AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

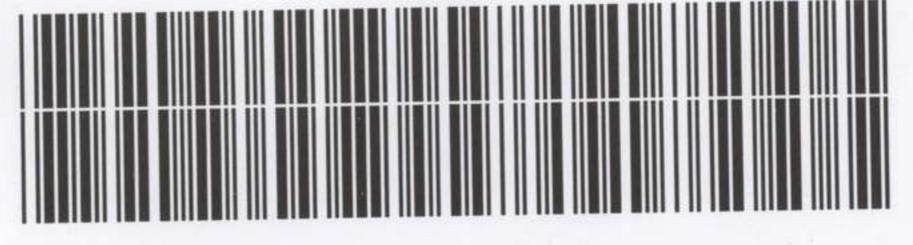
Engineers

Item number: 14/26/33

Title: 7th Field Company, Australian

Engineers

September 1918



AWM4-14/26/33

R.20,000-5/18-11069.

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL. DUPLICATE. TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

7TH FLD. COY. A.F.

FOR

SEPT. 1918



Slanature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding.

Sud ebb Myra

WAR DIARY 7th Field Company
or AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

Army Form C. 2118.

structions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

SEPTEMBER 1918.

| will be | prepared | in manus | ipt. (Erase heading not required.) | Remarks and |
|---------|----------|----------|---|-------------|
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Appendices |
| | | | Effective Strength:- Absent from Unit:- On leave - 2 Offs 12 O.R. Sick 3 O.R. On Duty - 2 " 12 O.R. Personnel on Duty:- C.R.E. 2nd Aust Div. 1 Officer . 3 O.R. C.E. Aust .Corps 7th Bde Concert Party 3 O.R. 7th Bde Cinema 1 O.R. 5th Bde Cinema 1 O.R. 2nd Aust Div Rest Post 1 O.R. R.E.Training School. Brigade Kit Store.Corbie 2 O.R. | |
| de l | | | Officers: - Officer Commanding. Major. E.N. Webb M.C. Captain L. Noedl M.C. Captain J.W. Bell (On leave U.K.) Subalterns. Lieut J.R. Fidler M.C. Lieut T.A. Lawrie. (On duty at C.R. E.) Lieut E.H. Oldham (On leave U.K.) Lieut W.C.D. Veale ECM. 2/Lieut G.R. McGowan. | |
| | | | Lieut J.C.Close. (Onduty with A. D. &. M.W. &. R. Coy. Later transferred) | |
| | | | =:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=: | |
| | | | D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14 | |

WAR DIARY

07

7th Field Company AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS. Army Form C. 2118.

00

Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages

SEPTEMBER 1918.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|-------|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ATTLE OF | OMNE. | 1st 4.30 | No 2 and 3 sections under Lt Veale "DCM" and 2/Lt McGowan, Captain Noedl "MC" i/c camped at H.30.b.3.7. Brigade attacked near Mt St Quentin and at the same time cleared the village of HALLE 12.0.R. with L.G. under Captain Noedl moved to SOMME CANAL and took up position in trench at I.25. a 1.9. for purpose of guarding bridge heads. Shelling extremely heavy up to 7.30 m. Priemers arrived and driven down from Mt Stquentin and Hille made their way across our temporary footbridge at I.19.a.25.25 and H.24.b.7.5. giving themselves up. Work commenced at 9.00 m to make good a route for F.A. & H.T. from south side of Canal to HALLE. No 3 section under Lt McGowan constructed pontoon and trestle bridge over Somme Canal at H.24.b.7.9. Lt McGowan joined 0.C. and No 3 section left i/c Sergt Worley. No 2 section in conjunction with Pigneers made good the traffic bridge at H.24.b.7.9 and erected notice boards. The road was opened up for traffic at 6.30pm. Work was delayed for half an hour about 4.30pm by heavy H.E.Shelling. Nos 1 and 4 sections moved into dugouts at I.7.a.65.65 Casualties were sustained during morning at Bivouac of 2 Killed and 9 wounded | |
| | 20d | | No.3 Section improved approaches to pontoon bridge and filled in shell holes on read in vicinity 6 bridge heads. No.2 Section improved traffic bridge at H.24.b.7.3., adjusted road bearers and fixed hand rails. Lt McGowan and 3 O.R. reconnoited forward area. Leut Fidler and 4 O.R. seconnoited area captured by 7th A.I.Bde during morning and accated Battn Hqrs. Major Webb reconnoited vicinity of HALLE. No.2 & 3 Sections worked shifts on improving traffic bridge at H.24.b.7.3. for motor transport and F.A. No.1 Section improved camp. | |
| | | | No.1 Section under Lieut Lawrie and Nos 2 & 3 Sections worked on the strengthening D D. & L., London, E C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14 | ~ |

7th Field Company. AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ttle of S | | 3rd | No 4 section opened up wells in FEUILLAUCOURT and ALLAINES. I with pump, other with windlass and signboards placed. Patrolled, cleared and improved road- OMIECOURT-CLERY Bridge to ALLAINES. No 1 section under Lt Lawrie and Nos 2 and 3 sections worked on the strengthening of bridge at H.2.4. b.7.3. to take F.M.T. Piers were strengthened and replaced, road bearers adjusted and whole bridge braced. Captain Noedl departed on leave U.K. No 4 section continued on maintenance of roads and placing noticeboards and burying dead horses- Collected salvage. Lt McGowan proceeded with 4. O.R. to new billets at G.23.d.0.0 (Eclusier). | ALTO CHARLES |
| clusier | 5th | | No 4 section and Part Nol section and H.Qrs and transport moved to new camp at G.25.d.0.0. at 9.30am arriving by 11.00am. No 1 remainder and No 2 section moved to G.23 d.0. arriving about 10.00pm. Nos 2 and 3 sec tions and part No 1 section worked on bridge working 10 hour whifts till 8.30pm. Bridge completed for 52 ton a xle loads at 8.30pm. | |
| | 6th | | No 3 section - 8 men finished off handrailing, kerbing, spiking etc of bridge and placed notice beards and No 3 section moved to G 23.d.0.0. at 3.00pm. Remainder of company resting. | |
| | 7th | | Parade held in morning and remainder of day spent in resting and cleaning up. | |
| | 8ti | | No 4 section constructed bridge across SOMME canal for Brigade Swimming canival Remainder rifle inspection, smartening drill - Afternoon - recreation. | |
| | 9t1 | | No 1 section Baths at Frise- erecting shed for Y.M.C.A. near bridge at ECLUSIER. No 2 and 3 sections Baths and Bombproofing Horse Lines. No 4 section Baths and a on 8th. All section transport washed down. | |
| | 10 | th | All sections paraded at 8.00am. Inspection of equipment, Remainder of morning spent cleaning and smartening equipment. Afternoon, bombproofing and painting transport. No 4 section completed bridge. D D. & L., London, E.C. (ASoo4) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14 | |

7th Field Company.
- AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

SEPTEMBER 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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

INTREATED AND THE NAME OF THE PARTY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| will be prepared in manuscript. | | 60L 6 |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Place Date Hour | Summery of Events and Information rel | nuflts and erences to ppendices |
| Eclusier . 11th | Sections painting transport, overhauling section equipment, salving bicycles, Bombprocfing etc, L.G. Class/and 4 sappers per section under Lt Fidler. | |
| 12th | L.G.Training and bombproofing Horse Lines. | |
| 13th | Bombproofing horselines, Oiling transport , L.G. Instruction. Afternoon . Group Sports. | |
| 14th | Morning. Inspection of sections with transport by C.C section movements and rifle exercises. Afternoon recreation. | |
| 15th | Overhauling and reloading pontoon equipment - Washing down transport | |
| 16th | DIVISIONAL SPORTS. | |
| 17th | Inspection of company by C.R.E. 2nd Aust Div. 3 sappers constructing delouser at Eclusier. | |
| 18th | Anti gas appliances inspected by Div Gas Officer - Gas Helmet Drill - Rifle exercises Lecture on Musketry - Musketry and range practice . Instruction in L.G. No 3 section. Carried out repairs to bridges and approaches at Cappy. 3 sappers working on delouser. | |
| 19th | Morning. Rifle exercises and section drill. Lecture on German Land Mines & booby traps. AFTERNOON. Musketry and range practice- Completion of bombproofing at Horse lines. Lewis Gun training. Construction of crosses for French Mission. Work on Brigade Delouser. | |
| 20 th | Washing transport. Lewis Gun training. Crosses for French Mission. Work on delouser Afternoon. Parade at 1.00pm. Inspection of Divisional Engineerss by C.E. Aust | |
| 21 st | Major. Webb departed on leave U.K. Bathouse (returned from leave and Memmander) No 2 section carrying oit improvements and repairs to Div .H.Qrs . | 4 |
| | 10.0.R. making crosses for French Mission- 1 officer and 4.0.R. instructing Battns out in the company of the shewive Gunt training - Section drill and rifle exercises. | 3 1 |

7th Field Company AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

SEPTEMBER 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Remarks and references to

Appendices

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. Hour Date Place 22nd Eclusier. 23rd 24th 25th

26th

27th

28th

29/30th.

Route March - L.G. Training- making crosses- Topo instruction- party inspected Div & Company crosses at Pozieres. Captain Noedl rejoined ex leave.

Summary of Events and Information

Baths and recreation.

No 2 section work at Cappy. - Nos 1.3.& 4 sections. Musketry and rifle exercises -Party repaired Cresses of Division and Company at Pozieres and Tara Hill respt. L.G.Training- Bde Delouser completed. REMEMBER

Foute March- No 2 section continued work at Cappy -Party constructing Coy Delouser. Remainder - Route March.

No 2 section completed work at Cappy- Remainder of Company - Route March in Battle Order L.G. Training.

Company route March battle order - L.G Training. Company moved to COURCELLES area at 8.45pm and occupied camp vacated by 11th Fld Coy. A AT J33.a.4.6. The distance coveredwas short about 12 miles but owing to darkness of the night and much movement of troops progress was slow and company did not arrive at destination until 2.00 am 28th.

Company moved to J. 17.b.9.8. Tincourt area at 7.30pm. Two sections occupied Nissen Bow Huts, the remainder of the company constructed improvised shelters.

0

29 Company remained at TINCOURT awaiting orders to move forward.

L. Noedl Captain. Officer Compiling Diary.

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Courcelles.

Tuncourt

WAR DIARY

OF

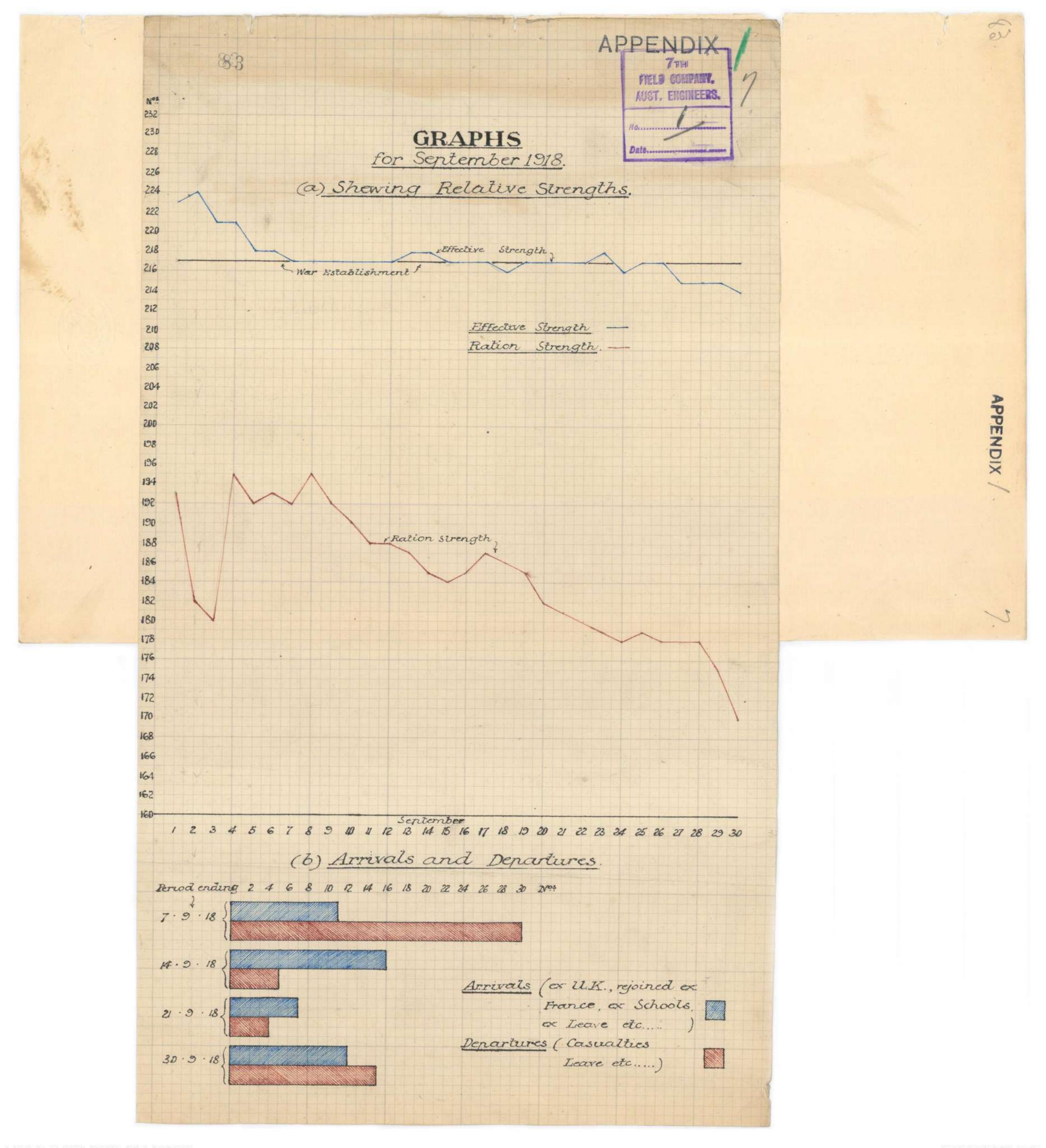
7th Field Company Australian Engineers.

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDIUES.

Subject. No. Graphs of Strength & Wastage. Orign'l Only. Transport Officer's Report All copies. Monthly statement of Q.MS Branch Divisional Engineer Instruction No 58 Orign'l Only. Brigade Order No 220 Brigade Order No 221 7Div Engineer Order No 59 Brigade Order No 224 9. 2nd Aust Div Engrs Memo 18/155 10. Company Order No 1034 All copies. Orign'l Only. 11. 7th A.I.Bde Instruction No 1 Company Orders 28/9/18 All copies. 7th A.I.Bde 251/49 & Order No 225 Orign'l Only. Report on operations 27/8/18 -6/9/18. Orig & Tripl. " Only. Works Map. 15. Plans of Sketches . Bridges over Somme /16.



7th Field Company Australian Engineers. APPENDIX 8

30/9/18.

When the company moved back to the vicinity of Eclusier on 5/9/18 a position for horse lines was selected close to Headquarters.

The sudden change in the weather made it necessary for wind screens to be erected and a fiar amount of bombproofing being done also, in less than a week after our arrival, we had quite a comfortable quarters for horses.

On the 9th. Sept. 38 L.D. Horses were handed over to the Australian Field Artillery, some going to the 4th and 5th A.F.A.Bdes.

In nearly every case the horses were in good condition and in exchange we received from Artillery 14 mules clean an and mostly in good condition.

The same day we also received 25 mules from the Remount depot, most of these being dirty; they were immediately dipped and precautions taken to prevent an outbreak of skin disease.

Advantage was taken of the abundance of grass in the vicinity and everyday mules and horses were turned out for grazing and towards the end of the month Veterinary Officers expressed satisfaction at the general condition of both horses and mules and lines.

At the beginning the drivers were not at all pleased at having to part with their horses for mules, but although they have not yet had them a month, they are mostly convinced that most of their teams are the better for the exchange.

The Chief difficulty was the alterations necessary to the harness, but by the time the company moved forward again on the 27th Sept. this had all been completed- mules, harness and transport generally were quite up to standard.

15/10/18.

J.R.FIDLER Lieut. 7th Field Company.A.E.



Sand.

ARTICLES drawn from D.A.D.O.S. To replace those rendered U.S. by the exigencies of the Campaign. 18 Prs Boots Ankle. 36 Jackets S.D. 19 Hats A.P.
50 Prs Laces Boot. 4 Housewifes 25 prs Puttees
28 Prs Braces. 36 Nets Hay 46 Bags Nose.
26 Prs Breeches M.S. 10 Brushes Dandy 3 Brushes Water Carriage 20 " D.S. 14 Respirators S.B. 3 Containers .S.B.R. 4 Rasps Farriers. 2 prs Spurs Jack 4 Clasp Knives 4 Kettles Camp 1 Knife Farriers 3 Files Saw
2 Bicycles G.S. 2 Compasses Prism. 1 Clam Saddlers
1 pr Clippers Horse 6 whips Driving 2 Breechings 56 Fthms 2" white 2 prs Drag Ropes. 2 combs. Cordade 1 Haversack O.S.

To Replace expendable stores. 30 lbsSoda10 lbssoftsoap97 BarsSoap Yellow340 ydsFlannelketse10 lbsDubbin12 sheetsemery122 Muleshoes16 Horseshoes1 lbResin30 pts0ilLub45 PrsTipBootTipBootToe 120 Fthms Rope White 52 Fthms 1" Whte Rope 29 Lashings 12 pensils carpenters 2 tubes rubber solution 6 Awl Blades 1 Hide B.P. Rivets & washer 7 lbs White paint

7 lbs Black Paint.

To replace articles Lost In action

57 Badges Australia 43 Badges R. Suns Large 2 Bicycles G.S. 1 Towel.

As a first Supply.

200 Chevrons Blue 4 Chevrons Jacket. 4 shevrons Red

Drawn from 2nd Aust Div R. E. DUMP to replace Lost In action.

Salvage returned to Refilling Point.

Paper 26 lbs. Cardboard 21 Lbs. Jam Cartons 192 Bags of Tins for solder extraction Fat 50 lbs.

Nonning

SECOND AUSTR LIAN DIVISIONAL ENGINEER INSTRUCTION NO. 58.

Reference Map 620 N.W. 1/20,000.

1. The 7th Field Coy. will repair road from H.12.5.2.4. CLERY-sur-SOMME-I.7.a. and b.-I.8.a.-I.2.d.-I.2.c. to HAUT ALLAINES as soon as situation permits.

- 2. The 6th Field Coy. will repair road from I.19.b.3.2.-I.20.a. and C. thence N.E. to I.27.a.-I.21.central-I.15.d. to I.16.a., and also road from I.22.b.3.5. to I.11.d.9.9. as soon as situation permits.
- S. The 5th Field Coy, will be in reserve and will carry out the collowing max works:-

Erection of Horse Trougham near Lock at G.24.c.central.

erect canvas troughing (to be replaced later by permanent structure) on North side of SOMME as soon as situation permits.

They will also be available for providing accommodation of D.H.Q. on north side of SOMME and will make early reconnaissance for same.

4. The 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will take over and maintain the follow-

H.8.d.9.5. at FEUILLIERES and pontoon bridge at H.24.d.7.9.

Repair and maintain the following bridges across the SOMME River and CANAL -

Infantry in Filex bridge H.24.d.65.95. to I.19.a.30.65.

" " " " I.19.c.25.05. to I.19.d.0.9.

" " " H.15.b.95.70.

Horse transport bridge H.12.b.2.7.

" " H.17.a.50.95.

" " H.24.d.7.9. to HALLE.

The 2nd Aust. Pioneer En will also repair and maintain road across River SOMME at H.24.a. through HALLE to Mt.St.QUENTIN, also road from FEULLECOURT -I.19.a. and c.-I.15.b.-I.16.c. to I.22.d.5.5. as soon as situation permits.

5. WATER SUPPLY A water detail will be allotted to each Field Coy. who will test all water samples obtained from wells by the Field Coys. to whom they are attached.

2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. will test all wells that are likely to be

used by Div. Troops.

Field, Coys. and Pioneers will post up notices at wells as soon as t tested and immediately notify this office, giving full particulars.

- are affiliated where engineer advice and work is necessary.
- 7. This programme of work will come into operation by 6 p.m. on 2nd instant.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE. (Field Coys and Pioneer only).

1/9/18.

Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

DISTRIBUTION

I. C.E. Aust. Corps.

2. "G" 2nd Aust. Division.

2. uda a a a

4. 5th Field Cov.

5. 6th " "

8. 7th " "

6. 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn.

. 5 h A.I.Bde

8. 6tm "

10. 7th "

12. File

12-13-14. War Diary.

SECRET.

Order Mo. 220.

Reference Haps Sheets 62 C. H.E. 1/20,000

Headquarter, 7th
September 21 PELE COMPANY,
AUST ENGINEERS.

10

(a) The 7th L.I. Brigade will carry out an at Rok on the morning of September 2nd 1918, in conjunction with the 14th A.I. Brigade on the Light and the 229th Bri. de on the left.

(b) Zero hour is 5:50 a.m.

(c) The 7th L.I. Brigade will form up on the start line already indicated, and pass through in its battle formations through the 6th A.I. Brigade.

2. (a) The objective of the 7th L.I. Brigade is a defensive flank, the line of which runs from I.13.a.2.2. -KOROS ALLEY - RUPPLECHT TRENCH - ST. DENIS-AZICOURT LA. . HAUTE Road to AZICOURT LA HAUTE inclusive.

All ground between the southern boundary of the 229th Brigade and the line of the defensive flank will be mopped

up by the 7th 4. I. Brigado.

(b) As the 10th A.I. Brigade advances to the grid line between I.25 and I.24, the 25th Battalion will swing its right flank in conformity with this advance.

Zoro hour of 14th A.I. Brigade will be 6 a.m.

(c) Any subsequent opportunities will be emploited to the full:

5,

(a) The southern boundary of the 7th L.I. Brigado is an east and west grid line between I.16. and I.22.

(b) The northern boundary is an east and west line.

through C. 28. central.

Between 25th and 25th Battalions, an east and west grid line between 25th and 20th Battalions, an east and west grid line to 1.5.central.

The attack will be made by three battalions, 26th Battalion on the Right, 25th Battalion in the Centre, 27th Battalion on the Loft.

28th Battalion will follow 1,000 yards behind the mear of the attacking battalions, two companies following the 28th Battalion, and two companies following 27th Battalion. These companies will form flank liaison forces, and also local reserves for the 26th and 27th Battalions.

5. The 22nd A.L.G.Coy will detail one section to be attached to each of the four battalions. Details to be arranged mutually between Commanding Officers concerned. The 5th A.H.G.Coy will remain in mobile reserve in

vicinity of I. 15. contral.

to each of the three attacking battalions, the remaining sub-section will be held in reserve at Battery Headquarters in vicinity of I.15.central.

7. The advance will be supported by six brigades of horse and field artillory riring on solected targets. The artillory start line will be as already indicated.

The initial barrage, which will be 100 yards in five minutes, will remain on the start line for ten minutes.

I will then advance, being regulated by the rate of barrage of 74th Bivisien on the Left.

. 8 .

travols at the rate of 100 yards in three minutes.

One artillery brigade will be held as a mobile brimgade.

One section of artillery will advance behind each of the three attacking battalions.

- The 7th Field Coy A.E. will co-operate, constructing foot bridges across the CAM/L DU MORD, and detailing artics for inspection of wells and dugouts.
- 9. One troop of 15th Aust. Light Horse will be used for mounted orderly and escert work.
- Acroplane contact patrol will fly over the spur from MONT ST.QUENTIN to AZICOURT at 7.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Flares will be lit and discs exposed on plane calling on Klaxon horn.
 - 11. All nocessary arrangements for the evacuation of casualties have been made.
 - 13. Signalling arrangements. Brigado Forward Signal Station is established at I.13.contral. A line will be laid forward to Grees Roads I.16.c.0.9. where a Rolay Station will be established. A line will then be laid along road through I.16.a. a b. to main PERONNE NURLU Road at Grees Roads I.12.a.contral, where forward station will be established.

und mounted orderlies.

- 15. Lobile Echelon will be situated in vicinity of I.15. central.
- Prisoners of war will be sent to mounted escert firstly, at Relay Station I.15.contral, and afterwards to Relay Station at I.16.c.0.9. They will then be brought by mounted escert to Brigade H.Q.
- Headquarters of 7th A.I. Bde will remain at H.16.a.2.4.

 Headquarters of battalions/will move behind the attacking infantry, and will be established as soon as final
 objective is reached.

Hoadquarte.s of 7th A.L.T. Bty will be at I.13.contral. " " Had inc Gun Coys " " I.15.contral.

- 16. Flank liaison will be maintained by all units.
- 17. Acknowledge.

Major, Brigado Lajor, 7th Australian Infantry Brigado.

Copies to :-1: 25th Bn.

2. 26th Bn.

5. 27th Bn.

4. 28th Bn.

5. 7th A.L.T. ... B.

6. 22nd II.G.Coy

7. 5th H.G.Coy

S. 7th Field Coy

9. 5th F. Amb.

10. 17th A.A.S.C.

11, 14th A.I. Bdo.

12, 250th PAG.

15,5th A.I. Bde.

14.6th

15. 2nd Aust. Div.

16. 2nd Div. Arty

17/18. Liaison Officors

19.B.T.Q.

20.Bdo Sig.Officer.

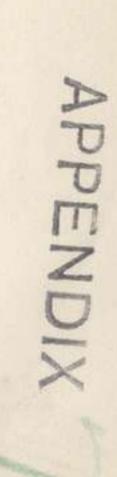
21.R.I.O.

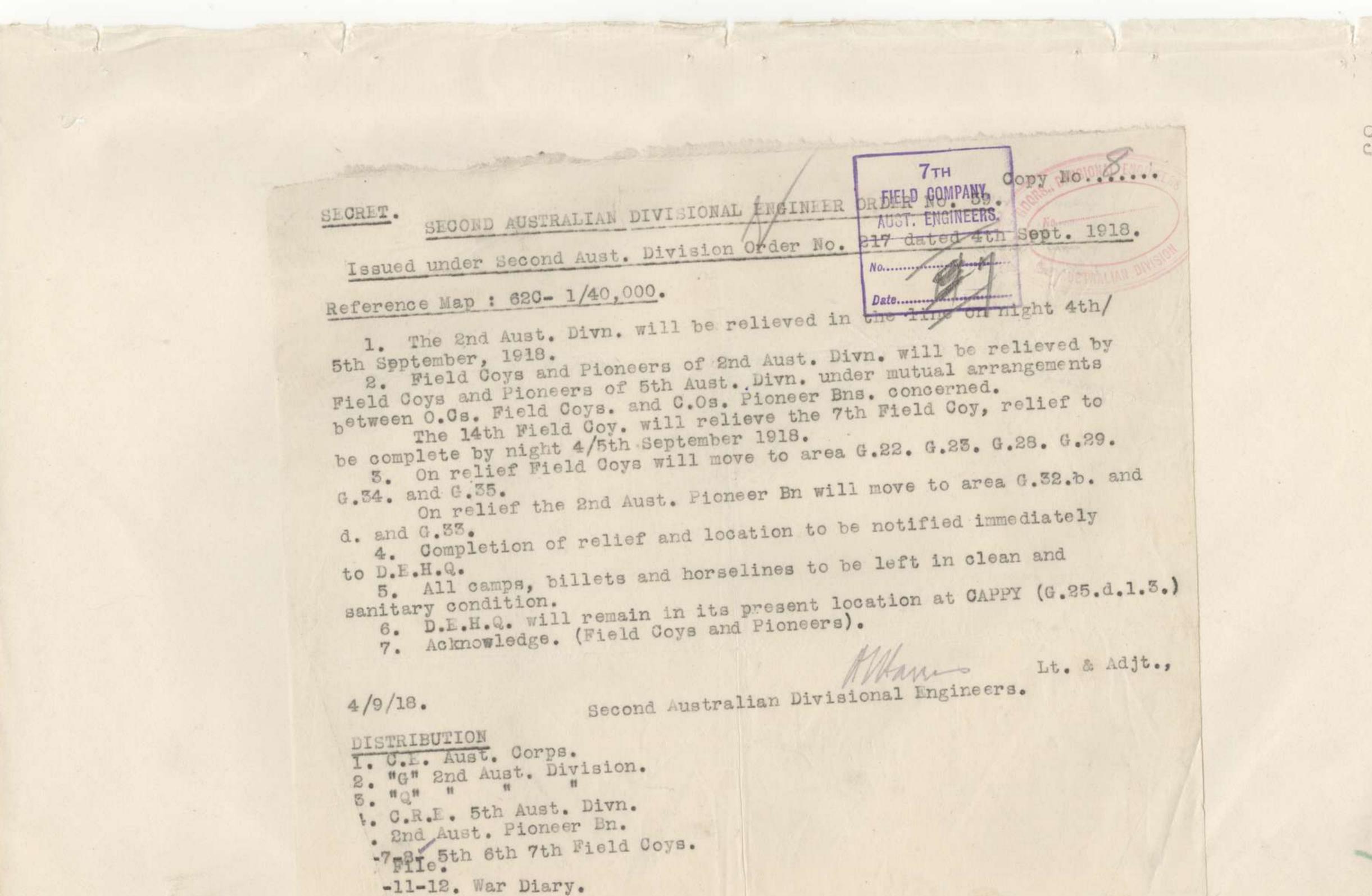
22, G,O,C, 23, B,H,

24. S.C. 7 25. File.7

26/28. War Diary.

SECRET. 7th AUSTRALIAN INFAMILAY BRIGADE. Headquarters, Order No. 221. September 2nd 1918 Reference Haps, Sheets 62 C. N.W. & N.E., 1/20,000. The 7th A.I. Brigade will consolidate for the night on 1. line as follows :-(a) 26th Battalion. From road at I-16.0.1.8., along KOROS ALLEY to I.17.a.30.65. (b) 25th Battalion. From I.17.a.30.65. to I.11.c.25.25. along TUPPFECHT TREECH to where it joins road, thence to trench I. 11.b.8.5., along trench to grid line at I.6.c.4.0. (c) 27th Battalion. From I.6.c.4.0. through I.6.central to HEPA ALLEY at I.6.a.4.2. along trench to road about C. 29.d.G.O., thence along road to boundary. (a) 26th Battalion will establish a post at I.10.central. 2. (b) 25th Battalion will establish blocks in DARESTADT TREMCH I.17.a.7.5. and I.17.a.80.65. (c) 27th Battalion will rotain post at 0.30.c.5.0. (d) 22nd Battalion will place two Companies in support in TORTELLA DRUHN TRENCH, with one Company in KOVERLA TRENCH in I. 10.a. (e) 27th Battalion will utilize any men of the Suffolk or Sussex Regiments to connect the left flank with the troops of the 74th Division. (f) The remaining Company of the 22nd Battalion Will romain in GOTT MIT UNS TRENCH. (a) Battalion Commanders will dispose their Vickers 5. Machine Guns for the defence of the line in their sectors. (b) Eight guns of the 5th Machine Gun Coy will be disposed in positions to be selected by the Machine Gun Group Commander for the defence of the positions. Headquarters of Battalions are :-4. 25th Bn. I.11.a.0.1. 26th Bn. I.16.b.0.6. 27th Bn. I.11.a.3.7. 28th Bn. I.11.a.1.4. 22nd Bn. I.8.d.5.0. Brigade Forward Station I.16.b.4.2. Brigade Relay Station I.13.central. E. Acknowledge. Major, Brigade Lajor, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade. Issued through Signals at 4.15 p.m. Copies to :- 1. 25th Bn. 11. 6th A.T. Bdo. 12. 2nd Aust. Div. 2. 26th Bn. 3. 27'th Bn. 15. 22nd H.G.Coy, 14. War Diary, 4. 28th Bn. 15/17. " 5. 22nd Bn. 6. 7th T.L.B. 18. Filo. 7. 7th Field Coy 8. 5th H.G.Coy 9. 14th A.I. Bde. 10. 229th Bdo.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SECRET.



Order No. 224

er End Ftonest Dns ve

Headquarters, September 26th 18 valle T. d. A. d. ? . c.

Reference Map Shoet 62 C., 1/40,000.

(a) The 2nd Australian Division will move to the PERONN. and MESNIL area on the night September 27th/23th 1918.

(b) The 7th A.I. Brigade Group which will be composed as under will move by march route to, and billet in the PERONNE area in accordance with attached table.

(c) The 5th A.I. Brigade Group will move to the PERONNE area (sub-area now occupied by the 10th A.I. Brigade), and the 6th A.I. Brigade to the MESNIL area.

- The 7th A.I. Brigade Group will consist of -2. 7th A.I. Brigade, 7th Field Coy A.E. 7 th Field Ambulance, 2nd Pioneer Battalion
- VIEL MAIL . DO V (a) Advance parties will report to their respective 5. units of the 11th A.I. Brigade Group by 10 a.m. 27th inst. (b) Major F.H. BELLYMAN will represent 7th A.I. Brigado Hoadquarters at the 11th A.I. Brigade Headquarters from 10 a.m. 27th instant.
- Transport will move with the unit.
- be transported by lorry.
- Administrative Instructions will be issued separately. 6.
- 7. (a) Special attention will be paid to Fourth Army Routine Order No. 2039 dated 15th May 1918 on "March Discipline and Traffic Control".

(b) Halts of ten minutes at ten minutes to the clock hour will be observed.

- Brigado Headquarters will close at ECLUSIEL at 7 p.m. 27th instant and open at the same hour at J.19.c.4.5.
- A further move to assembly areas will be carried out on the night 28th/29th Soptember 1918.

10. Acknowledge.

Major, Brigade Hajor, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued through Signals at //.30 f.m For distribution P.T.O.

SECRET

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Headquarters,
September 26/1918.

. Omub enevine

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS to accompany Brigade Order No. 224.

ALL training sammunition on hand will be returned to

The area to be vacated must be left in a thoroughly sanitary condition. Latrine covers will be collected into one dump in each Battalion area.

2. Advanced parties as under will report to the H.Q. of the Units they are to relieve, at 10 a.m. 27th instant.

Each Battalion 1 Officer 4 o/ranks.

T.M.Battery 1 " 1 " 7th Field Coy 1 " 1 " 7th Field Amb. 1 " 1 "

- 3. AMMUNITION Full mobile echelon will be carried.
- TRANSPORT will move with Units.

 The 26th and 27th Battalions will each detail 1 limber to move the 7th A.L.T.M.Bty. Limbers will report to H.Q.,

 7th A.L.T.M.Bty at 3 p.m. 27th instant.

 25th and 28th Battalions will each detail 1 limber to

report to Brigade H.Q. at 3 p.m. 27th instant. These limbers

will move with Brigade H.Q.

- 5. BAGGAGE WAGONS will report to Units during day 27th inst.
- BLANKETS will be transported to new area by motor lorries.

 Lorries have been allotted as follows :-

25th Bn. and 7th Bde H.Q. 1 lorry 26th Bn. and T.M.Bty 1 " 27th Battalion 1 " 28th "

Each unit will send a guide to report to Lieut. W.C.ARMSTRONG 28th Battalion, at CAPPY CHURCH at 3.45 p.m. 27th inst. to guide lorries to units.

Battalion bands, personnel due to proceed on leave on 29th and 30th inst. and 1914 men, will be sent to the Divisional Wing. All personnel proceeding to Divisional Reinforcement Wing will report at Transport Lines near Brigade H.Q. at 2.30 p.m. 27th inst. The senior Officer or N.C.O. in charge of each Unit's details will be in possession of a nominal roll. The senior Officer prosent will take charge of all Brigade Details and march them to the Divisional Wing. He will report to Brigade H.Q. before moving off.

Officers' valises and the packs of bandsmen only, will be placed in a dump and a guard of two men mounted over it. This gear will be subsequently delivered by motor lorry to

the Divisional Wing.

- 3. All area stores, shelters and tents will be taken over in new area.
- 9. WATER POINT for the Brigade is at DOINGT CHURCH.
- 10. SUPPLY arrangements will be as at present.

APPENDIX a first free for TEN AUSTRAL AND INPANTING BETTERNIES Residentiers Receipts given and received for area stores will be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters within 24 hours of relief. All training ammunition on hand will be returned to salvage dump. area to be recated must be last in a thoroughly offil beyonilos en film anevos ent one to .M. H. end od duougn lite welfa yes, at is sementiful instant. Lieutenant, A/Staff Captain, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade. . Delives ed Liv Moladoe efidom d'ing - Horried. Issued to units concerned. TRANSPORT WELL MOVE WITH UNITED the Sour and Stir Hattalians will each detail I linber . . D. H CJ Jaoger Ebly Stedmid . vib. 2. I. A. M. T. end avon of . Franches At VE . H. C. C. C. C. V. M. E. L. T. J. A. E. V. Satis and Sath Buttalions will came detail I limber to report to Brigado H.G. et 3 p.m. With Instant. Those limiter s. O. H sought in dily Syon Lily identify was the printip of the constitute discuss the state of . An introl to form yo were went of hedrogenent od Liv Ellemade de amoilot sa bettolla mood evan colimol DEET En. and Tim Ede H.Q. 1 Long 20th Br. and T.M. Bty The second and the second of the second of the second seco .aften of adjusted shiften LIA . STIRLINGARO AL JE OL DELE THEMSORORIST LUNOISTVIL ales no aveal no bescore of sub lemmosted , abred molleitas and Jord inst. and 1914 men, will be sent to the Divierone Wings, All personnel proceeding to Divisional LA de . D. H ebenging teen nemil imogement de inogen libr main Barrado ni .0.0.0 To repillo roinsa enti .Junt ditta .m. o os. N In leninos a to solamegios at of Illy alkites, algust sons to obsules the to emesse east the freedry recitto tolues our process fire an . anne Lang Sarvad and of merid doung bris alleason . 120 grilyom stoles, all obsaint of lily tyles manabrad to emang end bes sentiay areaftic as wrich resem ad herevileb wilmespeadum od lik dasa sidi . antw isnointwill end Tayo maket of Elly ofnet bon and tente will be taken byer in new area. . Income to le se ed film ususmentmente Yarque

7th AUSTRALIAN INFAUTRY BRIGADE.

MOVE TABLE TO ACCOMPANY Brigade Order No. 224 dated 26th September 1918.

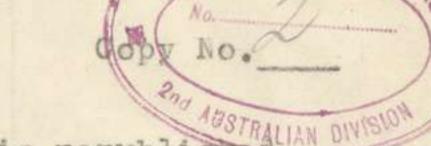
| Date | Unit | Starting Point. | Passos Start- ing Point | Route | Takes over from | H.Q. at |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------|
| 1918 | | | | | | |
| Night Sept.27/28th. | 7th A.I. Bde H.Q. | G.28.b. | 7 pom. | HERBECOURT - BIACHES - Bridge H.24.b HALLE - QUINCONCE - | 11th A.I. Bde H.Q. | J.19.c.4.5. |
| TI . | 7th Field Coy A.E. | tt . | 7.5 p.m. | ST.DENIS - Cross Roads I.24.c. | llth Field Coy A.E. | J.33.a.4.6. |
| 11 | 27th Bn. | er | 7.10 p.m. | 11 | 43rd Bn. | J.32.a.0.1. |
| 19 | 25th Bn. | | 7.20 p.m. | m · | 41st Bn. | I.30.b.5.6. |
| 11 | 26th Bn. | 11 | 7.30 p.m. | ** | 42nd Bn. | I.36 .b.1.5. |
| ** | 28th Bn. | at . | 7.40 p.m. | u u | 44th Bn. | I.36.b.0.4. |
| # | 7th A.L.T.ii.Bty | at . | 7.50 p.m. | 11 | 11th A.L.T.li.Bty | I.36.b.0.8. |
| H | 7th Field Ambulance | OF X MOODES | 7.55 p.m. | | 11 Field Ambulance | I.24.d.3.2. |
| 11. | 2nd Pioneer Bn. | | 8 p.m. | 11 | | |
| | | | | | 3rd Pioneer Bn. | J.33-b.50 |

SECRES

APPENDIX

Headquarters, Divisional Engineer ISIONAL ENGINEER

18/155



SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ORDER NO. 219 is republished

Headquarters, 26th Sept. 1918.

"Reference Map - Sheet 62C. 1/40,000.

- 1. The division will move to the PERONNE and MESNIL areas on the night 27th/28th September in accordance with table on reverse.
- 2. Except within brigade areas, no other routes than those laid down in attached table will be used.
- 3. Units will move and billet in brigade groups composed as follows:-

5th A.I.Bde. Group. 6th A.I.Bde. Group.
5th A.I.Bde. 6th A.I.Bde.
5th Aust. M.G.Co. 6th Aust. M.G. Co.
5th Aust. Field Co. 6th Aust. Field Co.
5th Aust. Field Amb. 6th Aust. Field Amb.

7th A.I.Bde. Group.
7th A.I.Bde.
2nd Aust. M.G.Bn. (less
5th & 6th Coys.)
7th Aust. Field Co.
7th Aust. Field Amb.

Moves of units not specified above will be carried out under orders to be issued by "Q", following brigade routes and using one of the roads specified in attached table.

- 4. No movement is to take place in daylight. Brigade groups will therefore not start their march before 7 p.m. 27th instant.
- 5. Divisional Headquarters will remain at CAPPY.
- 6. A further move to assembly areas will be carried out on the night 28th/29th September in accordance with orders to be issued later. "

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Second Australian Divisional Engineers.

Distribution,
1. 5th Field .Co.
2. 6th " " "



APPENDIX

Remarks. Route Bde. H.Q. FRISE - FEUILLERES - HEM PERONNE area. I.24.a.5.5. CLERY - ALLAINES - BUSSU. (sub-area at present occupied by 10th A.I.Bde.) Bde. H.Q. GAPPY - DOMPIERRE -MESNIL area. . ASSEVILLERS - BARLEUX -0.4.b.4.2. (sub-area at present FM LAMPIRE - LE MESNIL. occupied by 8th A.I.Bde.) Bde. H.Q. Cross road in G.28.b. -PERONNE area. CAPPY area. 7th A. I. Bde. Group. J.19.c.4.5. HERBECOURT-BIACHES -(sub-area at present Bridge H.24.b. HALLE occupied by 11th A.I.Bde.) QUINCONCE - ST. DENIS cross roads I.24.c.

7th Field Company Australian

Order No 1034.

83

Captain . L. Noedl Commanding . M.C.



27/9/18.

MOVE The company will move to PERONNE area at 6.45pm, passing cross roads G.28.b. at 7.5pm and will take over lines vacated by 11th Field Company Australian Engineers at J.33.a.4.6.

Advance Party. Lt Fidler .M.C. and L/Cpl King M.M. will take over lines from 11th Field Coy. A. E. at 10.00am .

Dress. The dress for the move will be BATTLE ORDER.

Blankets & Packs. Blankets and packs will be loaded on section Humbers by 6.00pm.

Transport. Sections will move complete with transport. H.Qrs transport under Lt Fidler.

Cyclists
Two cyclists per section under Sergt Chatto
will move at 5.00pm and act as guides in new area.

Samitation. All latrines will be filled in with at least 1 ft of earth and all rubbish in huts etc burnt. All accommodation to be left in a thoroughly clean and samitary condition.

March Discipline. The following intervals must be observed:50 yards between units and 25 yards between sections &
every six vehicles.

Supplies.

Supply arrangements remain as at present.

Surplus gear. All surplus gear will be disposed of and burnt, there being no arrangements for leaving gear in back areas, nor for transport of such gear.

A/O.C. 7th Field Company. A. E.

Issued at :-

DISTRIBUTION: -

1. Transport section.

2. Orderly N.C.O

3. Notice Board.

4.5.6. War Diary.

Su

BEUHET.

6.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Headquarters!

AUST. ENGINEERS September 27th 1918.

Nonne

INSTRUCTIONS No.1.

The Australian Corps with the 11 American Corps affiliated is to attack the enemy's positions in the HINDENBURG line in the Sector NAUROY - GOUY on a date and hour to be notified. Boundaries and objectives are shown on attached Map.

The attack is to be carried out in two main phases :-2.

(a) Phase 1. The 30th American Division on the right and the 27th American Division on the left are to attack with Tanks under a creeping artillery barrage and capture the GREEN line.

As soon as the road situation permits, the Armoured Car Battalion with a proportion of Whippet Tanks attached is to be passed through the infantry and despatched on special missions with the object of disorganising the enemy's communications, headquarters, otc.

(b) Phase 11. The 5th Australian Division on the right and the 3rd Australian Division on the left, each with three brigades of Field Artillery and a proportion of Tanks, and organised in brigade groups, are to pass through the 30th and 27th American Divisions respectively in open warfare formations and attack and capture the RED line.

The 30th and 27th American Divisions are to extend their operations to the South and North respectively with

the object of sdizing the objectives shown in RED.

The 5th Cavalry Brigade is to be prepared to pass through the infantry after the latter have reached the RED line. Its role will be to seize and hold the line of high ground Map Sheets 57 B. S.W. and 62 B. N.W., HAMAGE FARM -U.25.a. and c. - C.8.central - I.3.central - I.9.central -I. 14. central - I. 19. central until the arrival of the infantry. Should the enemy retreat, the 5th Cavalry Brigade is to maintain contact.

A preliminary operation is to be carried out by the 27th & 30th American Divisions on 27th September with the object of gaining the Infantry Forming Up Line for the main operation. This operation is being carried out with the assistance of Tanks and under a creeping artillery barrage.

4. Before the main operation there is to be a preliminary bombardment by all available artillery lasting for a considerable period.

5. Four main roads are to be developed for traffic under Corps arrangements. They are coloured BLACK, RED, YELLOW and BLUE on attached map. They will be respectively marked on the ground by sign boards painted in the same sequence of colours. Of these the RED and YELLOW roads will probably be developed into M.T. roads.

It may be anticipated that the 2nd Australian Division will 6. be employed at a later date to exploit any success gained.

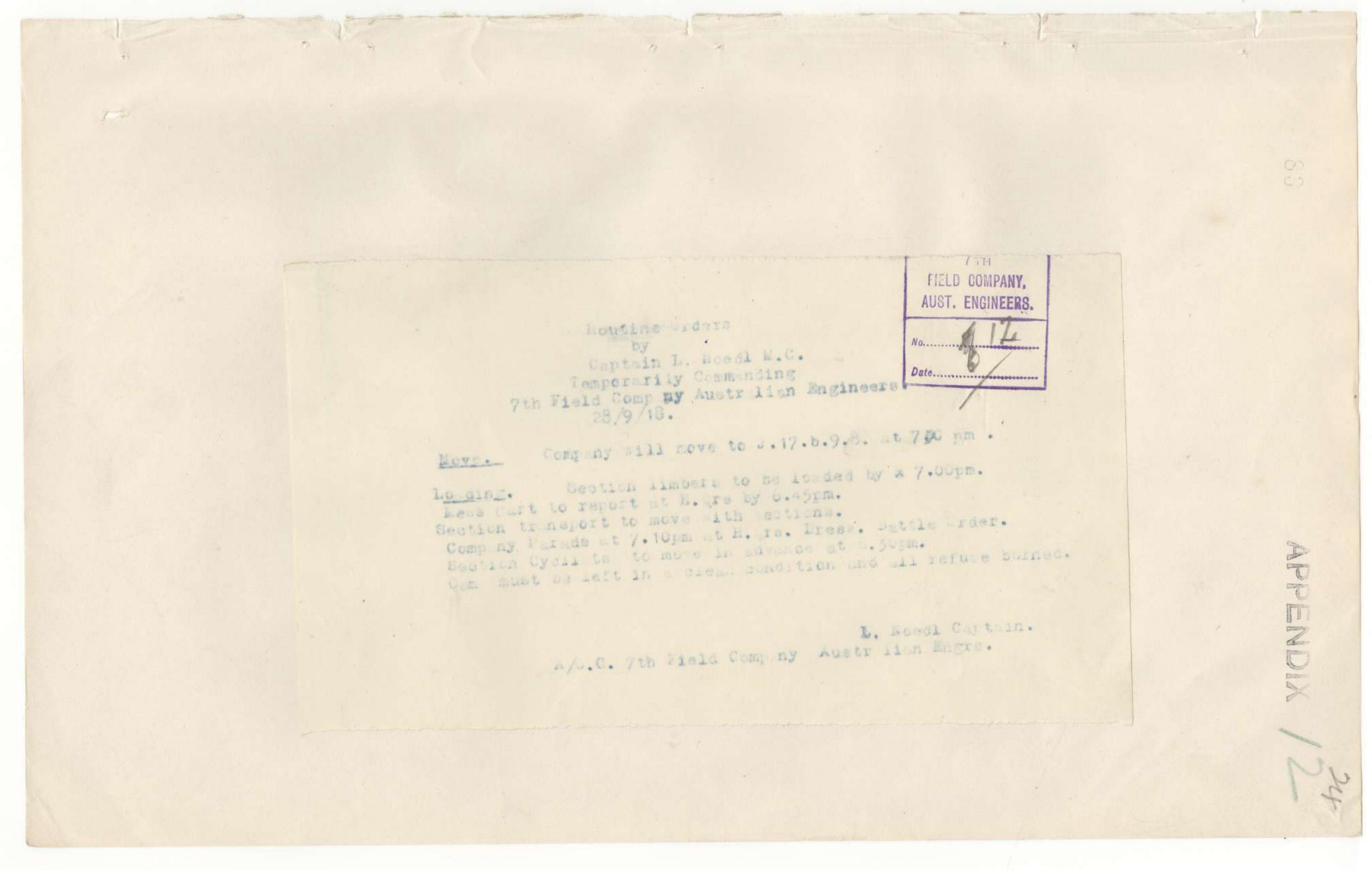
A liberal supply of maps and air photographs is bing 7. being issued to all unite.

Acknowledge. 8.

Copies to:-25th, 26th, 27th, 28th Bns.

7th A.L.T.H.B. 7th Field Coy A.E. 7th Field Ambulanco

Major, Bde Major, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

APPENDIX

SECRET.

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

OFDER No. 225.

Headquarters, Soptember 28th 1918.

Reference Map Sheet 62 C. N.E. 1/20,000.

- The 7th A.I. Brigade Group will move by march route to assembly/areas as shown in attached table, tonight September 28th.
- 2. The Brigade Group will consist of 7th A.I. Brigade 7th Field Coy A.E. 7th Field Ambulance 2nd Pioneer Battalion 2nd Machine Gun Bn (less 5th & 6th M.G. Coys)
- Transport will move with units. 3. Brigade Mobile Echelon will move with Brigade H.Q.
- Advance parties have gone forward this afternoon. 4.
- 5. Units will report arrival in new area to Brigade H.Q. Also exact location of Headquarters.
- After midday September 29th, the Brigade Group will be held in readiness to move at two hours' notice.
- Brigade Hoadquartors will close at J. 19.c.4.5. at 7.15 p.m. tonight and will open at J.4.b.3.6. at the same hour.

Acknowledge.

The Australian Infantry Brigade. Major, Brigade Major,

Issued through Brigade Signals at 5.15 p.m. Copies to:
1. 25th Bn.
2. 26th Bn.
3. 27th Bn.
4. 28th Bn.
5. T.M.Bty
6. 7th Field Coy.

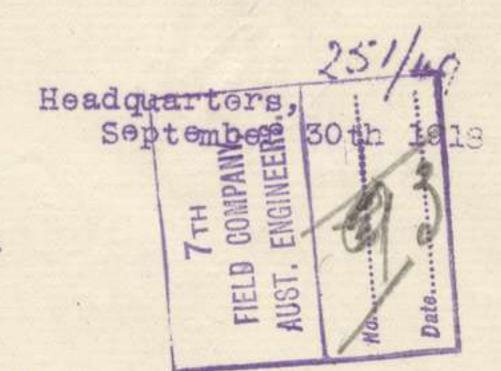
- 7. 7th Field Ambulance.
- 8. 2nd M.G.Bn.
 9. 2nd Pioneer Bn.
 10. 17th A.A.S.C.
 11. 2nd Aust. Div. 'G'
 12. " 'A.Q'
 13. 5th A.I. Bdo
 14. 6th A.I. Bde

 - 15. Area Commandant TINCOURT -
 - 16. G.O.C.

 - 17. B.M.
 18. S.C.
 19. B.T.O.
 - 20. B.I.O. 21. Bde Musketry Officer
 - 22. Bdo Signal Officer
 - 23. File
 - 24/26. War Diary.
 - 27/28. Spare.

| Date | Unit | Destination | Romarks. |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1918 Night Sept.28/29th. | 7th A.I. Bdc H.Q. | TEMPLEUX la FOSSE J.4.b.3.6. | |
| n n | 25th Battalion | Huttod Camp J.17.b.9.8. | Units will move from |
| | 26th " | Huts & bivouaos TEMPLEUX la FOSSE D.29.0.5.8. | present camps at |
| " | 27 th " " | Huttod Camp J. 17. b. 9.9. | 7.30 p.m. |
| n | 28th ." | Huts - TEMPLEUX la FOSSE, J.4.b.5.5 | |
| | 7th A.L.T.L.Bty | ditte J.4.b.7.6 | |
| | 7th Field Ambulanco | ditto J.4,b.3.9 | |
| w w | 7th Field Coy A.E. | Huttod Camp J.17.b.9.7. | |
| E . S | 2nd Pionsor Bn. | Huts & Bivoucos AIZECOURT LEE BAS | |
| m . | 2nd ii.G. Bn. | Bivouacs LONGAVESNES. | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL



WARNING ORDER

7th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Reference Map Sheet 62 C. 1/40,000.

- 1. The 7th A.I. Brigade Group will move forward tomorrow October 1st, 1918. All units will be ready to move from present positions after 8 a.m.
- 2. The immediate role of the 2nd Australian Division is dependent on the success of the operations of the 3rd and 5th Australian Divisions.

The 2nd Australian Division may either -(a) Relieve the 5th Australian Division tomorrow

night October 1st/2nd, (b) Move forward to Support Divisional area tomorrow October 1st.

In the event of (a) the 7th A.I. Brigade will be Reserve Brigade.

In the event of (b), the 7th A.I. Brigade Group Will move probably to the TEMPLEUX - LE - GUERARD area.

3. (a) In either case, units will occupy trench systems, bivouacs, or dugouts. (b) Advance parties, mounted or cyclists, will be held ready to move forward to new areas as soon as definite information is obtained.

4. Blankets will be taken forward by units of the Brigade to the new area.

5. Transport will accompany units.

In the event of the 2nd Australian Division going 6. into the line, it is anticipated that it will carry out an operation within 24 hours after taking over.

7. Acknowledge.

> Major, Brigade Major, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade.

Issued through Signals at 9.15 p.m.

Copies to :-

1. 25th Bn.

2. 26th Bn.

3. 27th Bn.

4. 28th Bn.

5. 7th A.L.T.M.B.

6. 2nd Pioneer Bn.

7. 2nd M.G.Bn.

8. 7th Field Coy A.E.

9. 7th Field Ambulance.

10. 17th A.A.S.C.

11. 2nd Aust. Div.

12. G.O.C.

13. B.M. 14. S.C. 14. B.T.O.

15. B.I.O.

16. Bde Sig. Officer

17. File.

18/20. War Diary.

7th Field Company Australian Engineers.

OPERATION

27/8/18 - 6th September 7TH AUST. ENGINEERS.

6th and 5th Australian Infantry Brigade groups having already moved into forward area after 8 days rest, 7th A.I.Bde group moved up in turn to new Divisional area between grid line M.8. to M.10. on south and SOMME canal (inclusive on north). The advance was to be made due east.

7th Field Company. A. E. moved up on the morning of the 27th August, sappers by bus and transport by road, and took over 5th Fld Coy A. E. camp at Q.12.c.8.l. near MERICOURT.

Transport arrived first, sappers between 2 and 3 pm. Camp a real "War" camp but made sufficiently comfortable by nightfall depite rain showers.

Reconnaissance was at once made as far forward as CHUIGNOLLES and of canal bank (Major Webb and Lt Veale) and reports sent in. Notice boards were prepared for erecting in MERICOURT.

On 28th, further reconnaissances were made (by Captain Noedl and Lt Mott) as far as CHUIGNES and CAPPY and (by Lts Veale and McGowan) along canal to ECLUSIER. In each case reports were submitted.

Also 10 notice boards were erected on roads in MERICOURT; bridging park and tracks to and from were reconnoitred; and touch was gained with 5th Fld. Coy. A. E.

In the evening, orders having been received, the unit moved to the 5th Fld. Coy's camp at R.4.central, sappers getting in at 6.00pm and transport by 7.30pm.

In the evening the Brigade group was ordered to take over advance operations next morning, the front line running roughly at the time - in front of FRISE- BECQUINCOURT - but at the same time changing hourly.

Sapper co-operation was arranged thus: One section (No 4 under Lt Mott DCM) was allotted to the advance
work, the remainder being kept in hand for bridging or wakk what not.
From this section, one N.C.O. and 3 sappers were allotted to move
with the H.Qrs of each of three Battalions, especially to look out
for mines, booby traps and trick bombs and take steps required to
investigate and secure samples of all water, and secure information
generally and Lt Mott DCM with two sappers was to move with the
H.Qrs of the reserve battalion, the remainder of the section with
transport complete, in rear of Brigade H.Qrs. Major. Webb M.C. was
to be with Brigade H.Qrs.

On the morning of the 29th, these arrangements were successfully

put into practice. The N.C.O. parties joined their respective battalion H.Qrs before they moved up to deploying positions, and the remainder of No 4 section moved by road under Cpl Fletcher . M. M. and with Major. Webb. M.C. and Lt. Mott. DCM to cross roads in G.28.b. getting into position before 7.30am. Lt Mott DCM with his party joined 25th Bn H.Qrs at BECQUINCOURT, Major. Webb accompanying to make a forward reconnaissance. The 7th Bde moved through the 6th Bde at 7.30am on a line roughly N. and S. to E. of HERBECOURT with Sthn Boundary grid line N.8 .-N.14 and Nthn boundary H.20 - H.26 and with 8th A.I.Bde to south and 5th A.I.Bde to north. The enemy opposition was by this time reduced to a mere rearguard action and though shelling was heavy on the forward area all day it was obvious that the area to the SOMME had been evacuated except for staunch machine gun parties. This having become evident, an effort to cross the SOMME appeared to be the next move, and with concurrence of the Brigadier, Major Webb proceeded to reconnoitre the canal for crossings . The remainder of the unit had meantime been instructed to move up to the vicinity of HERBECOURT about H.31.d.8.8. Having found Lt Mott, en route, the party with 1 runner proceeded forwardmy when the runner was sent back with a message to instruct 2 sections to move up to vicinity of FLAUCOURT about N.4.d.

APPENDIX/

Majo" webb and Lieut Mott then proceeded to the canal at 0.15.a.5.5. Shell fire was pretty severe at this time and enemy sniping and . M.G. fire very active, but the canal bank when reached, gave very good protection. The bridge at U.15.a.2.2. (F.A.) was found still standing, and on inspection, appeared quite sound. As a 77m gun was shooting it up over the sights at about 800yds and a M.G. was playing direct down it at about 400 yds the deck of the bridge and the cordurey track on the farther side could not be inspected very closely. Just at this time salvoes of four from our own 4.5" howitzers landed with great precision within 50 yds of the bridge with "quick burst" fuze. These were repeated (in all 6 or 8 times) and while getting out of the vicinity as quickly as possible Lieut Mott, while still under the bridge, was struck by pieces of shell in the knee and' with such force on the handle of his revolver as to completely smash it. As Lieut Mott was completely crippled in one leg. it was only with the greatest difficulty that he was got across the 12ft bridgewhich borders the canal, on an d inch tree trunk, especially with both friend and enemy shell constantly landing in the vicinity. Once across the ditch Lieut Mott was carried to a fairly definite and safe place and a search made for stretchersa bearers. These having been secured about a mile away and Lieut Mott handed over to them Major Webb continued the reconnaissance. As the infantry objective had been named as the trench 400 yas in rear of the canal, the canal was in No Man's Land (hence our own shellfire) and the greatest caution had to be observed moving along it. No further bridges were found to exist over the canal except the crossings for foot-traffic at the Luck 0.3.0.0.8. and the Failway bridge at I.33.d.7.2. damaged but fit for foot traffic. The SUMME river and marshes beyond the canal appeared quite impassible, a considerable amount of water being obvious.

All haste was made to get this information back but between constant delays by shell -fire and attending to Lt Mott, the reconnaissance was not reported till after 4.00pm.

As a preliminary measure in the morning, no I section was sent out to mark an overland track forward past Domplere but on the situation being found altered, this section was sent forward direct. No 3 section (part) a quantity of deorie from the towpath in G.19 and after 4 hours work moved up to HERBECCURT. In the afternoon the unit complete moved into very good camp billets with H.Q. at the quarry N.4.5.8.1. Horse lines were withink 100 yds of H.Q. and as there was very little shelling of rear areas, except villages, during the occupation of this camp and no shell landed within 100 yds, this proved a sound projestion.

Although Brigade had not any definite orders, it was expected that an attempt to cross the SOMME would be made that night or at dawn and preparations were pushed ahead for foot bridging the canal. As time and hours of light were too short, further reconnaissance of the canal by personnel could not be made out all material was got ready and the location of bridging dump also reconnoitred.

About 8.00pm orders were received to put as many footbridges across SOMNE as possible and at least one bridge was guaranteed at 0.9.c.7.7. and another one most probably at 0.9.b.4.7. As cork floats were not yet available it was decided to use pontoons to make bridge.

No 2 section under Lt Veale DCM with two pontoons complete moved off under Major webb about 9.30pm The night was dark with some drizzle, and some gas and constant desultory shelling, while kkake tracks had not been reconnoitred at all near the canal.

However, roads were found in excellent condition and with careful scouting and handling, the wagons were moved within 10 yds of the canal at 0.9.c.b.0., some 9 miles, wintout incident and the stores off-loaded. As the further bank of the canal had not been patrolled by infantry and the intermittent rattle of M.6's betokened the enemy's presence, the greatest caution and silence had to be maintained throughout the task.

The site having been selected and all stores offloaded, Lieut Veale

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APPENDIX/4

was wirt to carry out the work of construction. This rquired first, carrying the genr across the side ditch to the canal, then floating or carrying it all some 400 yards to the side, making bridge and all the time maintaining a standing patrol on the farther side of the canal.

Weanwhile the remaining transport of the unit had been arranged for to take sufficient cork floats to the canal for the second bridge. This transport asm (1 treatle wagon and 4 limbers) was very ably suided over the same routs by Sgt Sorrel who had accompanied the pontoons originally. The cork floats were found extremely bulky things to handle and took a great deal of juggling to carry at all.

These materials were landed at the same spot at 3.00 am which left

by an hour or is hours to make bridge.

No a section, despite an 8 mile march in the morning in addition to the juiles the same hight stuck to the job splendidly and make a passable bridge by 4.50 m., and completely finished by 5.00 mm. All the material for this had to be floated 1000 yards along the canal.

In addition to the constant desultory H.E. shell fire, towards morning the valley was sombarded with gas and men had towork in gas masks.

The whole of this exceedingly heavy and yet delicate task requiring the utmost caution and discipline and entailing very heavy strain of excitement, as carried out magnificently under Ltm Meale's direction by so 2 section.

on 29th, also, details from Hos 2 and 4 sections made very valuable reconnaissances of water in HERBECOURT, FLAUCOURT, HARLEUX, and BIACHER, samples were secured and tested the same evening and many were marked and nut in working order by nightfall.

on morning of joth, Lt McGowan with details from No j setion reconnoitred the SOMME river across the canal while No j section stood by at 0.14.0.20.75 ready to make F.A. bridge \$f feasible in the wake of the intentry attack. As the whole SOMME marshes were found atterly impassable, the section returned to camp.

No a section turned in for elsep.

Nos I and 4 sections carried out var ious works; reconneitred all roads in the area; cleared 5 dead horses and buried them, prepared notice boards; repaired two windlasses and constructed two in Phaucourt; About of m on joth Captain soedl with details from No 5 section sect out to reconneitre bridges in vicinity of Blackes and an exceedingly valuable report on bridges in h.24.b. and

In order to geth this information a party had to patrol the farther bank of the canal which was still occupied by the enemy and had not been patrolled at all by our own infantry.

The whole area visited was constantly harassed by shell fire . particular attention bing paid to the bridge sites.

The work done by this recommute and party cannot be overestimated. Arrangements were made tentatively with C.R.E. during the sitemoon to proceed with the restoration of the crossing from H.24.0.7.9. to HALE and sai preparations has been pushed well forward, but this was cancelled about 7. jupm. however, complete recommute report was sent on with an estimate of time required to make good the crossing for H.T.

Major Webb and Lt Kernaghan M.M. proceeded on reconnaissance of bridges near BIACHES and at 4.50am . Attack by 5th A.I.Bde at 5.00am with corresponding heavy barrage and retaliation/ Reconnaissance continued and completed despite heavy shelling. Party then atood by for 1% hours investigating the attack on the opposite side of the river and saw enery evacuating HALLE. Report made.

Dates from Nos 1 and 4 sections improving roads, placing notice bounds, (12) improving watersupply at HERBECLURY, leading two loads

free pentoon equipment at dump.

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APPENDIX /43/

No 2 resting. No 3 standing by.

Orders received at 11.30am to be prepared to move at half an hour's notice, and everything prepared at once.

Arrangements were made immediately for Nos 3 and 2 sections (Lts McGowan and Veale) under Captain Noedl. M C. to proceed at once to make:
(a) As many foot crossings as possible good across SOMME and canal in vicinity of H.24.b. and I.19.c. by 4.00pm.(Estimated)

(b).Make crossing H.24.d.7.9. to HALLE good for H.T. as soon as feasible.

Headquarters (less 2 pontoon wagons) Nosland 4 sections instructed to proceed as ordered via FEUILLERES Bridge to I.7.c.

As the vicinity of FLAUCOURT was beginning to be shelled a considerable amount, the unit less Nos 2 and 3 sections and tool carts was moved at once (12.30pm) to H.27.central. The H.Qrs,

Nosland 4 parties moved from here under Lt Kernaghan .M.M. who passed the bridge at FEUILLERES at 4.00pm.

Sergt Chatto and cyclists went ahead to select a camp in I.7.c. and found the whole place severely shelled and much congested, returning and reporting this to Lt Kernaghan. In consequence, transport and H.Qrs were camped about H.9.b.8.0. and No 1 and 4 (sappers only) proceeded with Lts FIMER and KERNAGHAN to H.12.b. 4.5. During the evening a shell landed in the bivouac ,killing 1 sapper and badly wounding Lt Kernaghan (so that he died of wounds subsequently) and Lt Fidler. However, sappers were fairly dug in by this time and/there was a very severe barrage behind and all round, so that Lt Fidler decided to remain.

Captain Noedl's party meantime proceededs to the vicinity of Bridge site and found them exceedingly heavily shelled. Captain Noedl with a small party proceeded to reconnoitre in the face of a murderous shell fire of all calibres and though he secured the necessary information, two of his party of four were wounded. It was not until 3.30pm that work could be commenced on the bridges and then the working parties were harassed not only by intermittent bursts of shell fire (all calibres to 8" how) but were subject to M.G. fire from trenches in I.19.d. and I.26.a.

The first of these crossings was by way of a footbridge over the canal at H.19.c.3.0. built two nights before, along the N.E. bank of the canal, then across a partly destroyed bridge 92 yds long at H.24.b.7.3. to a solid roadway on the other side. The actual gap to be made good for foot-traffic on this bridge was about 60 ft but as there was a considerable amount of wreckage in the river this was only a matter of an hour's work, by half a section (say 16 men). The second crossing along the E. bank of the incipient Canal du Nord, was a more difficult job. The total length of this footway from S. bank of SOMME canal to terra firma at I.19.a.2.2. was 450 yards. This was an old enemy footway of which over 100 yards had been bridge and part of which was now destroyed. The actual gap to be made good immediately was about 50 feet but a portion of the remainder had also to be repaired. The bridge had been destroyed by the enemy with charges of explosive and further damaged afterwards by shell fire. As the river here was over 10 feet deep, and suitable timbers for a float bridge were available the gap was made good first by a float built up of 3 good pine spars. This proved quite staisfactory and carried heavy traffic during the two subsequent days. The remainder of the footway was made good in a number of marshy places with planks. Almost the whole length of this track was under direct enemy observation and repeatedly M.G. fire, was brought tom bear on it at about 1000 yards range. This crossing was made good after about 2 hours work by half a section say 14 men).

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A further crossing of this canal was made by No 2 section at I.25.a. 5.6. also by using floating spars, being done contemporaneously with

These foot crossings being completed about 5.30pm, effort was then directed to the reconstruction of the bridge at H.24.b.7.3. for F.A. and construction of a pontoon bridge across the canal at H.24.a.7 y. 101 F.A. The original high level bridge at H.24.a.7.9. had been mainly destroyed by the enemy with explosive, two centre piers being completely blown away and the superstructure smashed into the gap. Of the bridge at H.24.b.7.3. five piers with corresponding bays had been completely blown away with charges and the bridge as both unsafe in many places from rot and further damages by shell fire. In addition to the charges actually blown others were found in two separate places and removed by Captain Noedl.

It was proposed to put in a low level pontoon across the canal and to restore the damaged and rotten portion of the pile and trestle bridge. The total gap at the canal was about 60 ft between shore transoms and on the other bridge 276 ft, built in approx. Il ft spans. Of this latter, about 80 ft required to be completely rebuilt while a considerable portion of the remaining piers and

Exforts were made to work on this crossing the same evening, but the shell fire on the whole length was so heavy and insistent that finally work was postponed intil the morning. Altogether, during the afternoon and evening 4 casualties were suffered on these works. During the evening the pontoons were brought up and launched into the canal ready for making bridge and as the only approaches to the canal were at bridgeheads, this was a particularly difficult and

The whole of the work done by Nos 2 and 3 sections under Lts Veale and McGowan and the whole under Captain Noeal on this afternoon was of the highest order, demanding not only the maximum of effort but the highest order of courage in face of extremely heavy shell fire and direct M.G. fire.

The parties stood by again at 6.00am next morning to carry on work on the traffic bridge but in consequence of the enemy reply to our further attack it was not until 8.30am that it was possible to work on the bridge. Meantime a party of 1 platoon of 2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion had arrived to work on the bridge and these proceeded to assist with the work, working under Captain Noedl's direction.

The sating feature of the task was that there was ample material for all purposes right on the spot; hence work proceeded apace all day. During the afternoon the locality was heavily shelled for half an hour, driving themen from the job. During the same shelling Captain J.H.Cartwright. M.C. 6th Field Coy.A.E.) WAS badly wounded near one end of the bridge.

As the work progressed more and more unsound members were discovered so that finally a great deal more repair work had to be done than had been expected. The bridge was fit for traific at 6.00pm and finished off akterhalf an hour later.

Foot traffic during the day was a considerable hindrance through most of the foot traffic was diverted to the footway

The total time for restoring the bridge for F.A. traffic was thus 10 hours for 60 to 70 men as against an estimate of 6 to 8 hours. The uncertain character of the repairs accounted somewhat for the discrepancy.

While No 2 section and the platoon of Pioneers worked on the restoration of the long bridge H.24.b.7.3. No 3 section (Lt McGowan) went ahead with the construction of a pontoon bridge and approaches at H.24.d.7.9. Two my pontoons were on the spot but cone other pair was required. A further pontoon was sent for but in the meantime a trestle was built up and used, the bridge finally being completed with two pontoons and one trestle; one bay by ing made up with German pontoon baulks, 20 ft long. The whole by ing made up with German pontoon baulks, 20 ft long. The whole shore transoms was 62 feet.

The approaches for the bridge required a large amount of work as Thexangrazahesxarks the bank on one side was high and on the other had to be cleared of scrub and stumps and a formation made for 25 yards .

By 6.30pm the job was completed and notice boards were erected for all bridges and tracks. Approach roads to the crossing were made passable by removing the worst of the debris . Total men by- time

10 nours -During the evening a complete reconnaissance as requested by C.R.E. was made by Captain Moeds of destroyed footbridge and track to RADEGONDE at I.32.a.5.9. Unfortunately the runner failed to find his way in the dark and the report did not arrive in time to be

of assistance as desired. During the reply to the 6th A.I.Bdes attack at dawn the bivouac at H. 12.b.5.6. was severely shelled and 1 shell hit am bivouac direct Killing two and wounding 9 (2 so bad ly that they died of wounds subsequently). The whole of the nights bombardment had been a severe strain on all this party, and an effort was at omce made to get a camp with good cover. Major Webb had remained overnight at 7th A.I.Bde H.Qrs as the detachments location was not known until late at night. A good camp of dugouts was found and made good at I.7.a.65.65 and Nos 1 and 4 sections moved to these and rested. This area proved a good one though there was still some H.E. and gas bombardments subsequently.

On the morning of the 2nd Lt McGowan (who had joined No 4 section the previous day) moved out with 3 O.R. to reconnoitre the forward area. Advise and orders concerning attack by the 7th A.I. Ede being received at 8.00am, Lt Fidler . M. C. with 4.0.R. (No 4) also proceeded to reconnoitre the area captured. Both these parties brought in extremely valuable reports re water, dugouts, reads, etc and Lt Fidler'd party carried its reconnaissance under exceptionally heavy shell fire. Lt Fidler's party also was exceedingly valuable in locating the H.Qrs of the 7th A.I.Bde Battalions. All these reports as well as all others mentioned herein were written up in triplicate and forwarded to both C.R.E. and 7th A.I Bde Major Webb reconnoitred vicinity of HALLE for Brigade H.Qrs etc and bridge at H. 24.b.7.3. With a view to converting to M.T. No 1 section made improvements to camp. - clearing entrances to dugouts, gasproofing etc. Various samples of water tested.

On the 2nd Nos 2 and 3 sections took things more easily . No 2 strengthened several piers on the bridge at H. 24. b. 7.3. while No 3 cleared all approach roads thoroughly removing fallen trees and pieces, wire etc and filling shell holes. On the evening of the 2nd a reportwas made on work required to convert the crossing H. 24.d.7.9. to HALLE for M/T. route.

On the morning of the 3rd Major Webb made a closer reconnaissnace of the bridge and submitted a more precise report estimating the work required at 8. to 12 hours without interrupting traffic for more than half and hour dependent on the amount of traffic , and the state of the understructure of the bridge. The same evening No 3 section comm enced the overhaul of the bridge working for about 3 hours but much interrupted by traffic. No 4 section opened up 1 well with pump and notice boards in FEUILLAUCOURT by 9.00am and 1 in ALLAINES by 6.00pm with bucket and Windlass. No 4 section also patrolled road from MANN OMMIECOURT - CLERY bridge to ALLAINES, cleared it and improved by filling shell holes etc.

On the 4th Nos 1 and 2 and 3 sections worked off and on in shifts all day during daylight from 10mto 11 hours each. Work was constantly interrupted by traffic and several timesk harassed by shell fire. On inspection as the decking was removed it was found that the pilrs and understructure were much poorer than supposed. Each

APPENDIX/4

portion of the bridge piers , and bays, had to be taken on its merits, materials computed and arranged. Spans varied in length and materials (both existing and new) in both dimensions and soundness. It was obvious that the whole job required watching all the time if itwas to be safe eventually. The men worked splendidly and in view of the heavy operations of the previous days performed Herculean tasks. Notwithstanding, by 8 pm the same evening the job appeared to be about two thirds done and a further estimate was given for completion by 2.00pm on the 5th.

No 4 section continued on roads, placing of noticeboards and clearing and burying 5 dead horses and collecting salvage in vicinity of camp. Lt Fidler visited the forward area and all Bat alions and Lt McGowan proceeded as forward party to new billets in vicinity of ECLUSIER.

Although the Division was relieved on the night 4/5th all hands were desirous of completing this difficult job on which so much labor had been expended. Hence at 6.00am on the 5th work was carried on again and Nos 2 and 3 sections and half of No 1 section we put in another 10 hours each in shifts up till 8.30pm. Some men worked as much as 12 hours on the job and the spirit shewn was magnificent. Again the work was severely interrupted and increased by constant closings for traffic and at the last stage on stripping thelast two bays at the N. end it was found that both the abutment and the last pier required practically remaking. Thus at 6.30pm this work had to be faced when it was expected to finish off in about 4 hour at most. However, nothing daunted all set to and finally made the bridge size safe for M.T. 52 ton axle loads at moderate speed by 8.30pm.

On the morning of the oth, about 2 hours work for 8 men finished everything off, placing kerbing at the approaches, spiking down fitting handrail and placing noticebaards. The whole job was finished leaving full lengths of timbers without cutting in case further alteration became e necessary and sufficient time was not available to put finish on as desired. The whole job was only feasible by reason of the ample supply of all materials right on the job. Members were arranged so that nothing less than 2 -8" x8" (full) beach timbers, new, sawn and straight, were used on spans 11' centres. For greater spans than this 9" to 10" x 8" beech or 8" x 3½" x (7/16ths "flange) R.S.J's were used, two for the wheel load in each case. 24" to 3" beech decking was used.

Finally the piers though well overhauled, renewed, braced and strutted were felt to be the most doubtful portion of the whole, but no further time could be given to these.

6/9/18.

E.N. WEBB Major.

O.C. 7th Field Company Australian Engrs.

guing.

