

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/121/8

Title: 8th Australian Light Trench Mortar
Battery

June 1918



AWM4-13/121/8

18,000-12/17-8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL. ✓
DUPLICATE.
TRIPPLICATE.

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.
No. 282
Date

282

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

June 191 *8*

Signature of Officer compiling

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Handwritten Signature]

Original

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Army Form C. 2118.
Page 1. 282

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WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VAUX. Sur Somme.	June 1st		Visibility Good, Weather, Fine and Clear, Both Artilleries active, Both our own and Enemy Aeroplanes were very active. Several Bombs were dropped by Enemy Planes behind our lines.	
	2/6/18		<p>On the night of the 1st/2nd The Battery was relieved in the line by the 13th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery. Relieved Gun crews then proceeded to Battery Headquarters where hot tea awaited them.</p> <p>At 3 am The Battery then fell in and marched out of old Battery Headquarters and proceeded En Route to "Rivery" This being the Corps Reserve Area.</p> <p>A halt was made at the "AUBIGNY RESERVE" Line where a substantial hot breakfast awaited them.</p> <p>At 9 am we renewed our March and arrived at our destination "RIVERY" at 12.30 P.M. All through the march the men were very cheerful singing and whistling the whole journey, and marched splendidly after doing a tour of duty in the line of fifty three (53) days.</p> <p>A good Hot meal was provided and ^{the} men had a good rest.</p>	

Baker Capt
 8th AUSTRALIAN
 LIGHT TRENCH
 MORTAR BATTERY.
 No.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY	3/6/18.		Day was devoted to cleaning up billets, clothes, Rifles and as much rest as possible.	
Dicker Capt	4/6/18.		During the day revetments were built around the horse lines. Limbers were washed and taken to pieces ready for repainting. Men enjoying a good rest and getting ready for Brigade Aquatic Sports.	
8th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY	5/6/18.		Equipment and Harness washed and cleaned up, Limbers repainted. Everything looking spick and span. Men making good use of their time off, practicing for Swimming Events which are to take place on the 10th inst.	
	6/6/18.		Parade 9.30 am Fighting Order. Subjects, Rifle inspections, Rapid loading exercise, and Gun drill.	
	7/6/18.		Afternoon was devoted to training for Brigade Sports. At different times during the day the men nominated for the Swimming Events went down to the baths to do their swim trial swim over the distance for which they had entered for	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY.	8/6/18 9/6/18.		During the day all men of this unit were inoculated, and were given a period of 48 hours. No duty, ^{So the men} enjoyed themselves out on the canals in small rowing boats in this way they are able to keep themselves fit and well for anything they may be called upon to do.	
	10/6/18.		Brigade Aquatic Sports were held in the Swimming Baths at Rivery, our Battery men were very successful thus obtaining (8) eight firsts and (1) one second out of (10) ten events for the day. 50 yds was won by Pte Turley. 100 yds Pte Gill was successful in the 100 yds. Relay Race was captured by our Relay Team, Pte Turley carried off the 220 yds. Pte Mc Ockendon won the cigarette race. Greasy Sole was won by Pte Harper. Neat and Fancy Diving won by Pte Cameron, Pte Alexander gained second place in the 880 yds. The last event brought the days events to a close.	
	11/4/18.		Parade 9-30 am Fighting Order. Subjects, Physical training Rifle exercises and Gun drill, Swimming Parade in the afternoon.	
	12/4/18.		Parade 9-30 Fighting Order, Subjects. Physical Training, Rifle Exercises, Gun Drill and Bayonet Fighting, In the afternoon the final events of the Brigade Aquatic Sports were carried out, several of our men were again successful.	

Quaker Capt

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.
No.
Date.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIVERY.	13/6/18.		<p>Capt. H. Walker, the Officer commanding this unit proceeded to make a reconnaissance of the Line prior to taking over from the 7th Aust L I M Bty.</p> <p>All Blankets were fumigated during the morning.</p> <p>At 12.30 P.M. Lt J. Ranson with 50 Ranks proceeded as advance party to take over Battery Headquarters and trench stores prior to the moving up to the line of the remainder of the Battery.</p> <p>At 5.30 P.M. 120 Ranks marched out of present billets to the Staging Camp at AMENIOS as a nucleus for this unit. From Aménios they will proceed to the 5th Divisional Nucleus Camp.</p>	
	14/6/18.		<p>Reveille 4.30 am after partaking of a good substantial breakfast. Limbers were loaded, and billets thoroughly cleaned up. Battery personnel fell in Lighting Order and proceeded to Embus at 7.30 am.</p> <p>At 8 am Motor Lorries moved off en route for PONT NOYELLES. After leaving the Lorries we marched to a Staging Hill and remained for the rest of the day. Battery personnel then had a cold meal and plenty of hot tea was provided then had a good rest prior to proceeding to the line.</p>	

Walker Capt
8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
La Hourroye.	14/6/18.		At 9 P.M. Battery moved off to relieve the 7th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery and arrived at Battery Headquarters at 11 P.M. After having a rest the men for the line moved off to relieve the gun crews of the 7th Battery. Relief successfully carried out by 2 am on the following morning the 15th inst without casualties.	
	15/6/18.		Visibility Good. Weather fine and clear. Both Artilleries fairly quiet all day. Towards evening our artillery was very active. Slight retaliation from the enemy. Aircraft very active. No casualties.	
	16/6/18.		A new S.O.S. Gun emplacement was established at K 25, A 10.10. Our Aircraft very active. Flying at very low altitudes over Enemy Lines dropping bombs and firing at Enemy troops and transport. We did not carry out any operations during the period. Both artilleries active. (We suffered no casualties.) We did not fire during the period under review owing to the pressure of work in preparing the new emplacements for the Defensives. We also constructed two (2) Emplacements for the immediate Support Guns at T 24. B 95. 92. and T 24. B 95. 95. The object of this work is as follows:	

8th AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. _____
Date 17/6/18.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17/4/18		Should the outpost line be forced to withdraw, The Guns would fire upon the intervening ground between our present front and support lines. Should the support line be forced to withdraw the guns would be used as the situation demanded. Defence Scheme prepared and distributed, and shown as Appendix 'A.' (we suffered one casualty)	
	18/4/18		During the period the following targets were engaged by our Guns and good results obtained. Enemy Post and Machine Gun positions at K13 B.7.7. and Hostile post at K13 B.6.5. Enemy Machine Gun at K31.A.15.95. This machine gun was very active prior to our shoot but has not fired since. The Infantry on our extreme right post say that direct hits were obtained. A hostile sap at K13.B.0.9. was also engaged, also K13.B.7.8. where the enemy was working upon a new belt of wire, enemy party was scattered by the bursting of several of our shells in their midst. The enemy retaliated to the above shoots with light Minnie's and Heavy trench mortar fire, which fell in rear of our guns, and did no damage to any trenches or personnel. (We suffered no casualties)	
			Total Ammunition Expended 120 Rounds.	

Quaker left

8TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	19/6/18		<p>During the day. Showery. Making visibility Bad, Both Artilleries active. The following targets were engaged during the period with excellent results</p> <p>Enemy Machine Guns at K14 c 5.0. and K14 c 6.0.</p> <p>Enemy Trench Mortars at K14 c 7.0 and K14 c 8.0. Also K14 c 6.6.</p> <p>Direct hits being obtained on all positions fired upon</p> <p>We also fired upon active Enemy Machine Guns at K31. a 15.95 and T30 d 90.10.</p> <p>Also at K31. A 50.80. and K25. A 85.00. Hostile posts at K25 b 25.20 and traversed to K25 d 20.80. The shooting was very effective, as the Machine Guns were very active prior to our shoot, But have remained silent since</p> <p>During the day a few Registration shots shots were fired on the above targets. Total Ammunition expended 150 Rds. (we suffered No casualties)</p> <p>Visibility fair, Both Artilleries very active, Aircraft quiet</p> <p>Hostile Machine Gun at K14 A 75.5. was engaged and silenced by our guns.</p> <p>Owing to the heavy Hostile Barrage, and other indications of an attack All Guns and personnel were ordered to "stand to" and our guns were ranged on their S.O.S. lines. But the expected attack did not take place.</p> <p>Total Ammunition Expended 15 Rds and "No Casualties"</p>	

Decker Capt

OC
8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.
Date. 20/6/18.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21/4/18		<p>Visibility fair. Weather fine and clear. Both Artilleries very active. New Battle placements were made at K7 d 10.10, and also at K13 B 10.10. Ammunition was prepared and carried to these new positions in readiness for the 30th Battalion's minor operations. We also fired upon the following enemy posts and Machine Gun positions at K20 A 15.80, and K20 A 45.35. also a nest of Machine Guns and French Mortars at K20 A 70.95. Direct hits being obtained. Everything remained quiet after our shooting.</p>	
	22/4/18		<p>Total Ammunition Expended 60 Pds. We suffered no casualties. During the period we fired upon enemy posts at K25 b 3.2. and traversed to K25 D 25.70. No hostile retaliation followed.</p>	
	23/4/18		<p>Capt. Allen reported that loud cries were heard during our shoot. New battle placements now complete and registration carried out, direct hits being obtained. All is now in readiness for the raid which is to take place on the night 22nd/23rd of June. "No casualties"</p>	
	23/4/18		<p>At Zero hour 12-15 am we co-operated with the 30th Battalion in their Minor Operation as follows. At Zero to Zero plus 3 minutes we fired</p>	

Platoon Capt
8th AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/6/18		<p>contd. upon the hostile posts in the communication trench at approximately K13 b 6.7.</p> <p>At Zero plus 3 minutes to Zero plus 15 minutes we barraged the shell hole line running from K13 b 40.98 to K7 d 4.2.</p> <p>At Zero to Zero plus 15 minutes we fired upon the hostile posts at approximately K13 b 7.2 and K13 b 9.2 to K13 b 9.5. There was no hostile Machine Gun fire during the operation. This Raid turned out a total success. Our total expenditure being 370 Rds. We suffered "No Casualties".</p> <p>In conjunction with the above operation we also carried out a small diversion on the extreme right of our sector as follows.</p> <p>At Zero to Zero plus 3 minutes we engaged the hostile posts at K31 a 20.95 and K25 A D. 00. with 60 Rds. Enemy retaliated fairly quickly and heavily to our raid shooting, but it all fell more or less on our front and support lines. We suffered "No Casualties".</p> <p>Owing to the pressure of work for the forthcoming minor operation we did not fire during the period.</p> <p>But one (1) Gun was set upon our front line in accordance with a</p>	
	24/6/18			

Walker left

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. _____

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			could	
	24/6/18	plan	by the C.O. 30th Battalion, to meet an expected Hostile Raid	
	25/6/18		Lt. R. Pearson remained with the gun crew until an hour after dawn, but the raid did not eventuate.	
			During the night 500 Pounds were carried to our New Battle positions in readiness for 32nd Battalion's Minor Operation to take place on the night of 25/26 th of June.	
	26/6/18		At Zero hour 12.30 am we Co-operated in the Minor Operation of the 32nd Battalion.	
			At Zero six (6) Guns opened fire upon the Hostile line from K25.6 80.90, to K19 K19. d 95.70 with a hurricane bombardment lasting until Zero plus 1 minute. Then all guns switched on to Rear and Flank targets	
			Our Barrage was very effective and the Raiders were highly satisfied and congratulated our men on their work and also said that it was the finest Barrage ever put up by a Trench Mortar, they had ever been used.	
			Total Ammunition Expended being 480 Rds we suffered one Casualty. (one man slightly wounded)	
			This Raid was a great success, about 30 of the enemy being killed and several prisoners and a Machine Gun were captured.	

Decker Capt
OC

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No.

Date

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/6/18		<p>At about 1 am the 8th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery was relieved in the line by the 14th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery. After being relieved the guns crews proceeded to Battery Ad Orto. After having a rest marched off to take up a position as Reserve for the Division.</p> <p>They arrived at the Transport lines at about 4 am where a good substantial hot meal awaited them.</p> <p>After they had partaken of the meal and had a good days rest they started to make themselves comfortable by building for them selves a home in the midst of a very thick wood away from the observations of enemy aircraft that may happen to come over in this direction.</p> <p>These two days were devoted to cleaning up of clothes and Rifles etc also building revettments around the dug outs that the men had made for themselves, everybody seems to be comfortable.</p> <p>Men were paid and in the afternoon our Battery cricket team played a match with the Cyclists Battalion which ended in a victory for our team scores being 108 runs to 25 runs.</p>	
	30/6/18			

Diary left

8TH AUSTRALIAN
LIGHT TRENCH
MORTAR BATTERY.

No. 281-418
Date 29/6/18

8TH AUSTRALIAN 18,000-12/17-872
 LIGHT TRENCH
 MORTAR BATTERY.

No.
 Date. *28/2*

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery

FOR

June 191*8*

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

A.

Subject.

Refugee Scheme.

282

8th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery.

SECRET.
Copy No 6

Battery Headquarters.

17-16/18.

Herewith copy of Provisional Defence Scheme
For Light Trench Mortars on Right Brigade
Sector.

Please Acknowledge.

Waker. Capt.

O.C. 8th Aust Light Trench Mortar
Battery

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. Bde Hd Qtrs.
- No 2. O.C.
- No 3. Section Officers
- No 4. Left Line Battalion
- No 5. Right Line Battalion
- No 6 } War Diary.
- No 7 }
- No 8 }

Provisional Defence Scheme

Light Trench Mortars.

Right Brigade Sector.

A. Brigade

C Division

Australian troops.

Reference Sheet 62^D 40,000.

The Eight (8) Mortars of the 8th Aust Light Trench Mortar Battery are disposed upon the Brigade front, as follows:

- N^o 1. Gun is situated at K25 A.10.10. and is set upon a Zero line running through K25 C50.35. with a range of 650 yds.
- N^o 2. Gun is situated at K19 C50.15. and is set upon a Zero line running through K25 B5.8. with a range of 650 yds.
- N^o 3. Gun is situated at K13 B10.10. and is set upon a Zero line running through K14 A00.40. with a range of 550 yds.
- N^o 4. Gun is situated at K7 C80.70. and is set upon a Zero line running through K7 D5.7. with a range of 550 yds.
- N^o 5. Gun is situated at J24 B95.92. and is set upon a Zero line running through K13 D00.25 with a range of 800 yds.
- N^o 6. Gun is situated at J24 B95.95. and is set upon a Zero line running through K19 A40.50. with a range of 800 yds.
- N^o 7 } Guns are held in Reserve at Battery Head Arts M, J22 D00.55.
- N^o 8 }

The following tasks are allotted to the above guns:

- N^{os} 1, 2, 3, and 4. will open up with GUN FIRE immediately upon receipt of the S.O.S.
- (1) These guns would then fire until the last available moment, when guns if possible would be withdrawn to the nearest Ammunition dumps. (See Locations) failing this the guns would be destroyed and personnel would attach themselves to the nearest Infantry formation.
- (2) Should the front line be forced to withdraw to the support line N^o 5 and 6 guns would place down a Barrage upon the range and Zero lines set down above (NOTE) N^o 6 Gun would not fire until it had been ascertained that the trenches in the vicinity of K19 central were quite clear of our Infantry.
- (3) Should a hostile attack be made in force and the support line had to withdraw N^{os} 5 & 6 Guns would then be used as the situation demanded.
- (4) The Reserve guns and crews would be prepared to take up defensive positions of 6 cover local counter-attacks.
- (5) Communications are cut they will act as the situation demands under the orders of the C.O.'s Line Battalions.
- (6) Front line guns will at all times carry out an active offensive policy and the fullest co-operation between the guns in the line and the Companies whose sectors they are impleaced will be maintained.

In case of a gas cloud attack N^{os} 1, 2, 3, and 4. Guns will open a slow fire upon known hostile trenches. Any S.O.S. Barrage will not be placed down until receipt of S.O.S signal. Should the enemy attack with tanks the N.C.O.'s of guns will endeavour to engage same.

Locations.

T.M.C. Dumps.
K13 A.6.9.
K13 A 65.60.
K13 A 80.40.
K19 A 90.75
J24 D 6.1.
J24 C 65.15.
J17 B 30.55.
J22 D 00.55.

GUNS.
N^o 1 Gun K25 A.10.10.
N^o 2 " K19 C.50.15.
N^o 3 " K13 B.10.10.
N^o 4 " K7 C.80.70
N^o 5 " J24 B 95.92
N^o 6 " J24 B 95.95.
N^o 7 " Battery H.A.
N^o 8 " J22 D 00.55.

Headquarters.

Battery H.A. J22 D00.55.
Section H.A. J24 D95.95.

APPENDIX F
147.

Light Trench Mortar Defence Scheme Page 2.

Ammunition Supply

Ammunition is drawn from Bde Headquarters and is brought forward to Battery Headquarters by Limber, where it is prepared and then handled to the guns or Durups.
At least 100 Rounds per gun is kept at each gun position for purely S.O.S. purposes.

Signal. Communications

- (a) Battery Headquarters is in communication with Brigade Hd Qtrs, Battalions, and Section Head Qtrs by metallic ground cable through Right Line Battalion.
(b) Communications with the front line guns is maintained through Line Company Headquarters and by Runner service.

Medical Arrangements

Guns and personnel on "A" Battalion Sector: as for "A" Battalion.

Guns and personnel on "B" Battalion Sector: as for B Battalion.

Rations

Rations are brought forward each night to Battery Headquarters by Limber, and are then man handled to gun positions.
Hot food is cooked at Battery and Section Headquarters and sent forward in Hot Food Containers.
A small reserve of rations and water is kept at Battery Headquarters.

Walter Capt.

O.C. 8th Aust Light Trench Mortar
Battery.

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D E F E N C E S C H E M E.

SAILLY - le- SEC. Sector.

Ref. Map
France 62D 1/40,000.

17/6/18.

DESCRIPTION 1.
COMPOSITIONS.

The position to be held extends from the SOMME RIGHT (J.35.C.70.30.) to J.30.C.30.60 on the left. The Right on the SOMME CANAL is low and swampy ground. The centre and left are on the forward spurs of a high feature with a slight re-entrant on the right centre and another on the left centre. There are two spurs running forward on the centre and left, with an abrupt drop in front of the left half of the sector. A road, sunken in part, follows the valley which skirts the front from South to North. The Village of SAILLY-le-SEC is close in rear of the right of sector. In front of the right of the SOMME Valley is studded with trees. Opposite the centre, the ground rises abruptly in two terraces, with a sharp spur running North and South. On the left the ground rises abruptly for about 40 feet and then slopes gradually to a main feature. On the flank the valley narrows considerably and there is much dead ground on our side.

ENEMY'S
POSITION.

2. General Line running N.E. to K.19.C.60.00 The enemy's positions are on the main feature mentioned in para (1) with small posts on the forward slope from J.35.D.50.60. - J.36.A.50.00 to J.30.D.10.00 to J.35.D.50.00.

DEFENCES.

3. The defence is a distribution in depth. Two Coys. in front Line each supplying the picquet line in advance.

One Coy. is in support and one in Reserve. The 31st Battalion on the Right, or South side of Canal.

32nd. Battalion on the left.

30th Battalion in Reserve in valley J.27.A. J.19.C. The defence line is a continuous trench, except about 150 yards on the left which will be completed.

The picquet line is a succession of strong posts. A communication trench runs from J.29.C.60.80. to Left Company -

Wire. There are three belts of wire running along the whole front, one in front of picquet line and two in front of Main Line. Wire consists of low and medium barbed double apron and trip, which is fairly thick and is from 15 to 25 feet in depth.

Tactical diagonal wire is also being placed in front of main position.

DISPOSITIONS.

4. (a) One Coy. is on the Right from SOMME Canal to main SAILLY-le-SEC-SAILLY LAURETTE Road. J.35.B.05.60 (inclusive) with one platoon in the picquet line at J.35.C.80.80. two platoons in main line and one platoon in reserve at J.34.B.80.40.

Company Headquarters are situated at J.29.C.30.40. and advanced Company Headquarters at J.35.A. central.

(b) The Left Company holds from J.35.B.05.60. to J.30.C.30.60. with two platoons in the picquet line at J.35.B.55.45. and J.35.B.70.80. and two platoons in the Main Line. Company Headquarters are situated at J.29.D.20.00.

(c) Support Company. Two platoons at J.28.D.60.15.
Two platoons at J.28.D.30.30.

Company Headquarters at J.29.C.50.50.

(d) Reserve Company. One platoon at J.28.A.80.70.
Three platoons at J.28.B.00.20. Company Headquarters
at J.28.B.00.20.

(e) Battalion Headquarters are situated in Valley
at J.25.A.65.65.

VICKERS
GUNS.

There are 12 Guns on the sector covering our front and
left flank, they are situated as follows;-

J.28.B.50.30. J.28.B.65.80. J.28.D.05.60 J.28.D.50.80.
(with alternative position at J.28.B.25.10.) J.29.A.45.70
(with alternative position at J.23.C.10.05.) J.35.A.55.50
J.35.A.85.70. J.35.B.20.90. J.29.D.60.05. J.30.C.05.40.
J.30.C.10.70. J.30.A.15.45.

T.M's.

6. Two Medium 6" Newtons are in position at J.29.A.40.
50. for shooting on S.O.S.Line. In addition there
are 2 Mobile Guns in the sector.

Two Light Stokes Mortars are situated at J.29.D.60.50.
and cover the dead ground in the valley from J.30.C.
5.5. to J.30.A.60.30.

INTENTION.

7. (a) The main line must be held.

(b) The picquet line will be held as long as
possible and instructions for withdrawal therefrom
will only be given by Company Commanders, in which case
the withdrawal will be effected by successive small
parties in such a manner so as not to mask the fire
from the main line, which will be occupied by these
withdrawn. The picquets will supply their own local
reconnaissance.

(c) The main line must be held and no ground given.
Any withdrawal from this position will only be effected
on the orders of the Battalion Commander, and this in
turn from higher authority.

Mutual support will be given to Units on flanks, and
all dead ground will be covered from the flanks.

Colique and enfilade fire will be used to the fullest
extent, and the enemy is to be driven out of he obtains
a footing in any portion of sector.

In the event of any part of the line being attacked,
thoses on the flanks will assist either by making a box
or by pushing forward so as to form horns and envelope
the enemy party.

In the case of a general attack fire to kill all along
the line is to be maintained and mutual support is to
be given great consideration. No part of the line
is to give way and the bayonet will be used if necessary
for a final dash or counter-attack.

(d) All ranks are to be thoroughly conversant with
their part in the scheme to enable them to carry on
without leaders should the occasion arise.

(e) Support Company. Two platoons will support Right
Company and two platoons Left Company in case of
either of these being hard pressed. Officers and N.C.
Os. and proportion of men to reconnoitre shortest and
safest routes to the front Companies sectors.

(f) The Reserve Company is the Battalion Commanders
Reserve and will be thrown in where necessary. All
Officers and N.C.Os will reconnoitre the shortest
routes to the different parts of the Main Line, also
the communication trenches. In case of an attack or
threatened attack this Compant will at once assemble at
their platoon positions ready for any emergency.

(g) In case of attack Battalion Headquarters details
will at once take up defensive positions on the
plateau,

J

forward of Battalion Headquarters. These posts will form rallying points.

Companies will establish rallying points.

(h) If withdrawal is ordered, it will be carried out by successive units in sections, each Company sending back an Officer to select the next position. Every yard of ground is to be contested, with withdrawing being effected in short stages. Covering fire will be brought to bear to cover with withdrawal.

Wherever possible boxes will be made and ambushes laid. Where the valleys have steep banks, bombs be used to great effect. Once again the main points to remember are, mutual support, cover by fire, assisting the flanks, withdrawal by small parties under control, and in no cases are parties to go beyond the position selected.

S.O.S. LINES.

8. The S.O.S. Lines commence 250 yards forward of the picquet line.

RECONNAISSANCE.

9. (a) All picquets are responsible for local reconnaissance. In addition fighting patrols will be furnished by the Support Company. These will remain out all night. Their action will be to gain mastery of NO MAN'S LAND, locate enemy's posts and scupper the patrols.

(b) Front line Companies and posts are responsible for all with Companies. and posts on flanks.

AMMUNITION.

10. S.A.A. will be distributed in each post with a reserve Company Headquarters. Battalion dumps are situated at J.29.C.65.75. in Right Sap. and at Battalion Headquarters J.28.a.65.65. Mobile Reserve is with Q.M. at I.32.D.80.50.

R.E. MATERIAL.

11. A dump is situated at CRUCIFIX CORNER J.29.C.50.85.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT LEWIS GUNS.

12. Lewis Guns are mounted for Anti-aircraft defence at J.35.A.20.30. J.29.D.15.00. J.23.D.30.50. J.28.B.00.20. and J.28.A.65.65.

S.QRS. RELAY STATIONS. COMMUNICATIONS.

13. All front line Company Headquarters at J.29.C.50.50. and at J.28.b.05.40.

14. Communications between Battalion Headquarters and all Company Headquarters is maintained by Fullerphone and D.3. also to Bde. Headquarters and Left Lateral Battalion.

Between picquet line and Main line communication is by telephone.

There is a telephonic communication between Forward and Rear Battalion Headquarters via Bde. Headquarters. A direct line is being laid from Battalion Headquarters to 150th Army Brigade R.F.A. There is no visual communication forward. Visual Communication from J.28.b.00.40. Central Visual Station at J.19.D.3.9.

R.A.P.

15. At J.28.C.90.70.

WATER POINT.

16. At J.28.C.60.70.

KITCHENS.

17. At J.28.A.60.80. for Battalion Headquarters and Reserve Companies and at J.28.D.80.80. for Front Line and Support Companies. Rations are brought forward by limbers each night.

EMERGENCY
RATIONS

REAR BATTALION. 18. At J.26.A.65.65. - 600 Rations.

19. At I.30.B.10.55.

HEADQUARTERS

Q.M. STORES

TRANSPORT.

20. At I.32.d.80.50.

21. ACKNOWLEDGE.
