

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/65/1 Part 2

**Title:** Headquarters, Liaison Force

August 1918



AWM4-1/65/1PART2



boundary  
— 9719

App No 17

LIAISON FORCE

Le F. 94 :

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 1 :

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF GAS CASUALTIES

1. - The enemy is using gas to a very considerable extent, but so far has not put down a concentration such as he has done in the past, namely at MERICOURT and VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. It is probable, however, that he will put down such a concentration at any time, mainly on the Woods, Villages and Valleys in the forward part of the Area.  
Experience has shown that his concentrations have caused considerable casualties, principally among working and carrying parties, and among small uncontrolled groups of men. In all cases where the precautions laid down had been taken and where all parties had been organized and properly controlled, the casualties were very light.
2. - The following types of bombardments have been experienced:-
  - Prior to an attack :  
Bombardment in rear of front line with Lacrymatory and Lethal gases, but not with Mustard gas.
  - Harassing fire :-
    - (i) - Concentrations of from 4,000 to 15,000 shells, Mixed gases, including large proportion of Mustard gas.
    - (ii) - In the case of villages or dugouts, a concentration of (i) with H.E. of all calibres, excepting .77.



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In order to ensure that the minimum number of casualties result, the following is suggested as essential :-

PRELIMINARY :

- (i) - Constant training when out of front line in detection of gas es.
- (ii) - Care of the S. B. R.
- (iii) - Use of the S.B.R. by night.
- (iv) - Long practices in movement and working with S.B.R. adjusted by night.
- (v) - Organization of units and parties in case of gas.
- (vi) - Clear and definite orders for the organization of all units and parties under suitable Officers or N.C.Os. in case of gas alarm.
- (vii) - Reconnaissance by Commanders of units and parties on arriving at new positions to determine alternative positions to move troops to in case of gas bombardment.
- (viii) - Frequent Gas Station drill.
- (ix) - Efficient gas proofing of dugouts and cellars.
- (x) - Efficient and adequate sentries.
- (xi) - Written orders for sentries.
- (xii) - Proper posting of sentries.



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DURING ATTACK :

- (i) - Rapid alarm and taking up of gas stations.
  - (ii) - Reconnaissance by Commanders to define limits of gassed area, direction of wind, class of gas, etc.
  - (iii) - Decision of Commanders of Units and parties as to action in accordance with orders, viz :- whether to move or remain.
4. - If gases other than Mustard are used, troops essential to the immediate defence of the sector must not move from battle positions.  
If Mustard is used, however, support and reserve troops may safely move a short distance to a flank or forward.
  5. - Ration and working parties should cease their work at once, and either remain still or move to rejoin their units or to a position clear of gas in the vicinity. It should be remembered that men carry an emergency ration and that emergency dumps generally exist; these are intended to meet such a case.
  6. - All movements must be quiet and orderly, all parties being under control. S.B.Rs. must only be removed by order of an Officer, or in case of parties the Officer or N. C. O. in charge. This applies to the removal of the eye-pieces.



APPENDIX 17

- Page 4 -

The proper method of using the anti-dimming composition should be shown to all ranks. It is usual for men to rub it on and off with a rag; this absolutely destroys the effect. The composition should be put on with the fingers, only a small quantity being used, and rubbed with the fingers only until the glass is quite clear. By this method, which is the only correct one, a very thin film of the composition is left on the glass.

*Alan M. O'Connell*  
 Brig-General,  
 Commanding LIAISON FORCE.



*War diary*  
*— JRB*

*App No 18*

**SECRET** :

**LIAISON FORCE**

Copy No. 23

**L.F. 89** :

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

**- LOCATION OF UNITS AS AT 8 a.m. 17th Augt. 1918. -**

Liaison Force Headquarters	.. .. .	J. 22. c. 95.15
58th D. A. H. Q.	.. .. .	J. 22. d. 2. 4.
Jones Group H.Q.	.. .. .	K. 27. c. 7. 9.
290th Brigade.	.. .. .	K. 27. c. 7. 9.
291st Brigade.	.. .. .	K. 29. b. 8. 8.
5th Army Brigade, R.H.A.	.. .. .	Q. 12. b. 3. 5.
131st U.S. Regiment H.Q.	.. .. .	} K. 32. b. 4. 3.
131st Supply Company H.Q.	.. .. .	
131st M.G. Coy. H.Q.	.. .. .	
131st Headquarters Company	.. .. .	
131st M.G. Coy. forward H.Q.	.. .. .	L. 20. a. 1. 2.
T.M. Detachment H.Q.	.. .. .	K. 28. b. 95.22.
T.M. Detachment forward H.Q.	.. .. .	L. 19. b. 6. 4.
131st R. A. P.	.. .. .	K. 32. b. 4. 0.
1st Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 24. d. 4. 5.
2nd Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 32. b. 9. 9.
3rd Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 29. c. 2. 5.
124th U.S. M.G. Battalion.	.. .. .	J. 21. c. central.
13th Australian Infantry Brigade H.Q.	.. .. .	K. 28. d. 7. 5.
49th Battalion.	.. .. .	J. 30. a. 1. 8.
50th Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 23. b. 85.10
51st Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 29. a. 5. 2.
13th M.G. Coy. H.Q.	.. .. .	K. 18. e. 8. 0.
13th A.L.T.M.B. H.Q.	.. .. .	K. 29. a. 0. 3.
34th Battalion.	.. .. .	K. 18. n. 8. 0.
13th Aust. Field Ambulance.	.. .. .	J. 28. c. 7. 7.
129th American Field Ambulance.	.. .. .	I. 30. b. 3. 5.
13th Field Company, Australian Engineers.	.. .. .	K. 29. c. 8. 5.
O.C. Squadron, 13th Light Horse	.. .. .	} J. 28. a. 2. 6.
A.P.M.	.. .. .	

*W. J. ...*  
Major, G.S.  
LIAISON FORCE.

(For Distribution - see back)



Y No:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 - 2- Australian Corps. | 15 - III Corps.                |
| 3- 131st U.S. Regiment.  | 16 - 17th Division.            |
| 4- 13th Aust. Inf. Bde   | 17 - 47th Division.            |
| 5- C.R.A., L.F.          | 18 - A.D.M.S., L.F.            |
| 6- C.R.E., L.F.          | 19 - G., L.F.                  |
| 7- O.C., L.F. Signal Co. | 20 - 33rd American Division    |
| 8- G.O.C., L.F.          | 21 - 66th American Inf. Bde.   |
| 9- A.Q., L.F.            | 22 - 124th U.S.M. G. Battalion |
| 10- 1st Aust. Division.  | 23-25 - War Diary.             |
| 11- 2nd Aust. Division.  | 26 - A.P.M.                    |
| 12- 3rd Aust. Division.  | 27 - File.                     |
| 13- 4th Aust. Division.  |                                |
| 14- 5th Aust. Division.  |                                |



APPENDIX "A"58th DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.LOCATION STATEMENT.

8 a.m. 17/8/18.

D. A. H. Q.

....

J. 22. d. 2. 4.

Unit.	Position.	Wagon Lines.	
		Forward.	Rear.
<u>5th Army Brigade RHA., H.Q.</u>	<u>Q. 12. b. 3. 5.</u>	I. 30. a. 8. 2.	
"G" Battery RHA.	K. 36. a. 4. 6.	K. 31. c. 5. 9.	J. 35. a. 5. 5.
"N" " "	K. 36. a. 7. 2.	K. 31. cent.	J. 35. d. 0. 6.
"O" " "	K. 30. c. 5. 2.	K. 31. b. 8. 8.	P. 6. b. 2. 8.
"Z" " "	K. 36. d. 5. 7.	K. 31. a. 65. 70.	P. 6. a. 5. 5.
<u>290th Brigade RFA. H.Q.</u>	K. 27. c. 7. 9.	BAVELIN COURT.	
"A" Battery.	K. 23. c. 10. 75.	J. 35. a. 7. 2.	"
"B" " "	K. 29. c. 2. 4.	J. 28. c. 5. 4.	"
"C" " "	K. 22. d. 6. 1.	P. 6. a. 6. 7.	"
"D" " "	K. 29. a. 1. 4.	J. 36. a. 3. 5.	"
<u>291st Brigade RFA. H.Q.</u>	K. 29. b. 8. 8.	SAILLY LAURETTE.	VAUX-SUR-SOMME.
"A" Battery.	K. 23. d. 15. 25.	"	"
"B" " "	K. 30. a. 7. 3.	"	"
"C" " "	K. 30. a. 5. 8.	"	"
"D" " "	K. 29. b. 5. 5.	"	"

58th Div. Ammn. Column.5th Army Bde. Ammn. Col.

Headquarters.	J. 34. b. 5. 3.	Q. 2. b. 8. 8.
No. 1 Section.	J. 34. b. 5. 3.	
No. 2 Section.	J. 34. b. 6. 5.	
S. A. A. Section.	Under orders of 58th Div. "Q".	

58th D. T. M. O. PONT NOYELLES.

58th A. R. P. K. 34. c. 4. 0. Nr. CHIPILLY.  
Emergency A. R. P. Nr. BEHEN COURT.



War Diary  
Lt 81B

App No 19

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY :

LIAISON FORCE

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 4.

From 6 a.m. 15.8.1918 to 6 a.m. 16.8.1918

1. - OPERATIONS :

Patrolling activity was maintained throughout the hours of darkness.

Excluding liaison patrols which maintained communication with flank units, the following reconnaissance and protective patrols left our lines (attached map to Corps) :-

Left Brigade :

	Strength	Time Out	Time In	Route taken	Remarks
1.	1 N.C.O. & 5 O.Rs.	1.30 am.	3 am.	L.14.d.4.3 to L.14.d.7.7. " L.14.d.5.7. " L.14.d.4.3.	No enemy were seen but M. G. located firing on our wiring party from L.14.d.9.7 L.14.d.9.9. & L.14.d.5.9.
2.	1 N.C.O. & 2 O.Rs.	M/night	2 a.m.	L.14.c.1.8 to L.13.d.60.95 " L.13.d.6.8. Headquarters, 16th August, 1918.	Everything quiet. No enemy seen or heard.
3.	1 N.C.O. & 3 O.Rs.	1 a.m.	3 a.m.	L.13.central to L.13.b.2.5. to L.13.a.8.7. to K.18.b.8.8. L.13.d.60.95 " L.13.d.6.8.	Enemy working party heard; at L.13.b.5.4, M. G. fired short bursts from L.13.b.7.3.

1. - OPERATIONS :



Right Brigade :

Patrol went into valley at L. 20. c. 8.9. then across swamp travelling south to L. 33. a. 3.4., returning in a south-westerly direction to our own lines.

Patrol could see no signs of enemy. Bombers were heard in BRAY. H.G. was located at L. 21. a. 7.9. Signal station and snipers post reported in Church Tower at BRAY, L. 15. c. central.

Artillery : Our artillery was active throughout the period, 18 pounders paying attention to enemy's forward positions, & L. 17, BRAY and CEYLON WOOD were shelled by our heavies.

Machine Guns : Enemy positions in L. 14. A. were fired on during the night, 4,000 rounds being expended.

Aircraft : Fairly active patrolling our lines. They were heavily engaged by hostile A.A. fire.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE :

Infantry : The enemy's infantry remains alert, but is in no way aggressive.

Occasional bursts of H.G. fire were directed on to the forward positions of our left Brigade front during the night, and snipers were active on our right Brigade front during the day, otherwise quiet.

Artillery : Hostile artillery remains aggressive, but with the exception of GRESSAIRE WOOD, which appears to receive particular attention. H.G. shelling is scattered. The following areas were shelled with gas during the 24 hours under review :-

GRESSAIRE WOODS from midnight until 3.45 a.m.  
K. 32. b. was shelled with Mustard gas, one shell about every two minutes from 1.10 am. until 3.45 a.m.  
Yellow Cross gas shells were fired on L. 14. d. and GRESSAIRE WOOD.



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Aircraft :- Enemy planes were active during the day, and two bombing trips were made last night; one between 9.30 pm. and 10 p.m., and one between 1. and 1.30 a.m. dropping approximately 50 bombs.

At 8.15 a.m. enemy observation balloon was visible 125 deg. from K.24, d.7.4., estimated range about 7,000 yards; at 3.40 p.m. this balloon was lowered for five minutes and again raised, remaining until 8.15 p.m.

### 3. - MOVEMENT :

At 7 p.m. small number of men were seen in vicinity of L.35.d.5.4, walking towards wood, where they disappeared.

Considerable movement of enemy limbers in BRAY, and other signs signify that the enemy still occupies the village.

Individual movement was seen throughout the day on road in L.17.b.

Horse transport observed on road in L.17. b. & d.

#### Enemy defences :

Machine Guns : L.14.d.9.7. ; L.14.d.9.9. ; L.14.d.5.9. ;  
L.13.b.7.3. and L.21.a.7.9.

Signal station and snipers' post suspected in BRAY  
Church Tower at L.15.c. central.

### 4. - MISCELLANEOUS :

Marquee at G.26.b.6.4. (sheet 62c) has been removed.

Gun flashes observed at 71 deg; 72 deg; & 91 deg.T.B.  
from K.29.a.85.30.

Fire observed at 4 p.m. at 147 deg.T.B. from K.26.d.1.3.  
burning for half-an-hour.

*Geo. T. Price Major*  
Major, G.S.  
LIAISON FORCE.



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APPENDIX.

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SECRET :

LIAISON FORCE

Copy no. \_\_\_\_\_

Ref. Sheet 62D.  
1/40,000

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

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PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

1. FRONTAGES AND BOUNDARIES :

The front, boundaries and headquarters of formations of the Liaison Force, as well as the headquarters and approximate fronts of flank formations are as shown on map attached.

2. DISPOSITIONS :

The front will be held by the 131st American Infantry Regiment on the right and the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade on the left, each on a single Battalion frontage, the remaining units of each formation being disposed in depth in support and reserve.

Each formation is covered by its own M.G. Company and L.T.M. Unit.

The 124th American M.G. Battalion is in Divisional Reserve.

3. ROLE OF THE LIAISON FORCE :

(a) - The role of the Liaison Force is to protect the left flank of the Australian Corps by forming a defensive flank between the troops S. of the SOMME and the Corps on our left.

Ref. Sheet 62D.  
1/40,000

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

(b) - The Liaison Force will keep pace N. of the SOMME with any advance made by our line S. of the river, or will assist such advance by moving our line forward in



It is essential at the present phase that the Liaison Force should deny the enemy observation of the MERICOURT-ETINEHEM area in order that the left flank of the Division South of the SOMME may be secure.

This entails the present front line being maintained intact.

The policy is, therefore, defensive for the present, but entails readiness to continue the advance at any moment.

5. - DEFENCES :

(a) - The present front line will be the main line of resistance. It joins the AMIENS defences at the point of junction with the Corps on the left.

The AMIENS line is the main line of resistance of the Corps on our left.

(b) - A Support System is being constructed under Divisional arrangements as shown in red on attached map.

Formations will keep in close touch with the 13th Field Company as regards the progress of this system and will take over posts within their boundaries from 13th Field Company as soon as they are spit-locked to a depth of one foot.

Formations will complete posts from this stage to a depth of 4 or 6" below ground level and will garrison them as completed.

The Support System joins with the Second Line System of the Corps on our left, which is being constructed on the line as shown on map attached.

The C.R.E., in conjunction with the 13th Inf. Bde, will ensure that suitably sited posts are constructed at the point of junction.

(c) - A Reserve System is being reconnoitred as shown in blue on attached map. Separate instructions will be issued in this regard.

//



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PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE :

- (a) - The present front line is the line of resistance and will be held at all costs.  
Troops will not retire from any one line to another.
- (b) - The front system will be held as lightly as is consistent with security by a series of mutually supporting posts. Lewis and Machine Guns will be sited for flanking fire and to cover all possible approaches to our line. Each company group of posts will have its own local support.
- (c) - Active patrolling will ensure against surprise, and is further essential in order to secure constant information as to the enemy's location and his strength.
- (d) - The front will be wired.
- (e) - If the line is broken it will be restored by counter-attack on the initiative of the Unit Commander on the spot. This applies to all support and reserve units down to Platoons, except the Division and Brigade Reserves.
- (f) - Observation posts will be established in front of the main line as far forward as possible to maintain complete observation over country well to the front and flanks.

7. - ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK :

- (a) - Should the enemy penetrate our line he will be held in a pocket, and immediately counter-attacked, preferably from a flank, by the supports and reserves held by the Commander on the spot, without reference to higher authority.

All Commanders should have their plans for local counter-attack made and known to all ranks, and all troops in support and reserve of front line, battalions should be clear as to their course of action in the event of hostile penetration of any part of their front.

Detailed knowledge of the ground is essential on the part of all Officers in order that the local counter-attack may be delivered without delay.



(b) - The front line and support Battalions are at the disposal of Brigade and Regimental Commanders for the purpose of maintaining the front system.

The reserve Battalions represent the Divisional reserve at the disposal of the G.O.C., Liaison Force, and will not be committed without reference to H.Q. Liaison Force.

As the reserve Battalions may be employed in case of necessity on any portion of the Liaison Force front, they must be familiar with all forward routes and approaches.

(c) - In the event of a heavy attack on our front, action will be taken as follows by Brigade and Regimental Commanders.

All troops in front line and support positions will stand to on the order from Headquarters, Liaison Force, "STAND BY". First line transport will be held ready to move with full echelons at 15 minutes notice.

Battalions in Divisional Reserve will stand by ready to move at 15 minutes notice.

On receipt of the order "MOVE" from Headquarters, Liaison Force, Brigade and Regimental Commanders will move their reserve Battalions to positions of assembly as under :-

Reserve Battalion of 13th American Infantry Regiment from MALARD WOOD VALLEY (K. 32. b.) to the western slopes of the CHIPILLY SPUR in K. 27. a. & c. C.O. Reserve Battalion of 13th Regiment will at the same time send an Officer to 13th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters at K. 28. d. 8. 2. to await further orders from Liaison Force Headquarters.

Reserve Battalion of 13th Australian Infantry Brigade from CHIPILLY VALLEY to the Valley in K. 21. a. & c.

Support /



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Support Battalions will be moved to suitable positions previously selected under orders of Brigade and Regimental Commanders.

B. - POSSIBLE ENEMY ACTION :

Hostile action may take the form of :-

- (a) - Raids for purposes of identification.
- (b) - Attack on our salient in L.14 from the direction of BRAY and Square L.9.
- (c) - Attack on the high ground on our left sector from the direction of L.7 and L.8.
- (d) - Attack in strength on the Corps on our left, involving an attack on our front in L.13 & L.14.
- (e) - Attempt to regain the high ground in the bend of the river in L.28 and L.32.

The following measures will be taken to meet these possible contingencies:-

- (a) - Active patrolling and alertness on the part of the front line garrison, combined with wiring of posts and approaches and well-sited Lewis guns will break up a raid or attack on a small scale.
- (b) - The pushing forward of advanced posts into positions to command the re-entrants and covered approaches to our line in L.7.d, L.14.a, & L.15.c, should give early warning of any concentration.
- (c) - All such approaches will be made the special targets of indirect M.G. fire and a night fire programme, which will be constantly varied, will be drawn up and carried out in each 24 hours.

Our/



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APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

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Our shrapnel barrage (18 pounders) covers our line at a distance of 500 yards from our front and is sufficiently thick to prevent the reinforcement of any hostile attack from the direction of L7 - L8 - L9 & L15.

(e) - Any attempt to regain the high ground in the loop in L26 & 32. will be preceded by concentration in L21 and 27 and by subsequent infiltration across the <sup>possible</sup> few marsh and river crossings or along the Northern bank of the river from BRAY.

This will be met by active patrolling of the area in Square L27 and by vigilance of the posts covering the possible river crossings. Machine Guns and Lewis Guns should be sited to cover possible avenues of approach.

Constant lateral patrolling between posts is essential.

- - Artillery arrangements are as shown in Appendix attached.
- - In order that close touch may be kept with Units and formations on our flanks, liaison arrangements have been made as shown in Appendix "A".  
Officers carrying out liaison duties will not be relieved without reference to Headquarters, Liaison Force.  
Officers on liaison duty will visit the Headquarters of the formation which they represent once daily, in order to keep fully in touch with the situation.
- - The Light Horse troop has carried out reconnaissances of the forward area and will be held ready for such further action as may be required. O. C., Troop, will keep himself informed of the development of bridging over the SOMME, and will ensure that all N.C.Os. know the forward area and the routes thereto.



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- 12.- The S.O.S. Signal now in force is a No. 32 rifle grenade throwing Red over Red over Red.
- 13.- Signal arrangements will be issued separately.
- 14.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Pl Casey*

Major, G.S.,  
LIAISON FORCE.

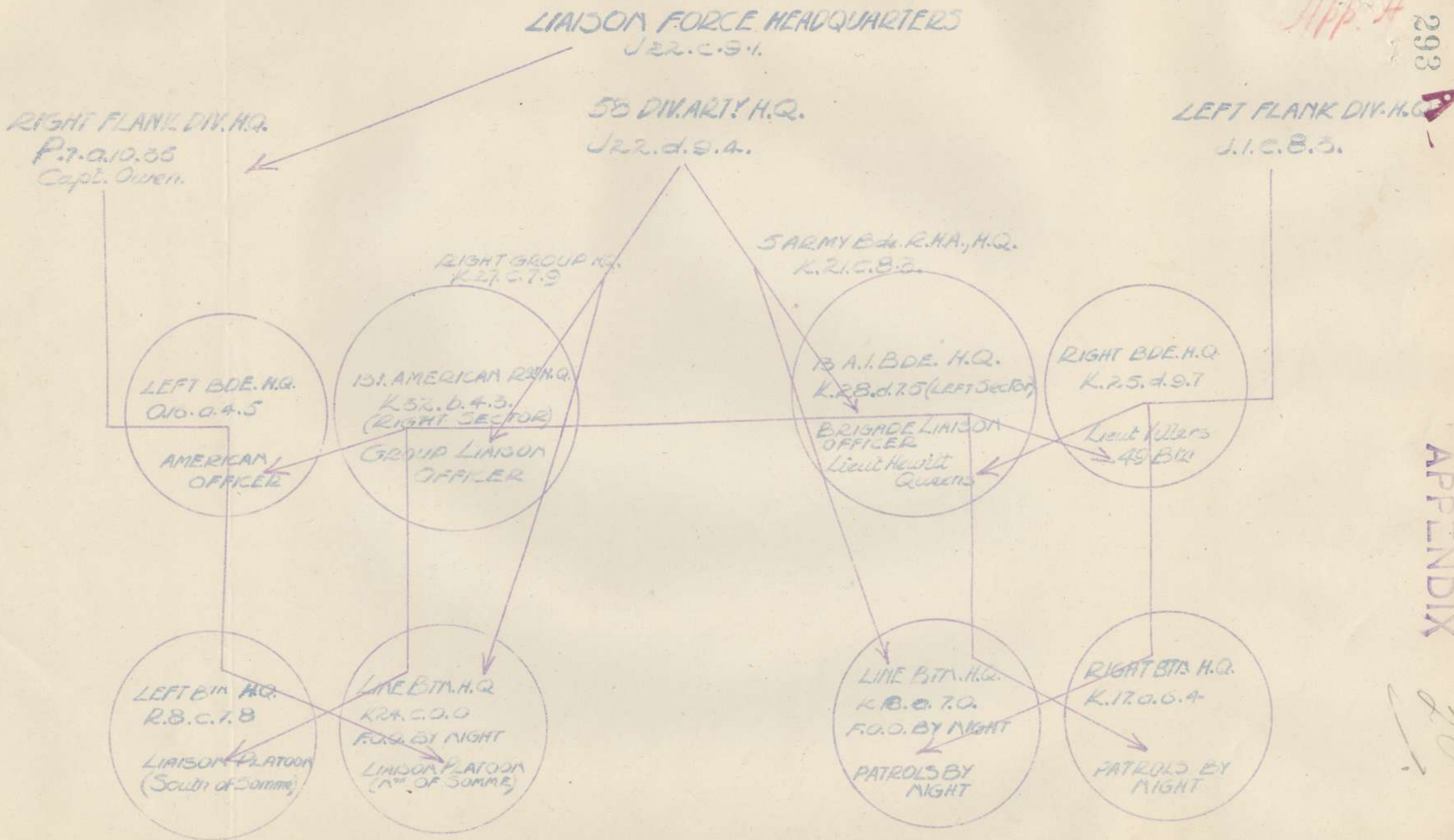
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6 - 5th Aust. Division.  
7 - 47th Division.  
8 - 33rd American Div.  
9 - 66th Amer. Inf. Bde.  
10 - A.D.C. for G.O.C.  
11 - A.D.M.S.  
12 - C.R.L.  
13 - Q.  
14- 16 - War Diary.  
17 - File.



# SCHEME OF LIAISON BETWEEN LIAISON FORCE & FLANK FORMATIONS - UNITS

App. "A"  
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LIAISON FORCE  
10-3-39

APPENDIX  
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293A

LIAISON FORCE

App No. 21

L.F. 95 :

*Wark Diary*  
*8/13*

Headquarters,  
16th August, 1918.

131st Amer. Inf. Regiment.  
13th Australian Inf. Bde.  
-----

As considerable hostile gas shelling may be expected on our front, the following counter measures will be taken :-

1. - The fact of hostile gas shelling commencing will be reported by wire or telephone at once by Battalions and other Units through their Battalion F.O.O. direct to the Artillery Liaison Officer at Brigade or Regimental H.Q. Brigade and Regimental Artillery Liaison Officers are in direct telephonic communication with the Heavy Artillery Liaison Officer at Liaison Force R.A. Headquarters.

The following particulars of hostile gas shelling are required :-

- Locality shelled.
- Approximate rate of fire.
- Calibre of shell.
- Direction of fire (as accurate as possible)
- Position of observer.

2. - Arrangements have been made with the Heavy Artillery that on receipt of the above particulars counter battery fire will be opened immediately on the group of hostile batteries, which the particulars suggest are responsible for the shelling.
3. - The Heavy Artillery have been asked to lay on these localities when they are not engaged in other programmes, and will be in a position to open fire without delay on receipt of the above particulars.
4. - The success of the Scheme depends on the rapidity and accuracy of the reports telephoned through with regard to hostile gun shelling.

Major, G. S.,  
LIAISON FORCE.

Copy to :-

- 33rd American Division.
  - 66th American Brigade.
  - C. R. A., 58th Division.
-



Ref. Sheet 62D.  
1/40,000 & map  
attached.

S E C R E T

Copy No. 11

Headquarters,  
17th August 1918.

LIAISON FORCE-ORDER NO. 3.  
-----

- 1.- Subject to weather conditions being favourable gas projectors will be discharged by "Z" Special Coy R.E. from the vicinity of K.20.a. central against the south western corner of BRAY at 3 a.m. tomorrow morning the 18th instant in accordance with arrangements as under.
- 2.- The objective, location of emplacement of projectors and danger zones will be as shown on map attached.
- 3.- Troops will be moved to the flanks from within the RED shaded area on map attached from 2.50. a.m. till 3.20. a.m. on 18th instant.  
Troops within the BLUE shaded area will wear the S.B.R. adjusted from 2.50. a.m. till 3.20. a.m. on 18th instant, or until such time as the officer in charge of the sector affected decides that the area is clear of gas.
- 4.- Arrangements as under have been made for the transport and emplacement of projectors :-
  - (a) Seven double limbers are being detailed by "Q" branch, Liaison Force, in charge of a mounted officer to report to 2/Lieut WEBSTER (2 Special Coy R.E.) at the Church in SAILLY LAURETTE (J. 36. d. 9. 2) at 7.30. p.m. tonight 17th instant.
  - (b) Route for limbers will be via CHIPILLY - across CHIPILLY RIDGE by road through K. 35. a. 4. 0. - road through K. 29. central to ET LINEHEM - thence along BRAY road to emplacements.
  - (c) Lieut WHITFIELD ('Z' Special Coy R.E) will be in charge of the actual emplacing of the dischargers and of the operations as a whole.



App. No. 22

- Limbers will not cross the CHIPILLY SPUR before 9.15. later at Lieut. WEBSTER'S discretion.
- 131st American Infantry Regiment will detail an officer who is thoroughly conversant with the roads through WEINHEIM and the forward area, to meet Lieut. WEBSTER at the Dressing Station at K.24.c.O.O. at 9.50.p.m. This officer will accompany Lieut. WEBSTER to the emplacements.
- 'Z' Special Coy R.E. will arrange to camouflage the projector positions after discharge and will ensure that all projectiles that have not been discharged are removed immediately after the operation.
- The weather forecast is now favourable to discharge. Lieut. WHITFIELD ('Z' Special Coy R.E) will decide on the ground on the wind conditions at the time just prior to 3.a.m. whether or not the discharge is to take place.  
Lieut. WHITFIELD will keep close touch with the Commander of 3rd American Battalion, 131st American Infantry Regiment, and will inform him if the discharge is to be made on the night.
- The limits of direction of wind for safe discharge are from South through West to North North West.
- The following code words will be used in connection with the operation :-

Operation will take place	-	HONULULU
Operation CANCELLED	-	A. D.
Operation COMPLETED	-	CLUB.
- The Heavy and Field Artillery covering the Sector will fire a 3 minute concentration on BRAY commencing at 3 a.m.



- Page 3. -

11. - Watches will be synchronised by 'phone from Liaison Force Headquarters with 131st American Infantry Regiment and C.R.A., 58th Division at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. today, 17th inst. Watches will not be synchronised by 'phone further forward than 131st American Inf. Regiment Headquarters.

12. - ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Ph Carey*

Major, G.S.,  
LIAISON FORCE.

- DISTRIBUTION -Issued to :

Copy No. 1 - 3 - 131st Amer. Inf. Regt. (2 maps)  
4 - "Z" Special Coy. R.E. (1 map)  
5 - 13th Aust. Inf. Bde. (1 map)  
6 - C.R.A., 58th Division. (1 map)

Copies to :-

7 - Australian Corps. (1 map)  
8 - 5th Aust. Division.  
9 - 47th Division.  
10 - 9th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
11 - 124th Amer. M. G. Bn.  
12 - A.D.M.S.  
13 - Q.  
14 - C.R.E.  
15 - 33rd American Division. (1 map)  
16 - 66th American Brigade. (1 map)  
17 - 19 - War Diary.  
20 - File.



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APPENDIX 23

LIAISON FORCE

SECRET

Copy No. 14

Ref. Sheet 62.D. 1/40,000  
& map attached.

Headquarters,  
17th August, 1918.

- LIAISON FORCE ORDER NO. 4 -

1. - 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will arrange to relieve the 34th Battalion in the line in the left sector of the Liaison Force front by a Battalion of the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade on the night 18th/19th instant.

On relief the 34th Battalion will revert to the Command of the G.O.C., 9th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

Completion of relief will be wired by the code word "ARRANGED".

2. - Dispositions of Battalions in support and reserve of 13th Australian Infantry Brigade and 131st American Infantry Regiment will be adjusted on night 18/19th instant as follows:-

- (a) - The Support Battalion of the 131st American Infantry Regiment will be organized in the area marked "C" on attached map.

Troops will be dug-in by small units on reverse slopes and in minor folds, out of direct observation and as far as possible away from the bottoms of valleys and woods. Companies will be detailed to such portions of the Support System as come within the regimental boundaries, but the actual trenches need only be manned by one sentry group per platoon. All Officers should be clear as to their forward routes for counter attack. Movement under observation by daylight will be reduced to a minimum.



- (b) - The Reserve Battalion of the 131st American Infantry Regiment will remain quartered in MALARD WOOD VALLEY, but will not spread Northward further than an E. & W. grid line through K.27. central.
- (c) - The Support Battalion of the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will be organized in area marked "D" on attache map. Troops will be dug-in in the least shelled zones, and will be tied off to sections of the support system within the Brigade boundaries.
- (d) - The Reserve Battalion of the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will be quartered in area marked "F" on attache map.

3. - Completion of the above adjustment will be wired by the code word " COMPLETE ".

*E. J. Bayley*  
 Major, G.S.,  
 LIAISON FORCE.

-DISTRIBUTION-

Issued to :-

- No. 1 - 13th Australian Infantry Brigade.
- 2 - 131st American Infantry Regiment.

Copies to :-

- |                          |   |                         |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 3.- Australian Corps.    | : | 9.- 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| 4.- 4th Aust. Division.  | : | 10.- C.R.E., L.F.       |
| 5.- 5th Aust. Division.  | : | 11.- Q., L.F.           |
| 6.- 47th Division.       | : | 12.- A.D.C. for G.O.C.  |
| 7.- 33rd American Div.   | : | 13-15- War Diary        |
| 8.- 66th American I.Bde. | : | 16- File.               |



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APPENDIX 24

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY :

## LIAISON FORCE

Headquarters,  
17th August, 1918.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 5  
From 6 a.m. 16.8.1918 to 6 a.m. 17.8.1918I. - OPERATIONS :Infantry : A night post was established at L.14.b.45.20.Patrols : Liaison Patrols maintained touch with flank units throughout the period.

The following reconnaissance patrol left our line :-

	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Time out</u>	<u>Time in</u>	<u>ROUTE TAKEN</u>
No.1	1 Officer. & 7 O.Rs.	1 p.m.	2 p.m.	L.13.d.4.6.; L.13.central; L.13.b.6.2.; L.13.d.4.6.

Patrol reports :- Ground for 200 yards round L.13.b.6.2. was examined and no signs of the enemy could be found. Flares were fired by the enemy from L.14.a.8.6.Artillery : Our artillery was active throughout the period. L.27.d., CEYLON WOOD and R.4.central were shelled with 4.5s. and heavies; our 18 pounders engaging enemy targets in the forward area.Trench Mortars : At 9.45 p.m. ten rounds were fired by our L.T.Ms. on enemy M.G. position at L.14.a.2.4., and at 10.15 p.m. ten rounds on M.G. position at L.14.b.3.4. Good shooting was obtained on both targets.Machine Guns : Vickers guns fired on enemy positions in L.14.a. and L.8.c. during the night. 5,000 rounds were expended.Aircraft : Our planes were active patrolling our lines during the day, and a number reconnoitred the enemy lines at 7 p.m. Much bombing of the enemy forward area was heard during the night.



ENEMY INTELLIGENCE :

Infantry : The enemy infantry remains placid. His Machine Guns fire short bursts over our front line during the night, but are comparatively quiet.

Artillery : His artillery makes up for the inactivity of the other branches, and is constantly harassing our forward and rear areas, with large calibre shells.

The majority of his shelling is scattered, but he has chosen areas to which he pays considerable attention.

GRESSAIRE WOOD, K. 18. c. & d; K. 25. B. & c., and K. 24. b. were heavily shelled during the night with Yellow Cross gas. Fifteen 4.2s. were fired into ETINHEM during the shelling period.

Between 12.15 and 12.25 p.m. about forty shells fell in the valley of the SOMME from K. 29. b. to K. 35. b.

There was also light gas shelling of area K. 33. b. and K. 33. d. in MALARD WOOD.

Enemy aircraft : Hostile planes were seen during the day, and bombing of our rear areas was carried out during the night. Two hostile observation balloons were up at intervals during the day on T, bearings of 48 deg. and 68 deg. from K. 23. b. 9.2.

3. MOVEMENT :

Movement was observed during the day at quarry L. 34. a. 95. 55 and movement in both directions along road in L. 36. a. Individual movement was observed throughout the day in L. 16 & L. 17.

At 7 a.m. this morning, 17th instant, a man was seen to walk down the sunken road through L. 16. c. and appeared to enter house at L. 15. d. 95. 20.

(K. 23. b. c. & d.; K. 24. a. & K. 29. a. were heavily shelled with H.E. & 4.2 )

Miscellaneous/



- Page 3 -

4. - MISCELLANEOUS :

The majority of shells fired on our right Brigade Sector came from a direction 50 deg. to 85 deg. T.R. from K.23.b.95.20.

At 6.30 p.m. our artillery shelled L.27 with H.E. and smoke was seen to rise from vicinity of dump at L.27.d.6.0. Fire was observed in enemy lines at 98 deg. T.B. from K.29.a.85.30. Strings of lights were fired from enemy front line when our bombing planes were passing to his rear areas.

*Geo: F. Priestley*

*Lt Col* Major, G.S.  
LIAISON FORCE.



LIAISON FORCEHeadquarters,  
18th August 1918.Ref Sheet 42D  
1/10,000LIAISON FORCE ORDER NO. 5.

- 1.- The 9th Australian Infantry Brigade (less 34th Battalion) will relieve the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade (and 34th Battalion) in the line in the left sector of the Liaison Force front tonight 18th/19th instant.
- 2.- (a) The 34th Battalion (9th Australian Infantry Brigade) now in line under the command of G.O.C. 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will remain in its present position with Headquarters at K. 18. a. 9. 1.  
(b) The 33rd Battalion (9th Australian Infantry Brigade) is moving this afternoon to relieve the 50th Battalion (13th Australian Infantry Brigade) in support in K. 17. d. and K. 18. c. with Headquarters at K. 23. b. 8. 2.  
(c) The 35th Battalion will move to K. 21. a. and c. into the reserve Battalion area in accordance with Liaison Force Order No. 4. 35th Battalion will be in position by 7 p.m. to-day. 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will report by wire that the 35th Battalion is in position in K. 21. a. and c.  
(d) 9th L.T.M. Battery will relieve 13th L.T.M. Battery as early as possible this evening.
- 3.- 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will move to quarters in K. 29. K. 30. and K. 36. vacated by 9th Australian Infantry Brigade on relief.
- 4.- All dumps, trench and area stores, battle stores, maps, photographs and information relative to the front will be handed over on relief. Receipts will be obtained, copy of which will be forwarded to Liaison Force Headquarters as soon after relief as possible.
- 5.- Prior to the relief all troops of 9th Australian Infantry Brigade will pass temporarily under the command of G.O.C. 13th Australian Infantry Brigade on passing forward of a N. and S. line through K. 20. central.
- 6.- The reserve battalion (51st Battalion) of the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade will not move from its present position until Headquarters Liaison Force has been advised that the 35th Battalion is in position and an order is issued by G.O.C., Liaison Force for the 51st Battalion to move back.
- 7.- Transport lines of 9th and 13th Australian Infantry Brigades will not move.
- 8.- An officer of the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade who is familiar with the front will remain with G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade until 9 a.m. on 19th instant.
- 9.- Orders with regard to the relief of the 13th M. G. Coy 13th Field Coy and the 13th Field Ambulance will be issued later.



10. Command of the left sector will pass to G.O.C. 9th Australian Infantry Brigade on completion of relief which will be wired to Liaison Force Headquarters by the Code word "AGAIN".

11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*McCree*

Major, G.S.,  
LIAISON FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION.

Issued to:-

- 1 - 2 13th Australian Inf. Bde.
- 3 - 4 9th Australian Inf. Bde.

Copies to:-

- 5. 131st American Inf. Regt.
- 6 47th Division.
- 7 3rd Aust Div.
- 8 Australian Corps.
- 9 5th Aust Div.
- 10 4th Aust Div.
- 11 A.D.M.S., Liaison Force.
- 12 C.R.E. Liaison Force.
- 13 O.C. Signals, L.F.
- 14 A.P.M. L.F.
- 15 Q. L.F.
- 16 -18 War Diary.
- 19 File.



Headquarters,  
18th August, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 6  
From 6 a.m. 17. 8. 1918 to 6 a.m. 18. 8. 1918

1. - OPERATIONS :

Infantry : At 3 p.m. our left Brigade advanced their line slightly and posts were established at the following locations :- L.14.d.5.5; L.14.d.3.7; L.14.c.4.9; L.14.a.3.1; L.13.b.9.1; L.13.b.5.2; L.13.b.2.4; L.13.b.1.7; L.13.a.9.8; L.7.c.5.1.

Gas : Gas projector attack on enemy positions in S.W. corner of BRAY at about L.15.c.9.3, was successfully carried out.

Patrols : Liaison patrols kept touch with flank units throughout the hours of darkness.

A reconnaissance patrol from our left Brigade front reports as follows :-

<u>Strength,</u>	<u>Time out</u>	<u>Time in.</u>	<u>Route taken.</u>
1 Officer & 9 O.Rs.	9 p.m.	1 a.m.	L.14.d.4.6, L.14.d.4.8 L.13.b.4.2, K.18.b.9.9.

Patrol reports : Ground between L.14.d.4.8 and L.13.b.4.2, was thoroughly examined. An enemy M.G. was seen firing from approximately L.14.b.95.40. Much M.G. fire appeared to come from L.14.b. and numerous coloured flares were used by enemy between 12.30 a.m. and 1 a.m. Enemy appeared to be very very throughout the night. A small enemy patrol which was working in vicinity of post at L.13.b.9.1, was dispersed by fire.



67 26 2934  
At 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. counter preparation  
shots were put down on enemy forward and rear positions  
by both field and heavy artillery. Enemy forward positions  
were shelled by our 18 pointers at intervals during the day.  
CEYLON WOOD was shelled by 4.5s. and heavies. Cross roads  
at L.11.c.55.32, 34.d.; and G.27.d. & G.33.a. (Sheet 620)  
were shelled with heavies. Quarry L.34.a.95.55 and CAPPY  
were shelled with H.E. at intervals.

Aircraft : Our planes actively patrolled our lines and  
reconnoitred enemy's forward and rear areas. Bombing planes  
were active on enemy's area during the night.

## 2. - ENEMY INTELLIGENCE :

Hostile Artillery : still continues its aggressive policy.  
Our counter preparation shoots during the night brought down  
a heavy retaliatory barrage on our line, shells falling  
mostly behind our posts. Areas which received considerable  
attention were :- GRESSAIRE WOOD, K.22.c. & d., Road in  
K.29.b. ETIENNE Cross roads in K.18.d. and K.18.b. Our  
front areas also came in for a fair amount of shelling with  
H.E. and gas throughout the day, the latter chiefly in  
L.20. central

Enemy aircraft : Fairly active over our forward system; at  
10.30 one enemy plane and at 7 p.m. two enemy planes flew  
low over our lines.  
Two enemy observation balloons were in position from 6 a.m.  
- 8.35 a.m. at 101 deg. and 62 deg. T.B. from K.29.a.75.20.  
Two again at 1.40 p.m. at 47 deg. and 51 deg. T.B. from  
K.23.d.95.30.

Enemy defences : Machine guns were active on our forward  
positions during the night and caused considerable trouble  
during our minor operations. One M.G. was located firing  
at 1.40 p.m. 95.40



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APPENDIX

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- INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES -

1. PRISONERS : The number of prisoners who passed through Corps Cages and C.C.S. is 22,248 of whom 482 are Officers.

2. - MORALE OF PRISONERS CAPTURED IN THE RECENT OPERATIONS NORTH OF THE SOMME :

While there is no doubt that the enemy defended himself with spirit in the sector N. of the SOMME, there is a marked depreciation in his morale as compared with that of prisoners captured on 21/3/18. Amongst Officers the opinion was almost universal that a decision would be arrived at not on the battle-field, but by negotiation. They, however, maintained that it would be impossible to vanquish a nation with Germany's resources and organizing skill.

Amongst the men the universal wish expressed was that the war should come to an end in some way - that things might be patched up. None of those examined expressed the belief that Germany could win the war, but a number thought she could not be beaten in the field.

Among both officers and men the submarine warfare and the German offensives on the Western front are both regarded as having failed to produce the desired results - the former because of the number of American troops now actually known to be in France, the latter because of the recent German retreat on the AISNE is felt to be the turn of the tide. Prisoners attribute their failure on the SOISSONS-REIMS front, not to a lack of striking power on the part of the Germans, but to the exact fore-knowledge possessed by the enemy of their intentions.

The probability of Russia ever re-entering the war as an ally of Germany was regarded as out of the question by both officers and men.

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- Page 3 -

Enemy A.A. guns : very active during the day. One enemy A.A. gun was located in hollow at L. 10. b. 90.85; another fired from area L. 9. a.

3. - MOVEMENT IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES :

Motor car flying red cross flag drove to building in L. 15. a. at 11.45 a.m. and again at 2.45 a.m. Movement round Quarry in L. 34. a. 95.55 less than usual owing to our artillery fire. Traffic on roads leading into BRAY going both ways was slightly above normal both by day and by night. Strong enemy working party at L. 22. d. 75.50 was driven out by fire at 10.45 a.m.

4. MISCELLANEOUS : Gun flashes were observed at 61 deg. 66 deg. and 73 deg. T.N. and white signalling lamp at 80 deg. T.B. from K. 29. a. 85.30.

*C. J. Cross*  
for Major, G.S.,  
LIAISON FORCE.

2

RE-13 MONY