battalion of the Brigade.-

Assistant Adjutant,
Quartermaster
Orderly Room Staff

- (c) Officers will be attached to Battalions with their men but will not be transferred pending approval of G.O.C., A.I.F.

- (d) All personnel will report to new units between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. 30.4.18.

2. REGIMENTAL
EQUIPMENT.

The 3rd, 14th, and 36th Battalions will indent on Q.M. 36th Battalion forthwith to replenish shortages in regimental equipment, to be complete by 4 p.m. 30.4.18. A complete inventory in duplicate of all equipment not absorbed in this way will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters as soon as possible after 4 p.m. 30.4.18.

36th Battalion Signal equipment will be handed over complete to 3rd Battalion. 3rd Battalion equipment will be returned immediately to Brigade Signal Office.

4. TRANSPORT.

36th Battalion Transport Officer will report to Brigade F.O. for instructions at 4 p.m. 30.4.18.

A complete detailed state of transport personnel, vehicles, animals and harness will be rendered to Brigade Headquarters forthwith.

(P.T.O.).

2.

5. REGIMENTAL FUNDS AND BAND.

All Regimental Funds to the credit of 36th Battalion will be transferred to Brigade Headquarters and will be utilized at the discretion of the G.O.C. Brigade for benefit of troops in the Brigade.

36th Battalion Band Instruments and music will be taken over by Brigade Headquarters.

6. RATIONS.

36th Battalion will forward a Ration State to 869th Company A.A.S.C. by 8 p.m. 29.4.18 showing distribution of 36th Battalion personnel.

O.C. 869th Coy. A.S.C. will arrange necessary transfer of rations.

7. STATES.

3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions will forward a "Marching in" State to reach Brigade Headquarters by 8 p.m. 30.4.18.

36th Battalion will forward a "Marched out" State showing distribution by same time.

8. OFFICERS.

All Battalions will forward to Brigade Headquarters by 12 noon 1st proximo, a nominal roll of Officers by Companies and any recommendations for the consequential rearrangement of Battalion Staffs.

CAPTAIN
Staff Captain

9th Australian Infantry Brigade

Distribution :-

Copy Nos	1 - 3	Brigade Headquarters
	4	Brigade Signal Section
	5	3rd Battalion
	6	4th Battalion
	7	5th Battalion
	8	36th Battalion
	9	9th A.L.T. Battery
	10	9th Field Coy A.E.
	11	9th Aust Field Ambulance
	12	869th Coy A.A.S.C.
	13 - 14	3rd Aust. Division,
	15	C.R.A.
	16	C.R.E.
	17	10th Aust Inf Bde.
	18	11th " " "
	19	3rd Aust M.G. Bn.
	20	A.D.H.S.
	21 - 23	War Diary
	24	File.

(EJF).

app 32

SECRET.

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No 27.

Copy No. ...

Ref. maps:-- G.S.D. 1/40,000.
G.S.D. M.E. 1/40,000.
G.S.D. M.W. 1/20,000.

Brigade Headquarters.
29th April 1918.

1. The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade in the Right Brigade Area on the 30th April/1st May and the 1st/2nd May 1918 in accordance with Table "A" overleaf.

2. Command of the Right Brigade Area will pass to the G.O.C. 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. upon completion of relief on the 1st/2nd May when Brigade Headquarters will be established at HEILLY.

3. The 33rd Battalion will remain in the "D" Battalion Area and will be made tactically available to the G.O.C. 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. should necessity arise for the employment of four Battalions on the Right Brigade front.

4. The 33rd Battalion will take over from 43rd and 44th Battalions the duty of furnishing nucleus garrisons at present provided by "C" and "D" Battalions as well as the two Sections detailed as escorts to the two 18-pdr. anti-Tank guns.

5. South-east of the River ANCRE a distance of 50 yards between Sections and North-west of the River ANCRE 100 yards between Platoons will be maintained during relief.

6. Units will notify completion of relief to Brigade Headquarters in code by wire.

7. All Defence Schemes, secret maps, works policies, etc. will be taken over upon relief.

8. Subject to the terms of this Order the relief will be carried out under mutual arrangements to be made between Commanding Officers concerned.

9. Separate administrative instructions will be issued.

10. Acknowledge.

J. H. Bain

Major
Brigade Major
9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

D i s t r i b u t i o n .

Copy No. 1-5 Brigade H.Q.
4 Bde. Signal Sect.
5 33rd Battalion.
6 34th "
7 35th "
8 36th "
9 9th A.L.F.M. Bty.
10 9th Field Coy A.E.
11 11th Field Coy A.E.
12 3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn.

Copy No. 13 Right Group Arty.
14 10th Aust. Inf. Bde.
15 11th Aust. Inf. Bde.
16-17 3rd Aust. Div.
18 C.E.A.
19 C.R.E.
20 A.D.M.S.
21 3rd Aust. M.G. Bn.
22-24 War Diary.
25 File.

T A B L E "A".

To accompany 9th Aust. Inf Bde. Order
No. 27, dated 30th April 1918

Ref. maps:-- 62D. 1/40,000.
62D.N.E. 1/20,000.
62D.N.W. 1/20,000.

Serial Number.	Date.	Unit.	From.	To.	In relief of:	Remarks.
1.	30th April/ 1st May.	35th Battalion.	LAHOUSSEYE.	"B" Bn. Area.	23rd Battalion.	Not to move from billets before 7.30 p.m. To march via HELLY.
2.	1st/2nd May	H.Q. 9th A.I. Bde.	FRANVILLERS.	I.14.a.1.1 (Rear). HELLY (Forward).	H.Q. 11th A.I. Bde.	
3.	1st/2nd May	34th Battalion.	FRANVILLERS.	"A" Bn. Area.	41st Battalion.	Not to move from billets before 7.30 p.m. To march via HELLY.
4.	1st/2nd May	33rd Battalion.	LAHOUSSEYE.	"C" Bn. Area.	43rd Bn. and elements of 44th Bn vide para.4.	Not to move from billets before 7.30 p.m. To move via BONMAY bridges but not to enter BONMAY. Upon relief 43rd Bn moves to "D" Battalion Area.
5.	1st/2nd May	9th A. L. T.M. Bty.	FRANVILLERS.	Right Brigade Area.		Details to be arranged by O's O.

SECRET

Copy No.....

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

To be read in conjunction with

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No 27

1. TRANSPORT LINES.

Transport Lines will remain as at present, at FRECHENCOURT WOOD, with following exceptions :-

- A. Cookers in Forward Zone with Battalions
- B. 7 Water Carts do do
- C. 2 G.S. Limbers per Battalion at Q.M. STORES
- D. 2 " Limbers per Battalion with Brigade Emergency Mobile Dump at I.23.d.8.3.

2. SUPPLIES & Q.M. STORES

(a) Battalion Quartermasters will mutually arrange with their opposite numbers, for any move of Q.M. Stores and will notify Brigade Headquarters of any change.

(b) Supplies will be delivered to Q.M. Stores by Supply Wagons; thence to Units in line by two limbers attached to Q.M.'s.

3. COOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Existing arrangements will be taken over by "A", "B" and "C" Battalions.

Water will be taken forward to Cookers by Water Carts and forward of that by carrier in petrol tins.

4. AMMUNITION.

(a) All Battalions will take over any ammunition dumped in the trenches and will forward receipts in duplicate to Brigade Headquarters. A.P. must be taken over in the trenches for Anti Tank defences.

(b) The Brigade Forward Emergency Mobile Dump will be at I.23.d.8.3. in charge of Lieut WESTBURY, 35th Battalion, and will contain :-
100,000 S.A.A. and Tools.

(c) Battalions will draw on this dump to refit ordinary line requirements and also battle requirements on message to Officer-in-charge.

(d) Units will forward expenditure of S.A.A., Grenades and T.M.A. and estimated requirements daily by 10 a.m. to Brigade Headquarters.

5. GUN BOOTS.

"A", "B" and "C" Battalions will take over all Gun Boots in Sector and forward receipts to Brigade H.Q.

6. MEDICAL

Scheme of Evacuations from Right Brigade Sector & Right Battalion :-

From R.A.P. located at J.23.d.1.8. by hand carriage to J.28 central and R.A.P. J.21.c.6.4. by hand carriage to J.23.a.9.0. - both cleared by hand carriage to I.30.c.6.5. - then by Motor Ambulance to A.D.S. 1.4.b.8 - thence by Motor Transport to H.D.S. at Chateau at H.10.a.9.4.

(P.T.O.)

6. MEDICAL (Contd).

Left Battalion :-

From R.A.P. J.11.b.2.2. (Battalion in line) by hand carriage to Loading Post J.3.d.2.2. and R.A.P. J.13.o. Central (Battalion in support) - both cleared by Motor Ambulance via BONNAY to A.D.S. I.4.b.8.0. - thence to M.D.S. at Chateau at H.10.a.9.4.

[Signature]

CAPTAIN
Staff Captain

9th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Distribution :-

Copies No	1	2	3	
				Brigade Headquarters
				Brigade Signal Section
				33rd Battalion
				34th Battalion
				35th Battalion
				36th Battalion
				9th A.L.T.M. Battery
				9th Field Coy A.E.
				11th do
				3rd Aust Pioneer Battalion
				Right Group Arty.
				10th Aust Inf Bde.
				11th do
	16	-	17	3rd Aust Division.
				C.R.A.
				C.R.D.
				A.D.M.S.
				3rd Aust M.G. Bn.
	22	-	24	War Diary
			25	File.

(WJF).

SECRET

ADDENDUM TO ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Issued in conjunction withNINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO 27.
-----Brigade Headquarters
30th April 1918.

1. The following parties will be relieved by 11th Australian Infantry Brigade on May 1st 1918 at times stated :-

- (a) Pipe laying Party at present supplied by 33rd Battalion. 33rd Battalion will work until 11 a.m. 1st May when they will be relieved by 11th Brigade.
- (b) 2 Men at D.A.D.O.S. handling dirty clothing at present supplied by 33rd Battalion - by 4 p.m.
- (c) 1 Sgt., 1 Cpl., and 10 men at A.R.P. boxing empties, at present supplied by 33rd Battalion - by 4 p.m.
- (d) S.A.A., Ration and Water Dumps Nos. 1, 2 and 3 at present supplied by 33rd Battalion - by 4 p.m.
- (e) Bridge Guard 1 Cpl and 8 men at present supplied by 34th Battalion - by 4 p.m.
- (f) Demolition of Wells as under :-

1 man FRANVILLERS at present supplied by	9th TMB.	
1 man LA HOUSSEY do do	33rd Bn - by 4 p.	
1 man PONT NOYELLES do do	do - by 4 p.	

 (Holes down).

2. 33rd Battalion will supply the following duties at present supplied by 11th Brigade, relief to be complete by 12 noon 1st May 1918. 33rd Battalion will arrange for rations.

- (a) Ammunition Dumps :

I.8.o.9.7.	1	0/R
I.14.b.95.50	1	"
I.13.b.8.9.	1	"
I.13.o.6.3.	1	"

 1 N.C.O. will be placed in charge of these 4 dumps.

- (b) Bridge Guards :-
 - 2 N.C.O.'s and 6 men for guard over Emergency Bridge east of BONNAY.
 - 1 N.C.O. and 3 men guard for Bridge west of BONNAY.

3. TRENCH AND AREA STORES : All Trench and Area Stores including Tents, Trench Shelters, Gum Boots, Reserve Rations, and Ammunition Dumps in the Forward area will be taken over, and duplicate copies of receipts forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours after relief. Solidified Paraffin will be taken over by units.

[Signature]
CAPTAIN
Staff Captain 9th Australian Inf Brigade.

Distribution :-

Brigade Headquarters	3	Copies
33/34/35th Battalions	1	" each
9th A.L.T.M. Battery	1	"
11th Aust Inf Brigade	1	"
5rd Australian Division	2	"
War Diary	3	"
File	1	"



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

RETURN SHOWING REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED FOR THE BRIGADE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1918.

33RD BATTALION.	34TH BATTALION.	35TH BATTALION.	36TH BATTN	9TH A.L.T.MBty
Offs. O/R.	Offs. O/R.	Offs. O/R.	Off O/R.	Offs. O/R.

5 67.

4 67.

5 61.

2 78.

3.

S U M M A R Y.

Officers. Other ranks.

33rd Battalion .	5	67.
34th Battalion .	4	67.
35th Battalion .	5	61.
36th Battalion .	2	78.
9th A.L.T.M. Bty.		3.

TOTAL FOR BRIGADE : 16 276.

REPORT ON GAS SHELL BOMBARDMENT OF VILLERS-BRETONNEUX -
BOIS D'AQUENNE AND BOIS L'ABBE ON 17TH AND 18TH APRIL, 1918.
(Reference Sheet - 62D - 1/40,000.)

1. The areas shelled were the town of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - the two woods close to the town on the West side, and the undulating country between these and the village of CACHY; i.e., Squares U. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

2. The times of shelling were :-

17th April	- 4.0 a.m.	- 9.30 a.m.
"	5.0 p.m.	- 6.0 p.m.
18th April	- 4.30 a.m.	- 9.0 a.m.

3. Shells used were 7.7 cm, 10.5 cm and 15 cm, "blinds" of each calibre being picked up, while others of larger size were most probably used.

On VILLERS-BRETONNEUX from 8,000 to 9,000 shells fell chiefly YELLOW CROSS while on the Woods in addition about 3,000 fell including GREEN CROSS as well as YELLOW CROSS.

4. The units of this Brigade concerned were 33rd Battalion, 9th A.L.F.M. Battery and the 9th A.M.G. Company in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, the 34th and 35th Battalions in BOIS d'AQUENNE and BOIS L'ABBE. The Western end of the latter was affected very little by the shelling as the light North wind blowing carried the gas well away.

5. The casualties which were considerable were largely due to the fact that, though Respirators were promptly put on and worn for some considerable time, they were removed too soon, owing to the smell of gas becoming less pronounced.

In one case direct hits were made on a cellar containing a considerable number of men.

Casualties occurred for several days after the shelling, evacuations taking place as late as 26th April, 1918.

A few shells were used again on the morning of 20th April, on working parties in the support trenches - about 20 rounds falling in the vicinity. Respirators were at once put on, but owing to the high wind prevailing, the gas was dissipated almost immediately, and no further shelling took place.

H. H. D. D. D. Captain.
Brigade Gas Officer.

Ninth Australian Infantry Brigade.

Brigade Headquarters,
30th April, 1918.

(EMR).

[illegible]

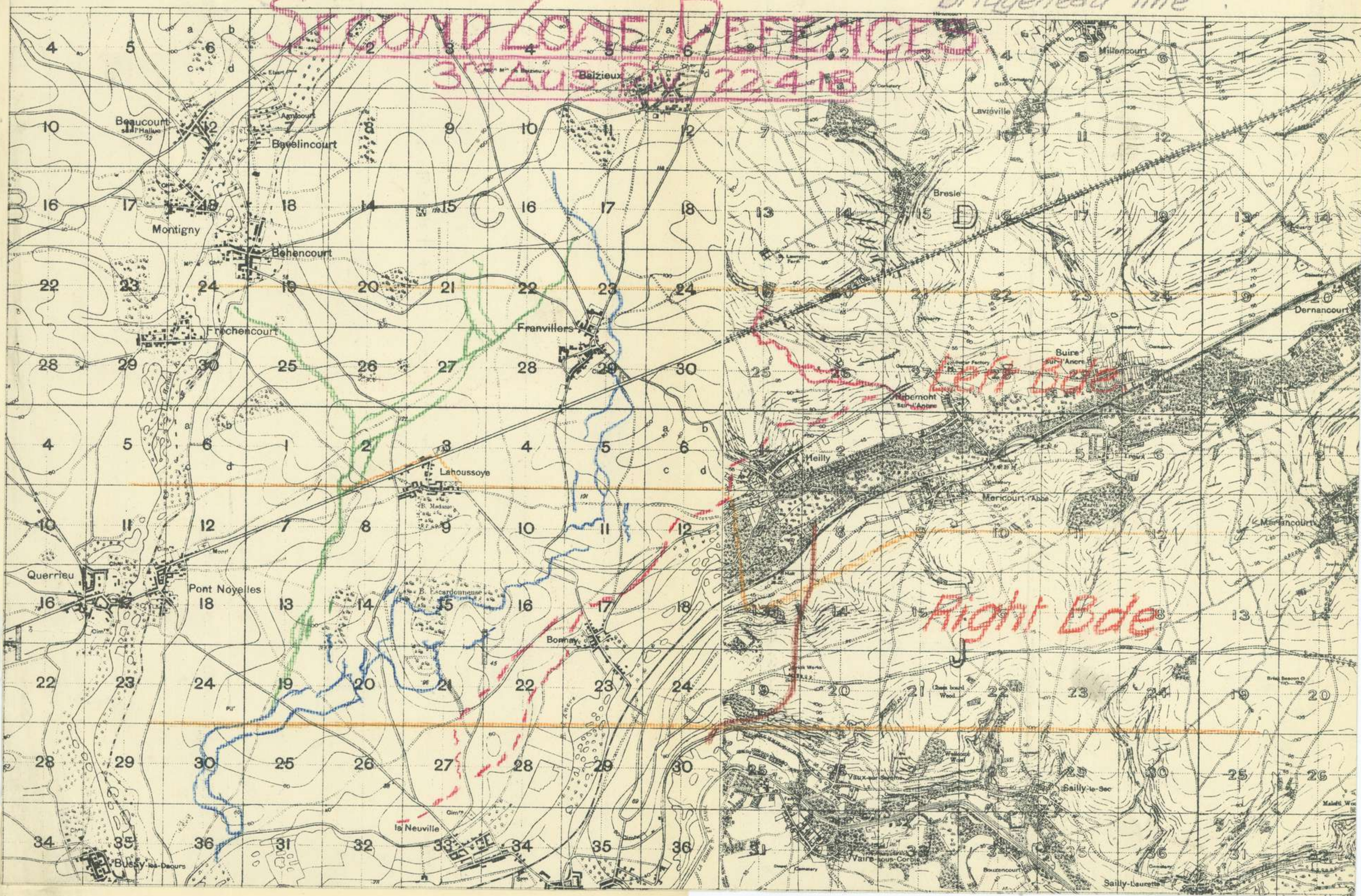
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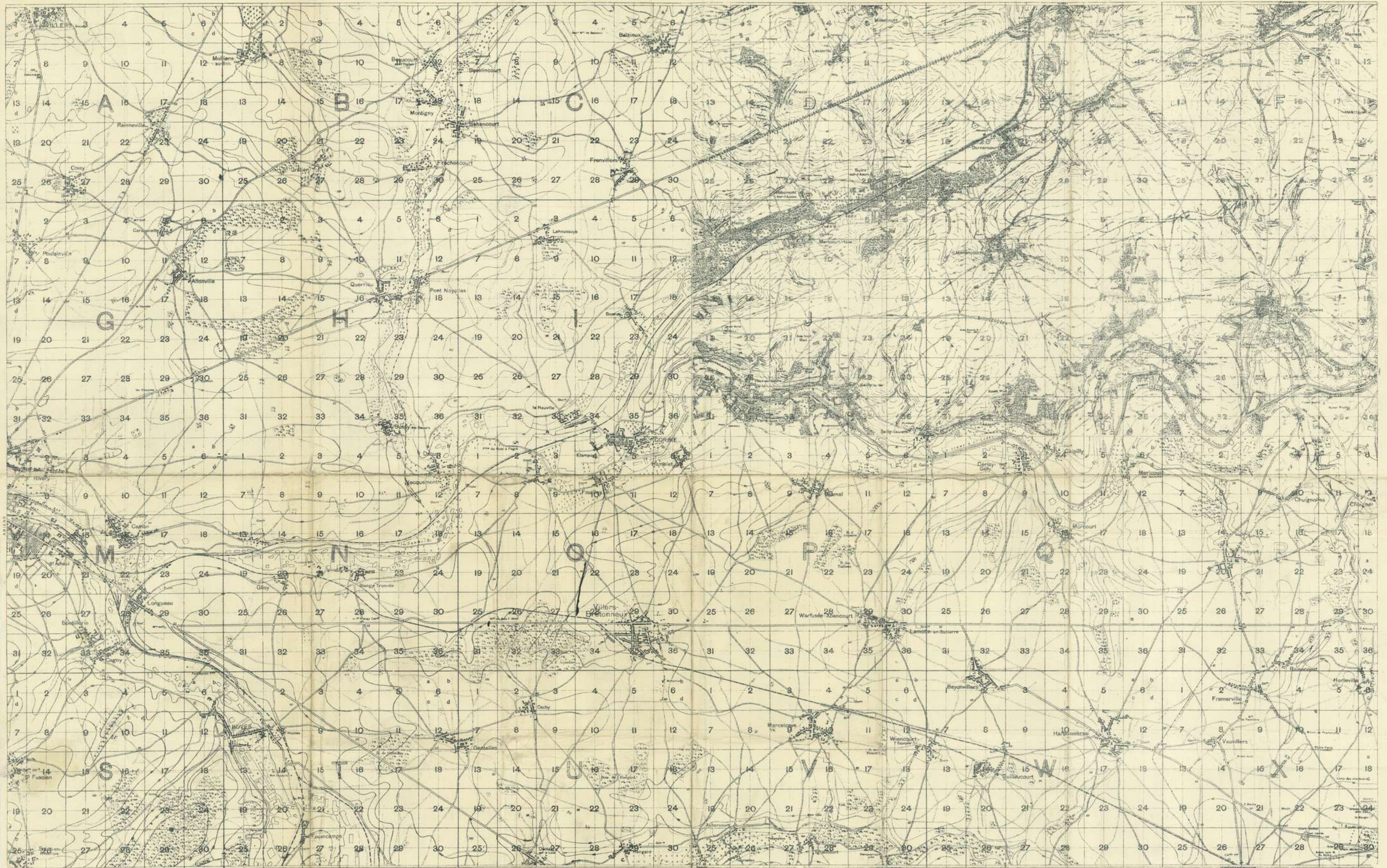
FRANCE

Baizieux defences. Copy 180713
Franvillers
Lahoussoye
Bridgehead line
25.4.1918

SECOND ZONE DEFENCES
3rd AUS DIV 22.4.18



1:40,000



1:40,000

Geographical Survey (R.B.)
March 1918.

89

3 lines with
4 lines with
H.C.O. 10
L.H.C.

Sheet
62D
140000

Appendix

Appendix

