

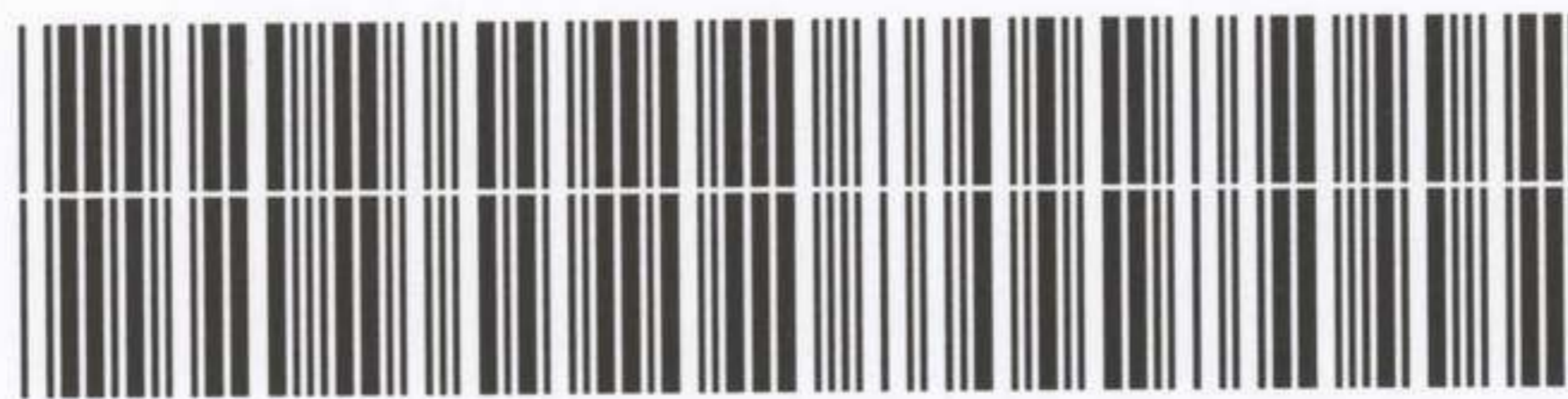
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/20/35

Title: 3rd Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/20/35

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Australian Battalion

FOR

JANUARY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

B. Howie

Signature of Officer Commanding

B. Carter

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSTRA- VERNE SECTOR. FRONT LINE	Jan 1 st	1918	<p>The Relief operation 6th & 3rd Austr. Div. in COSTRAVERNE Sector was complete by 8.10 pm. on night 31st Dec / 1st Jan. without incident. The enemy during the night was generally quiet. There was a little shelling of MANCHESTER ST-VERNE DUMP and WITSCHAETE. A patrol of 1 off and 2 OR. examined wire in front of Bu. Sector - found it to be weak and returned to our lines without encountering an enemy patrol.</p> <p>USE TR. D. boy 1st Reserve Coy. was shelled between 9.30 pm and 12 midnight (about 50 rounds 5.9").</p> <p>1 NCO killed & 1 dead.</p> <p>There were occasional bursts of enemy MGs on our communications. Several enemy planes were observed. Casualties 1 NCO killed, 6 OR wounded.</p> <p>Strength 31 off 677 OR.</p>	
2			<p>Our artillery kept up intermittent shelling of</p>	<p>ATJ</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOSTRAVERNE Sector FRONT LINE	Jan	1918 .2.	<p>enemy positions during the night - The enemy artillery fired approx. 100 shells of different calibre into the Bo Sector during the night. Our mortars fired on to enemy positions with apparently good results. Patrols during night 1st/2nd encountered no enemy patrols but enemy were observed wiring in front of RIPLE FARM. Relief of picquet line was carried out in accordance with attached operation Order - Completed at 1840 without incident.</p> <p>at 2315 the enemy harassed our front & Support System but no damage was done. Quiet again at 2345. The front line posts which were considered so far out in advance of the picquet line ^(100-120 yds) were withdrawn to within 25 yards of the picquet.</p> <p>The usual wiring and work on front line - Support & Communications was carried on with the assistance</p>	

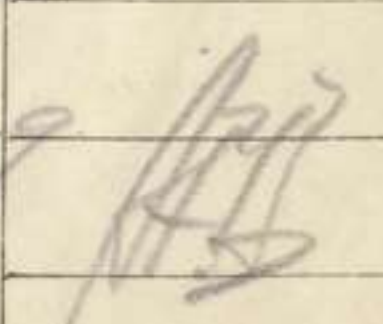
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSSRAVERNE Sector Frontline	7 to	1918		
		2 Contd.	<p>of the 2nd field Coy A.E. No casualties Strength 31 off 655 O.R.</p>	
		3 rd	<p>Day beautifully fine and clear. Our artillery carried out intermittent shoots - and MGs. indirect fire by night on enemy communications. Patrols kept up communication with flanking Bns and also patrolled our front - Enemy not seen. T.T.s fired during the night on enemy posts. Our aircraft were particularly active during the day. Guns flew several times over our lines but at a great height. At 5.15 pm. they dropped about 5 bombs near the picket line. Enemy artillery showed a slight increase particularly against WALL Fm and TORRENT FARM (Bn. H.Q. 15) - Again at 11 pm. a carriage was put down on the forward area. No damage. Usual work carried on - wiring etc. 2 O.R. wounded by shell fire.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSTRAVERNE SECTOR Front line	1918 Jan 2 nd	2 nd Contd 4.	<p>Strength 30 off 686 OR.</p> <p>Day fine and clear - observation good - our artillery fired intermittently during the day & night - 7 M's & M.G's also fired on to enemy positions. Wiring & improvement work was continued. The enemy artillery activity showed a slight decrease. The flank liaison patrol 1 nec 4 men - to the 4th bn. were attacked by an enemy party estimated about 8 men - a hand to hand fight followed - 2 of our men were wounded & the their party was driven off. A patrol of 1 officer & 6 men with a Lewis Gun dispersed an enemy working party & believed to have inflicted casualties.</p>	J.H.
	" 5		<p>Strength 30 off 683 OR.</p> <p>Day misty and visibility very bad. Our artillery fired intermittently throughout the day and night. Wiring and improvement work was continued in the whole of our sector.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE Sector. Front Line.	Jan 3.		<p>Support Coy relieved Coy in front line - relief completed without incident. - Reserve Coy moved forward into Divisional Reserve trenches. - WALL FARM was taken over from left Centre battalion and was garrisoned by 2 Officers and 30 other ranks - lateral communication was maintained by patrols with flanking battalions throughout the night - strength of base patrol was increased - Front was also continually patrolled. No machine gun fire apart from indirect fire from side guns. - 2 Ma machine. - One of our planes patrolled our line during early morning. Enemy were unusually quiet. - Lt Desbois returned to unit from Mustery School. Strength 2904 658 ORs.</p> <p>" 6 Lt Col. D. J. Moore DSO. left unit on 1 months' furlough - Major A. J. Burrett assumed command of Battalion. -</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COOSTRAVERNE Sector. Front Line.	Jan. 6		Lt. D.G. Oakley, Battalion Q.M. awarded Military Cross in New Year Honours list -	
	7		<p>Inter Coy Relief took place. Battle Operation Order No 52 - without incident - visibility poor - showing a good deal - observation fairly good - our artillery fired intermittently throughout the day and night our front was patrolled throughout the night and lateral communication was maintained Brigade MGs fired as usual - enemy MGs were active - Our 2. Mts were active throughout the day and night - Our planes were very active and continually crossed enemy's lines at low altitudes they were engaged heavily by hostile aircraft with no result - enemy were quiet - One enemy plane flew over our lines and was engaged by one of our planes - result indecisive. Attached D.P.O. No 1 shows New Year Honours. - 1 Casualty. M.G. fire.</p> <p>Strength 20 Apr 638 Ob. Ranks.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSTRAVERNE Sector Front Line	July 8.		<p>Early morning visibility good. - snow fell about 10 am and continued to fall intermittently throughout the day. - visibility again improved during afternoon. Our artillery fired intermittently throughout the day and night - Our patrols maintained lateral communication with flanking battalions and we had the usual protective patrols covering our front - Our Lewis guns were more active than usual engaging enemy guns as soon as they opened. Our planes were very active patrolling enemy lines throughout the day - The enemy attitude was quiet. - Enemy systematically shelled WALL FARM. Usual amount of work was done on our front - wiring - re-erecting etc. - During the night at 2130 our guns put down a light barrage between RIFLE and WAIN FARM. - our trench mortars firing in conjunction with artillery. - 1 Casualty.</p> <p>Strength 30 Officers and 663 Other Ranks.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSTRAYERNE Sector FRONT LINE	July 9		<p>Visibility during morning good tho' later in the forenoon it became overcast & later on ⁱⁿ the day snow fell - An inter Coy relief took place - relief completed wth out incident. (Latt. Operation Order No 53)</p> <p>During the day and night intermittent fire was directed against enemy front line system and supports by our 18 4.5 and 4.5 batteries - Most of the fire was on RIFLE FARM and appeared to have good effect - Indirect fire was again carried out by our Brigade Tucker Gun - Our Trench Mortar fired between 2145 and 2245 on RIFLE FARM - a large number of hits were recorded. - 7 direct hits were obtained on this farm by our 9.45 2. M (150 401).</p> <p>Patrols maintained communication with our flanking battalions - Our aircraft were very active throughout the day - large formations</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE Sector Front Line	Jan 10		of 10 and 14 machines patrolled enemy lines between 0750 and 1000 - they were engaged with by enemy A.A. without result - At 1010 one of our planes brought down an enemy plane in the direction of COMINES. - Another plane (enemy) was driven down but when 200 yds from ground control was regained. - Aerial work, wiring, re-erecting and improvement to positions was carried on in the Bn sector - Enemy attitude quiet - Enemy planes were active over our 2 Lt support - Strength 29 Opts. 650 Oks ranks.	
"	Jan 11		Visibility good. - Thawing a little. - Int. Coy relief took place - passed without incident - Bn Operation Order to 24 - Our Artillery was slightly more active than usual. In accordance with a prearranged programme a light barrage was	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOSTRAYERNE Sector.	July 11		<p>on enemy front line system from 2200 to 2205. Usual liaison patrols left our lines and established communication to Flanking Battalions. Patrol of 10 pr + 9 O. Ranko left our lines to report on wire between RIFLE and WAM FARM - reported wire - Our MGs were more active than usual firing on enemy tracks. Our planes displayed their usual activity and continually patrolled enemy lines being heavily engaged by enemy AA. In that result - The usual amount of work was done in the Battalion area. Very little artillery fire from the enemy was directed against our front line but the back area of our sector received a good deal of attention from 5.9 8" and 4.2 batteries. - The fire was continuous throughout the night - a good deal of train movement was</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
COSTRAVERNE Sector. Front Line	July 11		observed between COMINES and WERVICQ. Lt W.F. ELLIOTT, from wounded rejoined the line for duty. Strength 20 of 659 Ok ranks. No casualties	
	" 12		Visibility good - still thawing - Throughout the day bursts of fire were directed against enemy front line system mostly against RIFLE FARM. House patrolling was carried out on our front. MGs fired as usual on enemy tracks etc. 9.45 Trench mortar fired 8 rounds on RIFLE FARM with apparently good results - Aircraft active constantly patrolling - The usual work was done in our sector but especially a great deal of wiring in front line - Enemy systematically shelled in rear doing a great deal of counter battery work - Enemy quiet - good deal of movement.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DOSTRAYERNE Sector Front Line	Aug 12		observed - Lt Smith. MC reported back to unit from O.T.B England. for duty. Lt BUCKLEY left for Corps School. Lt MAISEY left for Corps GAS School. No casualties 30 Officers 648 other ranks.	
	13		Visibility good. Our Artillery carried out intermittent fire. - Heavy Artillery fired on COMINES. - Several patrols were sent out in our sector. Our MGs and 2.2s were active. as were our aircraft. Usual work was performed in our sector - a great deal of wire being placed in front of Picquet Line. - Enemy aircraft were more active than usual but seldom penetrated our front line. Usual enemy movement was observed at any early hour. Our 18pts fired on locality where movement had been previously observed. results unknown. No casualties. Strength 30 Officers 653 other ranks.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE Sector. Front Line	July 14		<p>Snow fell at any early hour - Visibility fair. Our artillery fired usual amount on enemy front line systems - Our patrols maintained lateral communication during the hours of darkness - Our M.G.s 4 in number as per a prearranged plan concentrated their fire at 0630 on well known enemy track - Owing to the poor visibility at that hour no results were observed - Our Heavy 2 in fired 6 rounds on RIFLE FARM and successfully silenced an enemy M.G. - Our planes were again active throughout the day and constantly patrolled enemy lines - Enemy M.G.s were active - Artillery quiet - Enemy aircraft were active in the afternoon - 3 flew over our lines but were driven off by our H.A. guns. We did our usual amount of work in the sector and have now a continuous belt of good wire.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE SECTOR	Front-Line	Aug 14	agrees our whole front. - Enemy attitude quiet. Received operation order from Brigade. D.V. Operation Order No 56 issued to Companies. - Copies attached -	
		15	Strength 29 Offs 649 Other Ranks.	
		15	Raining slightly during early morning - visibility poor - Our 18 pdr fired throughout the day on enemy front line system - owing to poor visibility no results were observed. Our MGs were active and between 0700 and 0800 swept the area between LAKE and EEI FARMS. - 2 MGs fired during the afternoon - Our patrols protected our front as usual and liaison patrols established communication between battalions on our flank - Our aircraft were busy through trying conditions. - Enemy shelling was more quiet than usual. Aircraft M.I.	
		841	Strength Offs Other Ranks	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE SECTOR Front Line	July 15		The Battalion was relieved in this sector by the 6th Aust. Battalion relief being completed without incident by 2.0.30. Relief was effected under most trying conditions - continuous rain - mud being more than ankle deep. 31. Strength 638. O/R Ranks Companies settled in new positions.	
WYTSCHAETE Area Left Reserve Position	16		Companies moved to their positions on night of 16th inst and during the whole of the 17th were engaged on improvement work in new positions. Br Hqs situated at NEW BRIGADE HQRS WYTSCHAETE 1 Coy CATACOMBS, 1 Coy near CATACOMBS, 2 Coy ONRAET WOOD Lt MASON returned from 1st Div. Wing. ALUSKETRY School Lt BROWNE returned from leave ENGLAND. Lt LITTLEJOHN from leave PARIS. 30 Strength 30 O/R 629 O/Ranks.	
" "	17		Battalion still in same area - Coys occupying same positions. - Memo rec'd from Brigade	

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WYTSCHAETE AREA Left Reserve Support Position	July 19	-18	during that this unit would relieve the 1st Aust. Battalion in the line on night 24/23rd inst.	
WYTSCHAETE AREA Left Reserve Support Position	"	19	Battalion occupies the same position. B. Headquarters at O 19 D 3.7. (Ref Map WYTSCHAETE 1/10000). - Company Headquarters now located at A Coy O 20 A 4.6. 'B' O 13 d 12.0. 'C' Coy O 14 C 4.2. 'D' CATACOMBS O 20 A 0.5. Transport & Q.M. Stores etc stationed at LINDENHOEK. Ref. Left Reserve Battalion Depense Scheme (Copies No 5, 6 & 7 dated 2/1/18 attached. Strength 30 Officers, 615 Other Ranks.	
WYTSCHAETE AREA Left Reserve Support Position	"	20	Battalion occupies same area - Men engaged on same work - working under the supervision of 1st and 2nd Field Engineers. Normal working parties consisting of 10 platoons - the balance of the battalion being occupied in improving their positions and salvage work. Lt MAISEY returned to unit from Aust.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WYTSCHAETE Area	July 20		Corps GAS School and Lt. N C LEGGETT rejoined front Carrier Pigeon school. Strength 22. Officers 6/14 ORAs	
Left Reserve Position	"	21	Battalion occupies same area - same working parties provided. - Battalion Operation Order No 27 issued to Coy and all concerned (3 copies dated 21st inst attached). The 2nd Battalion relieves the 1st Aust Bn in the left Brigade sector on the night 22nd/23rd inst. 1 Casualty. Strength 31 Officers 6/11 Other ranks.	
OSTRAVERNE HOLLEBEKE SECTOR Front LINE.	"	22	The relief between the 1st and 3rd Aust Inf. Battalions took place without incident and was concluded by 1930. Enemy was quiet throughout the night - A patrol left our lines its chief object being to locate and find some men of relieved battalion who were lost on patrol. No traces of them were found.	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OOSTRAVERNE Hollebeke Sector Front Line.	Jan	22	Our 18 pounders fired several bursts of fire against enemy front line system but no results were observed. Our Lewis guns moved forward and to the flanks of our posts and directed fire against enemy positions of GIANT and TWINS and the HOLLEBEKE ROAD. Enemy artillery was more quiet than usual. In the Sector we improved defences, strong points and improved wire defences working under the supervision of the 1st Field Coy Engineers. No casualties. Lt. WHITWORTH A.R. joined unit from Reinforcements. A strength 32 Officers 614 O/R Ranks	
	"	23	Visibility good. - Our artillery throughout the day carried out numerous shoots. - from 0900 to 9000 our Heavy artillery shelled HOLLEBEKE MILL and obtained direct hits - At 2100 our Heavy	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>HOLLEBEKE Sector. Front Line.</p>	<p>Jan 23</p>		<p>French Mortars carried out a prearranged shoot on the 'TWINS' - Our Heavy + 18 pounders co-operated - Machine guns which had been active from this position did not fire again during the night - We carried out the usual shoot with our Vickers using indirect fire on known enemy tracks - Our Lewis guns fired on TWINS during the bombardment of this position - We also fired on track between TWINS and GIANT - Our Aeroplanes were very active and had complete mastery of the air frequently penetrating long distances into enemy country - Our patrols throughout the night kept lateral communication with flank battalions - 1 Patrol of 1 Officer and 10 other ranks left our lines with the object of searching for missing men of 1st Battalion and of maintaining control of 'No man's land' search for men was</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>HOLLEBEKE SECTOR Front LINE</p>	<p>Jan 23</p>		<p>abortion. - No enemy were encountered - Lieut. W.F. TAYLOR returned to unit from Corps Intelligence School - Relief of 'C' Coy in Picquet line by 'D' Coy was completed without incident - No casualties. We did a large amount of work during this period on S.P., duckwork tracks and improvement to our depots generally. Strength 24 Officers and 616 Other ranks.</p>	
<p>"</p>	<p>Jan 24</p>		<p>Visibility excellent. MAJOR W.B. CARTER rejoined unit from invalided and assumed command. Lieut. R.G. MACDOUGAL rejoined unit from wounded - An inter Coy relief between support and front line companies was effected without incident by 1930. - Our artillery was fairly active 6" batteries shelling D B Central at 11.10 in conjunction with our 9.45 2 Mts our 16 pounders shelled area between BANG Fm and TWINS - At 11.45 am our Heavies shelled LINKS WOOD setting fire to an enemy dump. Our 9.45 2 Mts registered their guns on BANG Fm.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE SECTOR Front Line.	1918. Jan 24		<p> Lateral communication was effected throughout the night with flanking battalions - a patrol of 10 ops and 10 other ranks left to investigate a suspected enemy post at O 12 a. 3.3. and found it unoccupied. No enemy were encountered - 2 Ops and 13 other ranks left our line at 11.30 pm to investigate suspected enemy post at O 12 c. 2.7 - near this place they came under M.G. fire they withdrew and engaged enemy with Lewis gun and rifle grenade fire. - Both ourickers and Lewis guns were active. Our guns expended 1500 rounds - Our snipers were active during the early morning. Our aircraft were extremely active constantly patrolling enemy lines. enemy planes were more active than usual but always at a very high altitude - several skirmishes took place but results were indecisive - enemy mgs were as active as usual. We did our usual amount of work in the sector on defences also put 100 yds of double wire with apron wire and 1 width of 3 inch wire in front of our line. - No casualties - Strength 2 Ops. 600 other ranks. </p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>MELLEBEKE OOSTRAVERNE SECTOR Front Line</p>	<p>Jan 25</p>		<p>Visibility excellent - An intercompany relief was effected between "C" & "D" Coy by 1830 without incident. - Our patrols maintained lateral communication with flanking battalions throughout the night. a patrol of 1 Officer and 10 other ranks patrolled "No mans" land during the night. No enemy were encountered - Our artillery fired as usual. Enemy artillery were quiet - Our 9.45 T.M. fired 2 rounds near TWINS - Our machines were very active during the day. At 10.45 am three of our planes met 2 hostile planes over our lines. They immediately closed and 1 hostile plane was driven down in flames. Our planes continually patrolled enemy's lines. At 2.30 pm the cable of one of our balloons was cut by sharp wire and the balloon drifted into enemy country. No casualties. Strength. 24 Officers 614 Other ranks.</p>	
<p>"</p>	<p>"</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Visibility rather poor owing to fog. An inter Company relief between Front line and Support Company was effected without incident by 8 pm. - Our artillery was less active than usual - Our patrols maintained</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hollebeke Area. Front Line.	Jan 26.		<p>lateral communication between flanking units. At 2.30 am a patrol of 10 pr + 10 othe ranks left our line to patrol front and engage enemy patrol if met. No enemy were encountered - Our MGs maintained their usual activity firing through the night from advanced positions. They dispersed an enemy working party at 0.11. d. 8.2. - Aerial activity was limited owing to weather. Enemy artillery was quiet. We did our usual work in the sector and wire was strengthened in front of SP. 4011 - 75 yds of wire 12 feet in depth being completed. - No casualties. 33 Officers. 612. Othe ranks.</p>	
"	" 27.		<p>Visibility good. - An int. company relief was completed without incident by 7 pm. - Our usual flanking patrols maintained lateral communication and we patrolled our front as usual. - Our MGs and 2 MGs were active. - Artillery quiet on both sides.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hollerbeke Sector Front Line.	Jan 27		Our planes were active as usual - Enemy attitude was passive - No casualties - Strength 33 Officers. 608 other ranks. Lieut. C. L. SMITH to Hospital.	
		28	Visibly good. Intercompany relief completed between front line and support Coy. by 7.30 pm. Without incident - lateral communication with battalions on flank was maintained - a patrol of 1 Officer and 10 other ranks left our lines at S.P. 1011 and again at S.P. 4011 - The object of patrols being to engage enemy patrols if met No enemy were encountered - Our artillery was more active than usual - our batteries fired on GIANT, TWINS, SPUD and MURPHY FARMS. 3 direct hits were observed on the TWINS - Our 6" and 9" batteries shelled enemy back areas No results were observed - Our 9.45. 2 M. fired between 7 am and 8 am. and again between 3.30 pm and 4 pm. Direct hits on GIANT were observed - Our aircraft were again exceedingly active - We did our usual amount of work in the sector and wired 100 yds of 3 thickness wire in the front line - Between 11.50 and 2 pm the	

204

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 26

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE SECTOR Front Line.	Jan 28		<p>enemy shelled the RAVINE searching for the Heavy trench Mortar Battery without result. - Otherwise the shelling was light. Our MGs were again very offensive. Bde Order re Relief by 5th Bn received. Bn Opn Order No 29 issued (3 copies attached). No casualties. Lieut. AR WHITWORTH to Hospital. - Strength 32 Officers 606 other ranks. Capt Oakley MC. to leave. Lieut C.S. Macdonald acting in his stead.</p>	
"	" 29		<p>Nothing good. - Inter company relief was effected between front line and support company without incident by 7 pm. - Patrol of 1 Cp and 10 other ranks left our lines at 5 P.M. to maintain control of No 10 Marsland. - No enemy were encountered. - Our Artillery fired as usual their targets being chiefly enemy front line systems. Our MGs were active. Between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm our Heavy 2.4. fired 99 rounds or Pill Boxes near the Trenches direct hits being obtained. 20 of enemy ran out of pill box and took shelter in others and in trenches.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE SECTOR ↑ Front Line.	July 29		<p>At 2 M fired at 3.30 pm and 9.30 pm on GIANT and TWINS - Our planes were again very active. Continually patrolling long distances into enemy lines - 200 yards of wire was done on our front. - An intercepted wireless message stated that the enemy on our front was jumpy - this accounted no doubt for the increased shelling on his part on our front line defenses - No damage was done to our line though the shelling was constant throughout the night. At 2.30 am a barrage was put down on right battalion front lasting 10 minutes and at 3.20 am 2.9's were placed in GREEN WOOD. Enemy M.G.s were more active than usual - Enemy appeared to be more alert than usual - when his shelling was in advance of our Picquet line he fired a flare bursting into orange clusters. This was repeated 4 times and the range of guns was lifted as the succeeding shelling was placed behind our line. - No casualties strength. 32 Officers lost etc ranks.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 28

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE SECTOR. 1st Front Line.	Jan 30.		<p>Visibility good. - Our artillery was active throughout the day. - Our MGs were active. - Our planes continually patrolled enemy lines. - Enemy attitude was quiet. Very little artillery fire throughout the day. - The Battalion was relieved in the sector by the 56th Aust. Battalion - relief being completed at 10 p.m. without incident. - 1 casualty by shell fire during the day. - The Battalion moved to RAMILLES CAMP KEMMEL. Strength 32 Officers Col. New.</p>	
KEMMEL.	31		<p>Battalion took over RAMILLES CAMP KEMMEL. Arriving in camp by 12.30 p.m. - Battalion embussed at 2 p.m. and moved to billets around METEREN with Battalion Headquarters situated in METEREN. Strength 32 Officers and 656 other ranks.</p>	

b4

Major.
Commanding 2nd Aust Bn.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd Australian Battalion

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Defence Scheme (Oostvorne Sector).
2.	Battalion Op. Order No. 50.
3.	" " No. 51
4.	" " No. 52
5.	" " No. 53
6.	" " No. 54
7.	" " No. 55
8.	" " No. 56
9.	Battalion Order No. 1.
10.	Summary of work of the Battalion in the line from 31.12.17 to 15/16 Jan 18
11.	Op. Order No. 57
12.	Defence Scheme (Hollebeke Sector)
13.	Op. Order No. 58
14.	" " No. 59
15.	Summary of work of the Battalion in Hollebeke sector from 22nd to 30/1/18.

COSTTAVERNE SECTOR.

Appendix

Battalion Headquarters,
21st. January, 1918.REFERENCE MAP. WYTSCHAETE - 1 - 10,000.

- 26
1. FRONTAGE. The Brigade Sector extends from 0.23.a.9.8. to 0.12.a.0.6. A distance of approximately 1900 yards.
 2. BOUNDARIES.
 - (a) Brigade.
The Southern Boundary runs from 0.23.b.2.8. to COSTTAVERNE to 0.20.b.5.9.
The Northern boundary runs from Lock No. 5. to 0.12.a.0.6., along the ST.FLOI-HOLLEBEKE Road exclusive to ST.FLOI thence to 0.1.d.central, thence to VIENSTRAAT.
 - (b) Inter-Battalion.
The ROOZEBEEK - 0.16.a.2.4. - 0.15.b.75.45. - 0.9.d.0.0. - MARTEN'S FARM.
 3. TOPOGRAPHY.

The highest point of the MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE Ridge is on the Southern Brigade Boundary and from this ridge two spurs jut out towards our front. The most Northerly is the HOLLEBEKE spur stretching out in a N.E. direction towards squares 0.4. and 5. Between it and the Southern or ROOZEBEEK spur, which extends to the East in the lower half of Squares 0.16. and 0.17, is the Valley of the ROOZEBEEK. The creek itself is about 3 feet wide inside our line but becomes wider in No Man's Land.

The ROOZEBEEK Valley is marshy after a thaw. The going, both in the valley and No Man's Land, is heavy at this time, but when a frost occurs, both are easy to traverse.

In the Left Battalion Sector in square 0.10. is an important tactical feature, "THE RAVINE", a deep cutting with the ground rising steeply on either side, forming a strong defensive position.

Much of the ground East of squares 0.8. and 0.13. is under the direct observation of the enemy.

In front of the Brigade sector the enemy position is in very low ground which is intersected by numerous ditches and streams. The front is crossed diagonally by the YPRES-COMINES CANAL. The nature of the ground renders it difficult for the enemy to move guns freely.
 4. METHOD OF HOLDING SECTOR. Two Battalions in front line echeloned in depth. Two Battalions in Reserve.
 5. DISPOSITION OF LEFT RESERVE BATTALION. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS. New Brigade Dugouts 0.19.d.3.7.
 - One Company- In CATACOMBS - Headquarters - CATACOMBS. 0.20.A.4.5.
 - One Company- In vicinity of CATACOMBS in pill boxes, CELLARS, and DUGOUTS.
Company Headquarters. Pill Box - 0.20.A.4.6.
 - One Company - In cupolas at 0.13.D.10.0.
Company Headquarters - 0.13.D.10.0.
 - One Company - In pill boxes and cupolas in ONRAET WOOD -
Company Headquarters - Pill Box - 0.14.C.4.5.

Transport & Q.M. Store. KEMMEL Area.

LEFT RESERVE BATTALION DEFENCE SCHEME. (cont'd)

6. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK. All Companies will be ready to move at all times at 10 minutes notice. On receipt of order to "Stand to" Companies will assemble on their alarm posts, which are in all cases at Company Headquarters, and await orders.
7. WORKING PARTIES. (a) Working parties forward of their Company Headquarters will, in case of attack, report to nearest company in the Brigade Sector - the Officer or N.C.O. in charge of the party informing Battalion Headquarters of their location. (b) Working parties in rear of their Company Headquarters will rejoin their companies at once.

8. NORMAL PROGRAMME. (1) To improve accommodation. (2) To supply fatigues for Engineers - normal requirements as follows:-

2 Platoons.	CLARK DUMP	at 1615.
2 Platoons.	" "	" 1630.
2 Platoons.	" "	" 0900.
2 Platoons.	" "	" 0915.
1 Platoon.	PARMA DUMP	" 0900.
1 Platoon.	BN.H.QRS.	" 0900.

(3) Salvage.

9. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS. By Fullerphone to Brigade. " Runner to Companies.

10. MEDICAL. R.A.P. at CATACOMBS.

<u>S.A.A. GRENADES.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>S.A.A.</u>	<u>Mills No. 5. Gren.</u>	<u>Hales R.Gren.</u>	<u>Signal Rockets.</u>
"A" Coy.	0.20.a.4.6.	5,000 rounds.	33 boxes.	22 boxes.	3.
"D" Coy.	CATACOMBS. 0.20.a.0.5.	1,000 rounds.	42 bombs.	40 Gren.	
"B" Coy.	0.13.d.10.0.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
"C" Coy.	0.14.c.4.5.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Bn.H.Qrs.	0.19.d.3.7.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

12. WATER. ONRAET WOOD - 0.14.a.2.1.

13. SUPPLY OF RATIONS. By Light Railway to ONRAET SWITCH.

14. COOKING. At Company locations.

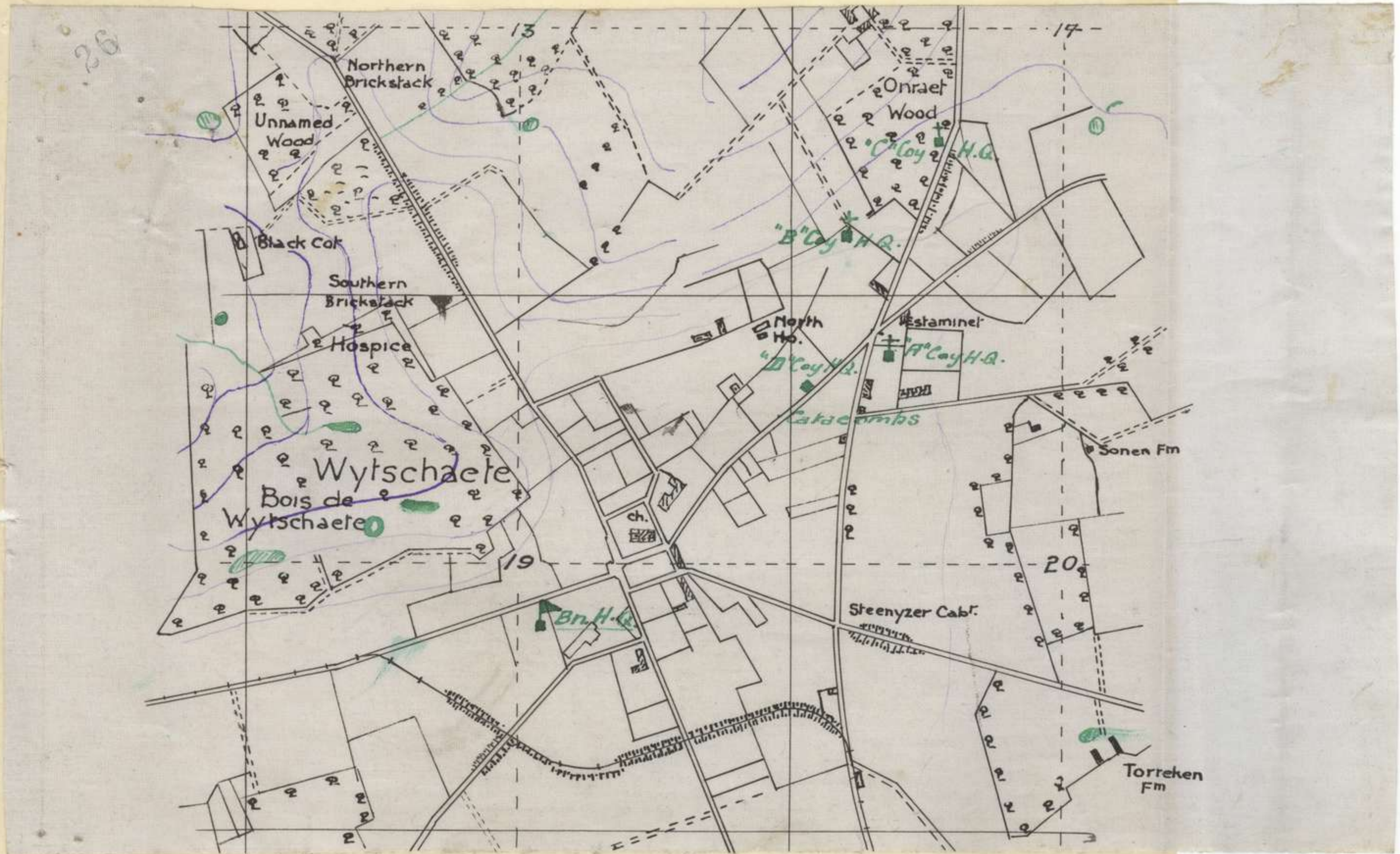
15. GAS. Standing Orders for Defence against Gas (S.S. 193) will obtain. Gas Gongs are situated at all companies and sufficient sentries are posted to ensure protection in case of gas bombardment or gas cloud.

16. LEWIS GUN ANTI-AIRCRAFT. Lewis Guns are mounted as under :-
 "C" Company, 0.14.c.35.40. - 2 Guns.
 "D" Company, 0.20.a.05.50. - 1 Gun.
 "A" Company, 0.20.a.15.45. - 1 Gun.

B. Lewis
 Capt. & Adjutant,
 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

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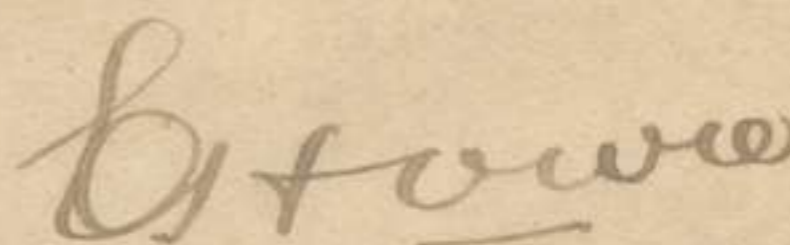


26
3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 50.

Appendix

Battalion Headquarters,
2nd. January, 1918.

1. (b) An inter-company relief will take place tonight 2nd. January, 1918.
2. "C" Company, 3rd. Battalion., relieves "A" Company in the Picquet Line.
"A" Company, 3rd. Battalion., relieves "C" Company in the Support Line.
"B" & "D" Companies will remain in their present positions.
Details of reliefs to be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. TIME - "C" Company will not move forward before 5 p.m.
REAR PARTY- An officer of "A" company will remain behind until daylight in the Picquet Line to assist O.C. "C" Company.
GUM BOOTS - To be handed over to "C" Company by Picquet Line and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 1200 on 3rd. inst.
TRENCH STORES - All trench stores, maps, defence schemes, etc., to be taken over by relieving companies and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 1200 3rd. inst.
DISPOSITION MAPS - Relieving companies to forward disposition maps by 12 noon 3rd. inst. These should state definitely number of rifles in each post or picquet.
WORK -
O.C. "C" Company will arrange to carry on work now in hand in the picquet line.
O.C. "A" Company will supply parties as required by Battalion Works Officer.
O.C. "D" Company will continue to supply same ration fatigue to picquet line.
4. REPORTS- to Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each position by the code word "HORATIO".



Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 11 a.m.

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" 9		-	Lieut. STANGER.

26.C.....Company.

Appendix

SECRET AND URGENT.

In view of possibility of hostile raid the following precautionary measures will be taken.

- 1) Strong fighting patrols of not less than 9 other ranks will be sent out by the front line company at dusk. They will be relieved at stated periods but at no time must the front be left unprotected.
These patrols will reconnoitre the enemy's line and be prepared to meet any hostile parties moving towards our lines.
- 2) The front company must be prepared to assist neighbouring companies if an attack is made on either flank.
This will be done by having a party ready to move out into No Man's Land to attack the hostile ~~six~~ raiders in flank or rear.
- 3) Special vigilance is necessary and must be maintained even though the bombardment is intense.
- 4) Every effort must be made to inform Battalion Headquarters of the exact portion of the front raided.
The word RAID will be sent by wire and the S.O.S. signal followed by the Red over Green over Yellow light will be used, but only by the company actually raided.
Special artillery arrangements have been made to support the company attacked.
- 5) The above will be in force until night 3rd./4th. inst. inclusive.

2.1.18.

Howe
 Capt. & Adjutant.
 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

26
3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 51.

Appendix

3
2
Battalion Headquarters,
5th. January, 1918.

1. An inter-company relief will take place tonight 5th. January, 1918.
2. "A" Company relieves "C" Company in the Picquet Line.
"C" Company relieves "A" Company in the Support Line.
"B" Company will move from CATACOMBS to No. 1 3.0.21 and No. 4.0.21. - Reserve Line.
"D" Company will remain in present position.

Details of relief to be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.

3. TIME. "A" and "B" Companies will not move before 5 p.m.

GUM BOOTS. Gum boots will be supplied to "A" Company before moving forward.
"C" Company will bring out all gum boots in picquet line and will send them to Gum Boot Store on the afternoon of 6th. inst., obtain a receipt and forward same to Battalion Headquarters.

TRENCH STORES. All trench stores, maps, defence scheme, etc., to be taken over by relieving companies and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by NOON 6th. inst.

DISPOSITION MAPS. Relieving companies and "B" Company to forward disposition maps by 12 NOON on 6th. Inst. These should state definitely number of rifles in each post or picquet.

WORK. O.C. "A" Company will arrange to carry on work now in hand in the picquet line.

O.Cs. "B" and "C" Companies will supply parties as detailed by Battalion Works Officer.

O.C. "D" Company will continue to supply same ration fatigues.

4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each position by the code word "FREDA".

C. Lowe

Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 6 a.m.

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26
3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 52.

Appendix 4

4
Battalion Headquarters,
7th. January, 1918.

1. An inter-company relief will take place tonight 7th. inst.
2. "B" Company relieves "A" Company in the Picquet Line.
"D" Company relieves "C" company in Support Line.
"A" Company will move on completion of relief to OUSE TRENCH
"C" Company will move on completion of relief to Divisional Reserve position.
"C" Company will detail 2 Officers and 30 men ^{and one Lewis Gun} to relieve garrison of WALL FARM.

Details of relief to be arranged between Company Commanders.

Garrison of WALL FARM is under the command of "O.C. "B" Company for tactical purposes only.

3. TIME. 2 Officers and 30 men ^{of C. Coy for} garrison of WALL FARM will move from present position at 5 p.m.

"B" Company will move at 5 p.m.

"D" Company will move at 5.30. p.m.

GUM BOOTS. "A" Companies gum boots will be handed over and a receipt obtained from relieving company. Receipt to be forwarded to this office by 12 noon on 8th. inst.

TRENCH STORES. All trench stores, maps, defence scheme, etc., to be taken over by relieving companies and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 NOON on 8th. inst.

DISPOSITION MAPS. Relieving companies to forward disposition maps by 12 NOON on 8th. inst. These should state definitely number of rifles in each post or picquet.
"B" Company will include WALL FARM.

WORK. On completion of relief O.C. "A" Company will supply ration parties to Picquet Line and WALL FARM.
O.Cs. "C" & "D" Companies will supply working parties as detailed by Battalion Works Officers.
O.C. "B" Company will carry on work now in hand in Picquet line.
O.C. "A" Company will relieve 1 N.C.O. and 11 men of "D" Company on permanent work in Picquet Line.

4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each position by code word "STEVE".

Brown

Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 6 a.m.

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26
3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 53. *Appendix!*2
Battalion Headquarters,
9th. January, 1918.

1. An inter-company relief will take place tonight the 9th. January 1918.

2. "D" Company relieves "B" Company in Picquet Line.
"B" Company relieves "D" Company in Support Line.
"A" Company will detail 2 Officers & 30 men, and 1 Lewis Gun to relieve garrison of WALL FARM.
"C" Company's present garrison of WALL FARM will move to OUSE TRENCH on relief.

Details of relief to be arranged between Company Commanders.

Garrison of WALL FARM will come under the command of O.C. "D" Company for tactical purposes only.

3. TIME. "A" Company party will move at 4.45 p.m.
"D" Company to move as soon as "A" Company party has passed Support Line.
"C" Company - WALL FARM garrison - will move out in rear of "B" Company.REAR PARTY. An Officer of "B" Company will remain behind until daylight in the picquet line to assist O.C. "D" Company.GUM BOOTS. Gum boots will be supplied to "D" Company & "A" Company party before moving forward.

"B" Company and the relieved party from "C" Company in WALL FARM will bring out all gum boots in Picquet Line and WALL FARM and will send them to Gum Boot Store on afternoon of 10th. inst., obtain a receipt and forward same to Battalion Headquarters.

TRENCH STORES. All trench stores, maps, defence scheme, etc., to be taken over by relieving companies and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 NOON on 10th. inst.DISPOSITION MAPS. O.C. "D" Company only will forward disposition map to reach Battalion Headquarters by 0600 on 10th. inst. This should state definitely number of rifles in each post or picquet.WORK. O.C. "D" Company will arrange to carry on work now in hand in picquet line.
O.Cs. "B" & "C" Companies will supply parties as detailed by Battalion Works Officer.
O.C. "A" Company will continue to supply same ration fatigue.4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each position by the code word "BLAKE".*B. Lowe*
Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 6 a.m.

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26
3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 54. Appendix 66
Battalion Headquarters,
11th. January, 1918.

1. An inter-company relief will take place tonight 11th. January, 1918.
2. "B" Company relieves "D" Company in Picquet Line.
"D" Company relieves "B" Company in Support Line.
"C" Company will detail 2 Officers, 30 men, and 1 Lewis Gun to relieve garrison of WALL FARM.
"A" Company's present garrison of WALL FARM will move to OUSE TRENCH on relief.
Details of relief to be arranged between Company Commanders.
Garrison of WALL FARM will come under orders of O.C. "B" Company for tactical purposes only.
3. TIME. "C" Company party will move at 4.45 p.m.
"B" Company will move as soon as "C" Company party has passed Support Line.
"A" Company garrison of WALL FARM will move out in rear of "D" Company.
GUM BOOTS. "D" Company's gum boots will be handed over and a receipt obtained from relieving company. Receipt to be forwarded to this Office by 12 NOON on 12th. inst.
TRENCH STORES. All trench stores, maps, defence scheme, etc. to be taken over by relieving companies and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by NOON on 12th. inst.
WORK. O.C. "B" Company will arrange to carry on work now in hand in Picquet Line.
O.Cs. "C" and "D" Companies will supply parties as detailed by Battalion Works Officer.
O.C. "A" Company will continue to supply same ration party.
4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each position by the code word "HOOJA".

Stowis

Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 6 a.m.

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3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 55 **Appendix**Battalion Headquarters,
13th. January, 1918.An inter-company relief will take place tonight 13th.
January, 1918.

"D" Company relieves "B" Company in Picquet Line.
"B" Company relieves "D" Company in Support Line.

"A" Company will detail 2 Officers, 30 men and 1 Lewis Gun
to relieve garrison of WALL FARM.

"C" Company's present garrison of WALL FARM will move to
OUSE TRENCH on relief.

Details of reliefs to be arranged between Company Commanders.

Garrison of WALL FARM will come under the orders of O.C. "D"
Company for tactical purposes only.

TIME. "A" Company's party will move at 4.45 p.m.
"D" Company will move as soon as "A" Company's
party has passed Support Line.
"C" Company's garrison of WALL FARM will move
out in rear of "B" Company.

GUM BOOTS. Gum boots will be supplied to "D" Company and
"C" Company's party before moving forward.

"B" Company and the relieved party of "C"
Company in WALL FARM will bring out all gum
boots in Picquet Line and WALL FARM and will
send them to Gum Boot Store on afternoon of 14th.
inst., obtain a receipt and forward same to
Battalion Headquarters.

TRENCH STORES. All trench stores, maps, defence scheme, etc.,
to be taken over by relieving companies and
receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters
by NOON on 14th. inst.

WORK. O.C. "D" Company will arrange to carry on work
now in hand in Picquet Line.

O.C. "B" & "C" Companies will supply parties as
detailed by Battalion Works Officer.

O.C. "A" Company will continue to supply same
ration party.

4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters when relief is complete in each
new position by code word "COLIN".

B. Towie
Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 6 a.m.

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26

3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 56. **Appendix**Battalion Headquarters,
14th. January, 1918.REFERENCE MAP - WYTSCHAETE 1- 10,000.

1. The 2nd. Brigade relieve the sector of the 1st. Brigade at present held by 3rd. & 4th. Battalions on night 15th/16th. January, 1918.
2. The 6th. Battalion relieve the 3rd. Battalion on the night 15th./16th. January, 1918. On completion of relief Battalion Headquarters will occupy "NEW BRIGADE DUGOUTS" near A.I.F. WYTSCHAETE.
 "A" Company dugouts near CATACOMES.
 "B" Company dugouts ONRALE WOOD.
 "C" Company dugouts ONRALE WOOD.
 "D" Company and part of Battalion Headquarters CATACOMES.
3. ADVANCED PARTIES, of 6th. Battalion will go into line and take part in patrols on night 14th./15th. January. They will remain in and rejoin their units when they arrive.

MAPS. All maps, photographs, defence scheme, plans of work, and documents of value to the incoming troops will be handed over and receipts obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 NOON on 16th. inst.

TRENCH STORES. All area and trench stores will be handed over and receipts obtained on pro-forma issued to Companies and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 NOON on 16th. January.

GUN BOOTHS. will not be handed over. They will be handed into Gun Booth Store and receipts obtained on completion of relief. Rear companies may do this on afternoon of 15th. January. Receipts to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 NOON 16th. January.

MOBILISATION STORES. These must be brought out of line. On no account must they be handed over as Trench Stores. List of same compiled and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by NOON 16th. January.

COOKS. A.M. will arrange transfer of cooks to new area on afternoon of 15th. January.

COMPANY ADVANCED PARTIES. 1 Officer and 4 M.C.Os. per company will report to Battalion Headquarters at 0900 tomorrow the 15th. January, to proceed to rear area.

4. REPORTS.

Completion of relief from present position will be sent Battalion Headquarters by code word "NOBBY".

C. Howie
Captain & Adjutant,
3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 4 p.m.

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7th. January, 1918.

1. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

The following messages are published for information:-

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, TO G.O.C., A.I.F.

Please convey my Christmas Greetings to your Command. May all good fortune attend them and may they take a conspicuous part in the final victory.

REPLY FROM GENERAL SIR. W.R. BIRDWOOD.

Your kind greetings are much appreciated by all Australian Troops under my command to whom they have been conveyed. You may rest assured that one and all of us intend to do our best to the full extent of our power until we have attained victory.

2. NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Quartermaster & Hon. Lieut. Douglas Gordon OAKLEY, 3rd. Battalion,
Capt F.W. Page. 3rd Bn. attached 1st ALTMB A.I.F.

AWARDED THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL.

No. 362. L/Cpl. POWELL J.H., 3rd. Battalion.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Lieut. Colonel D.T. MOORE D.S.O. 3rd. Battalion.

Lieut. H.D. ROBB M.C., 3rd. Battalion.

Lieut. C.H.D. CHAMPION, 3rd. Battalion.

Lieut. WE. BUTCHER, 3rd. Battalion, att. 1st. A.L.T.M.B.

No. 2116 Sgt. CLARK F. 3rd. Battalion.

No. 1549 Sgt. KIRKWOOD A., 3rd. Battalion.

B. Snow
Captain,
Adjutant, 3rd. Battalion. A.I.F.

SUMMARY OF 3rd. AUSTRALIAN BATTALION TOUR IN THE OOSTTAVERNE SECTOR FRONT LINE FOR PERIOD NIGHT 31st. DECEMBER 1917/1st. JANUARY 1918 to NIGHT 15th./16th. JANUARY 1918.

RELIEF - The relief between 6th. Australian Battalion and 3rd. Australian Battalion was complete at ~~8.20~~ 8.20 p.m. on 31st. December 1917.

SECTOR - The sector is described in Defence Scheme attached.

WORK - Work done in the area is summarised in attached work report.

PATROLS - Our patrols usually numbering 1 Officer & 10 to 15 other ranks kept complete control of No Man's Land and did not come in contact with any enemy patrols, but located various enemy posts.

One brush with the enemy by a liaison patrol to the Right Battalion (4th. Australian Battalion) took place on night 4th./5th. January, 1918. Sergt. J.R. MacDONALD "C" Company and 3 men had a hand to hand fight with an enemy patrol estimated at 8 men. The night was pitch dark. Two of our men were wounded. One - trench dagger wound - one revolver ~~shot~~ bullet. Our patrol fought very gallantly and drove the Huns off. An enemy rifle was found afterwards.

ARTILLERY - Our artillery fired intermittently during day and night, frequently firing by pre-arranged programme about 9.30 p.m. on enemy M.G. positions. T.Ms. fired with good results on enemy posts.

T.Ms.

MACHINE GUNS - Carried out indirect fire nightly.

WEATHER - During the tour the ground was frozen practically the whole time.

RELIEF - The Battalion was relieved on night 15th./16th. January, 1918 by the 6th. Australian Battalion and moved to WYTSCHAETE Area.

<u>ACTUAL STRENGTH</u>		Officers.	O/R.
<u>IN LINE</u>		28.	540.
	Q.M. & Transport Personnel.	3.	98.
	<u>TOTAL STRENGTH.</u>	<u>31.</u>	<u>638.</u>

<u>COMPANY</u>	"A"	-	Capt. L.H.R. HIGINBOTHAM.
<u>COMMANDERS.</u>	"B"	-	" S.F.P. WHITE.
	"C"	-	" A. McDERMID.
	"D"	-	" G.E. BLAKE.

COMMAND. - Lieut. Colonel D.T. MOORE D.S.O. went on a month's leave on 5th. January 1918, and Major A.F. BURRETT assumed command.

<u>CASUALTIES.</u>		Officers.	O/R.
	KILLED -	Nil.	1.
	DIED OF WOUNDS -	Nil.	1.
	WOUNDED -	Nil.	12. (One remained at duty.)
	EVACUATED ILL -	Lieut. C.L. STURT	35.
		2nd. " F. TAYLOR.	

COMPANY RELIEFS - The attached table shows Company dispositions.

MAPS - Are attached.

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

Return of material carried and wire erected from January 1st. to
January 15th. 1918.

SUPPORTS.

Material carried to Supports.

Duckboards -	Barbed wire -	Concertina-"A" frames,	Revetting screens-	Corr. iron
73.	583 coils.	211.	59.	204.
				179.
Sandbags -	Angle irons -	Corkscrews -	Camouflage.	
3895.	828.	2523.	3 rolls.	

Wire Erected

Concertina (3 rows)	Apron (12')
1790 yds.	920 yds.

PICQUET LINE

Material carried to Picquet Line.

Duckboards,-	Barbed wire-	Concertina-"A" frames-	Revetting screens-	Corr. iron -
104.	149 coils.	54.	87.	26.
				143.
Sandbags -	Angle irons -	Corkscrews -	Camouflage.	
2750.	18.	1519.	80'	

Wire erected.

Concertina (3 rows)	Apron (12')
370 yds.	190 yds.

TOTAL OF MATERIAL CARRIED.

Duckboards -	Barbed wire -	Concertina -	"A" frames -	Revetting screens -
177.	732 coils.	265.	146.	230.
Corr. Iron -	Sandbags -	Angle irons -	Corkscrews -	Camouflage.
322.	6645.	846.	4042.	4 rolls.

TOTAL OF WIRE ERECTED.

Concertina (3 rows)	Apron (12')
2160 yds.	1110 yds.

DATE.	PICQUET LINE	WALL FARM	SUPPORT COY.	FORWARD RESERVE COY.	RESERVE COY.	REMARKS.
1 Day	A.		C.	D.	B.	
2 "	A.		C.	D.	B.	
3 "	C.		A.	D.	B.	
4 "	C.		A.	D.	B.	
5 "	C.		A.	D.	B.	
6. "	A.	1/B.	C.	D.	B.	
7 "	A.	1/B.	C.	D.	B.	
8 "	B.	1/C.	D.	A.	C.	
9 "	B.	1/C.	A.	A.	C.	
10 "	D.	1/A.	B.	A.	C.	
11 "	D.	1/A.	B.	A.	C.	
12. "	B.	1/C.	D.	A.	C.	
13 "	B.	1/C.	D.	A.	C.	
14 "	D.	1/A.	B.	A.	C.	
15 "	D.	1/A.	B.	A.	C.	

RIGHT CENTRE BATTALION - OOSTAVERNE SECTOR.

Appendix 10

REF. MAP.
WYTSCHAETE 28 S.W. 2.
1 - 10,000.

- 1. FRONT - The front extends from 0.23.a.2.8 on the North to the WAMBEEK at 0.23.c.2.1. on the South.
- 2. BOUNDARIES - NORTHERN - 0.23.b.2.8. - road junction at OOSTAVERNE - 0.20.b.5.9.
SOUTHERN - The WAMBEEK - 0.23.c.2.1. to 0.21.d.9.4. to GUN FARM (exclusive) - PICK HOUSE.
- 3. DISCRIPTION OF THE AREA. OOSTAVERNE, which is 1500 yards behind the front line, is on the high ground at the junction of two spurs - one spur, which the N. Boundary follows, runs E. to the left flank of the line; and the other spur is short and runs S.E. W. of the OOSTAVERNE - WAMBEEK Road.
The possession of these spurs covers the Valley of the WAMBEEK, whose bed is the S. Boundary of the Sector, the Battalion Sector covering the Northern watershed of this stream.

- 4. DISPOSITIONS - FRONT LINE -
(a) One company in a continuous trench OLGA TRENCH - the PICQUET LINE - with sentry groups over each picquet stationed about 25 yards in advance of the PICQUET - 5 sentry groups by night - 2 sentry groups by day.
(b) 2 Officers, 30 men, 1 Lewis Gun garrison of WALL FARM - This garrison is held in readiness to counter-attack should the enemy attempt to raid on this Battalion's or the Left CENTRE BATTALION'S front.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - Cupola Dugout at 0.23.c.2.6.

SUPPORTS - One (1) company in a line of unconnected S.Ps. located and garrisoned as under :-

<u>NO. OF S.P.</u>	<u>LOCATION.</u>	<u>GARRISON.</u>
1. 0. 22.	0.22.c.1.6.	1 Platoon.
2. 0. 22.	0.22.c.50.75.	1 Platoon.
3. 0. 22.	0.22.a.1.1.	Not completed for accomodation.
4. 0. 22.	0.22.a.4.1.	3 sections - 1 section POLKA EST.
5. 0. 22.	0.22.a.3.5.	1 Platoon.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - Pill Box at 0.22.c.10.75.

RESERVE - No.1 RESERVE COMPANY - OUSE TRENCH (S.Ps. 1.0.21. - 2.0.21.) 0.27.b.05.95. to 0.21.c.6.7.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - Pill Box 0.21.c.95.40.

No.2 RESERVE COMPANY - 2 platoons ORIEL TRENCH.
S.P. 3.0.21. - 0.21.a.5.2.
S.P. 4.0.21. - 0.21.a.6.5.
1 platoon - Pill Boxes at 0.21.c.1.9.

NOTE - 1 platoon of this company garrison at WALL FARM which comes under O.C. PICQUET LINE for tactical purposes.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS - ~~Cupola Dugout at 0.21.a.55.76.~~ *PILL BOX AT 0.21.A.4.1.*

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS - TORREKEN FARM 0.20.d.0.2

5. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

FRONT LINE - The PICQUET LINE is the LINE OF RESISTANCE and will be defended to the utmost and will not be given up whether the flanks are turned or not.

SUPPORTS - Should the enemy succeed in penetrating any portion of our line, an immediate COUNTER ATTACK will be launched by the SUPPORT COMPANY - the Company Commander advising Battalion Headquarters and No. 1 RESERVE COMPANY when moving off. To ensure that no time is lost in launching the COUNTER ATTACK, the O.C. SUPPORT COMPANY will, on the first sign of attack, warn his S.P. garrisons and send forward patrols to watch the defence of the PICQUET LINES. These patrols will send word back immediately there is any likelihood of the PICQUET LINE being penetrated - the COUNTER ATTACK will be launched at once.

RESERVES - No.1 RESERVE COMPANY (OUSE TRENCH). As soon as the SUPPORT COMPANY launches the COUNTER ATTACK, No.1 RESERVE COMPANY will move forward and occupy the S.Ps. vacated by the SUPPORT COMPANY, notifying Battalion Headquarters when leaving OUSE TRENCH. NO.1 RESERVE COMPANY will detail definite platoons to garrison the S.Ps., and for each garrison a definite route has been staked out. Platoon Commanders and guides will make themselves thoroughly familiar with the routes which are labelled S.1., S.2., S.3., S.4., and S.5., and lead respectively to S.P.s., 1.0.22., 2.0.22., 3.0.22., 4.0.22., and 5.0.22.

NO.2 RESERVE COMPANY will move to OUSE TRENCH as soon as it is vacated by No.1 RESERVE COMPANY.

WORKING PARTIES - (a) Parties forward of the line VAN HOVE FARM - JOYE FARM will move direct to the front line and place themselves under the O.C.

(b) Parties in rear of line VAN HOVE FARM - JOYE FARM will rendezvous in MANCHESTER STREET where it crosses WAMBEEK Road, and will be picked up by SUPPORT COMPANY as it moves to the COUNTER ATTACK. All personnel of working parties will carry rifles and one bandolier of S.A.A.

6. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK ON NEIGHBOURING SECTORS.

(a) If our defences are unembarrassed the O.C. Front Line will push forward into NO MAN'S LAND. One platoon to take the attack on the flank and also assist the threatened line by bringing the fire of his line to bear on the attack. At the same time he will inform Battalion Headquarters of the situation and of any assistance he may require. This, if granted, will be sent from the SUPPORT COMPANY.

(b) Should the enemy attempt to raid the Left CENTRE BATTALION FRONT, 1 Officer & 15 other ranks from the garrison of WALL FARM will push forward and endeavour to cut off the raiding party as for a raid on our own front.

7. NORMAL PROGRAMME.

- (a) To maintain a vigorous system of patrolling and so, prevent any raid or surprise attack, and
- (b) to improve the defence works, to complete the new Support Line and communications and accomodation of the Sector.
- (c) Salvage.
- (d) To obtain and maintain command of No Man's Land.

8. S. O. S.

By (a) Rifle Grenade Signals.
(b) Signal Service.

In foggy weather a chain of posts will be manned as follows :-

S. O. S.
(cont'd)

No. 1. S.P. 2. O. 22.
No. 2. HOUSE TRENCH.
No. 3. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.

Any S.O.S. Signal fired in the Front Line will be repeated by these three stations.

The following S.O.S. Signal Stores will be maintained:-

FRONT LINE		6 S.O.S. Grenades.
No. 1 & 2 FOG POSTS	each	3 S.O.S. Grenades.
BATTALION HEADQUARTERS		6 S.O.S. Grenades.

The S.O.S. Signal will only be used in the case of an actual attack.

As soon as the Signal is observed the Artillery fires as follows :-

First five (5) minutes		
0. to +5.		3 rounds per gun per min.
Second five (5) minutes		
+5. to +10.		2 rounds per gun per min.
Third five (5) minutes		
+10. to +15.		1 round per gun per min.
Ceases.		

The above is repeated for each subsequent S.O.S. Signal observed.

M.G's and Stokes also fire on an S.O.S. line.

9. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS.

To BRIGADE	}	Buried cable direct.
" ART. BRIGADE.		
" LEFT BATTALION.)		
" RIGHT BATTALION.		Buried cable through Bde. P.S.
To FRONT LINE	}	2 Metallic Circuits (Fullerphone, KX D3.)
" SUPPORTS		
" No.1. RESERVE.		
To No. 2 RESERVE.		1 Metallic Circuit. KX D3.

VISUAL

Lamp at F S 31 to F T 6 to Brigade Relay Station.

RUNNERS - BRIGADE - Via Relay Post near Railway Dump as per timetable supplied.

COMPANIES - Direct run.

EMERGENCY LINES. 1 from F U 2 to F.

SKETCH ATTACHED.

10. MEDICAL.

R.A.P. at O. 21. Central. Evacuations of casualties from R.A.P. by stretcher bearers to advanced Dressing Stations in rear of WYTSCHARTE at BROKEN LAMP O.19.d.2.8. A supply of dry socks is maintained and wet socks will be changed each night. Men likely to develop trench feet are also treated here.

SOUP KITCHEN at R.A.P.

11. S.A.A., GRENADES, etc.

<u>DUMPS.</u>	BRIGADE DUMP -	VERNE DUMP O.21.Central.
	BN.DUMPS -	POLKA EST. O.22.a.3.2.
		TORREKEN FARM. O.20.d.2.3.

S.A.A.,
GRENADES, etc.
(cont'd)

The following quantities will be maintained on the Battalion Dump, POLKA ESTAMINET, by Battalion H.Qrs.:-

S.A.A.	No.5 Mills Hand Grenades.	No. 23 Mills Grenades.
20,000.	600.	200.

TORREKEN FARM DUMP will be maintained at :-

S.A.A.	No.5 Mills Hd.Grenades.	No.23 Mills Rifle Gren.	V.P. A. Hales Rifle Gren.
16,000.	756.	240.	9 boxes. 240.

(b) The following will be maintained by the garrison, expenditure being made good from LA POLKA or TORREKEN:-

S.A.A.	No.5 Mills Grenades.	Rifle gren.	Very lights 1".
FRONT LINE	20,000.	400.	100. 1 box.
SUPPORTS.			
S.P. 1.0.22.	3,000.	50.	
S.P. 2.0.22.	3,000.	50.	
S.P. 3.0.22. %			
S.P. 4.0.22.	3,000.	50.	
S.P. 5.0.22.	3,000.	50.	

% Not yet complete.

RESERVE.			
OUSE TRENCH.	10,000.	300.	1 box.
S.P. 3.0.21.	3,000.	300.	
S.P. 4.0.21.	3,000.	300.	

12. RATIONS AND WATER.

RATION DUMPS - VERNE DUMP 0.21. Central.

Cooking is done at 0.21. Central.

Rations are delivered to these dumps nightly by ~~fire~~ ^{first} line transport.

WATER - 0.20.d.0.2. - Battalion Headquarters.
0.21.c.90.95. - RA.P.

RESERVE RATIONS -

FRONT LINE.

500.

TORREKEN FARM.

300 (meat and biscuit ration.)

This will be kept in weather and shell proof stores and inspected regularly. They will only be used in ~~extreme~~ extreme urgency and on the order of an Officer.

13. GAS.

The Standing Orders for Defence against Gas (S.S.193) will obtain.

STROMBOS HORNS are located at :-

FRONT LINE	-	0.23.c. 15.60.
SUPPORTS	-	0.22.a. 3.2.
OUSE TRENCH	-	0.21.c.9.4.
BATTALION H.QRS.	-	0.20.d.0.2.

RATTLES and GONGS will be established in all platoon sections of trench or in detached posts.
RATTLES will only be used for Gas Shell Bombardments.

ARTILLERY.

The Battalion front is covered by :-

- 3 - 6 gun 18 pounder batteries.
- 1 - 6 gun 4.5 Howitzer battery.

whose S.O.S. Line is :-

O.23.b.65.95. to RIFLE FARM (O.23.d.15.95.)
 O.23.d.10.62. - O.23.d.05.20.

Normally a Liaison Officer is at Battalion Headquarters every night.

A buried cable runs direct from Battalion to Artillery Brigade Headquarters which can also be reached through Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

15. MACHINE GUNS.

Four (4) Machine Guns, No.11 to 14, are located in the Sector. No. 12 has a day and also a night position. No.13 and 14 are fixed posts, with direct line of fire for local defence. No. 11 fires indirectly into S.O.S. Line.

16. STOKES.

Two 3 inch guns in Front Line.
One six inch gun in rear of front line.

17.

ACTION OF 177th. COMPANY R.E. WORKING IN RIGHT CENTRE BATTALION AREA -

In the event of attack they will take following action:-

Party No.	Location of work.	Normal strength R.E.	Function. Inf.	To report arrival and strength to.
1.	WYTSCHAETE O. 19.A.	3.	20. 37. Man firing line 2nd. Zone in O.20.A&C.	Right Centre Bn. H.Q. TORREKEN FARM. 1 Officer to assume command of party No.2.
2.	VERNE ROAD. O.21.c. and d.	20.	30. S.P. 3.O.21. & S.P.4.O.21.	Right Centre Bn. H.Q. TORREKEN FARM.

Infantry will turn out in fighting order; R.E.personnel will carry rifles and a minimum of 50 rounds S.A.A.

These parties will come under the orders of the Commander to whom they report, but will not be employed forward of the Divisional Reserve Line.

Officers and N.C.Os. 1/C working parties will reconnoitre the defensive positions allotted and approaches to them.

18. LOCAL PROTECTION OF ARTILLERY.

In the event of attack

1 Sergeant and 13 men will report at once to IO2 Battery in O.19.b.

1 Sergeant and 13 men will report at once to 4th. Battery in O.25.b.

to act as escort.

19. CEMETERY.

Battalion Headquarters - TORREKEN FARM - O.20.d.O.2.

20. GUM BOOTS.

A gum boot store under command of a Brigade representative is at LEG COPSE - Boots can be exchanged there.

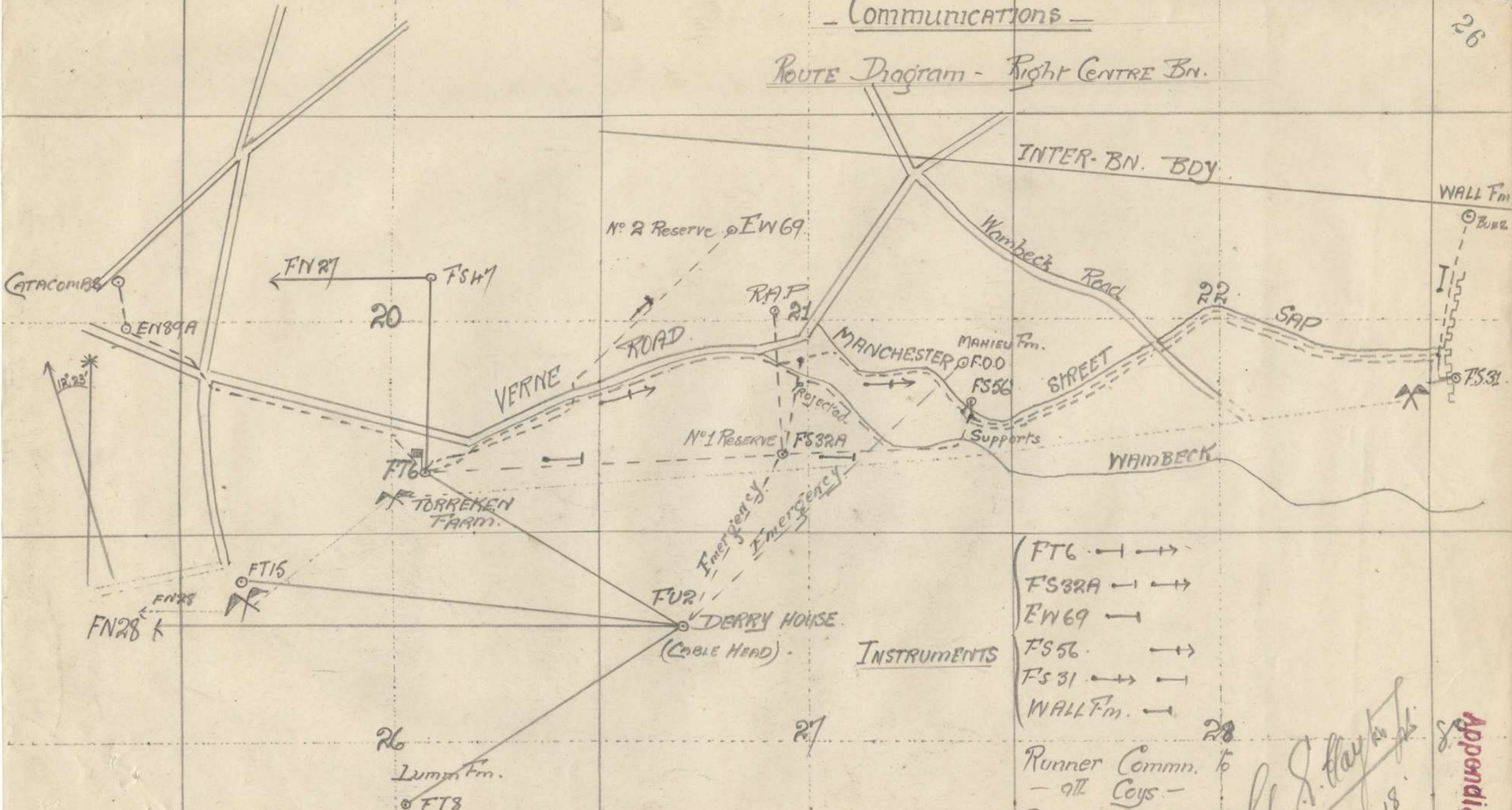
C. J. Rowe
 Captain & Adjutant.
 3rd Battalion A.I.F.

- DISTRIBUTION -

No. 1	-	PICQUET LINE COMPANY.
2	-	SUPPORT
3	-	No.1 RESERVE COMPANY.
4.	-	No.2 RESERVE COMPANY.
5,6 & 7	-	WAR DIARY.
8	-	FILE.
9	-	C.O.
10	-	177th. COMPANY R.E.
11.	-	BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS.

COMMUNICATIONS

ROUTE Diagram - Right Centre Bn.

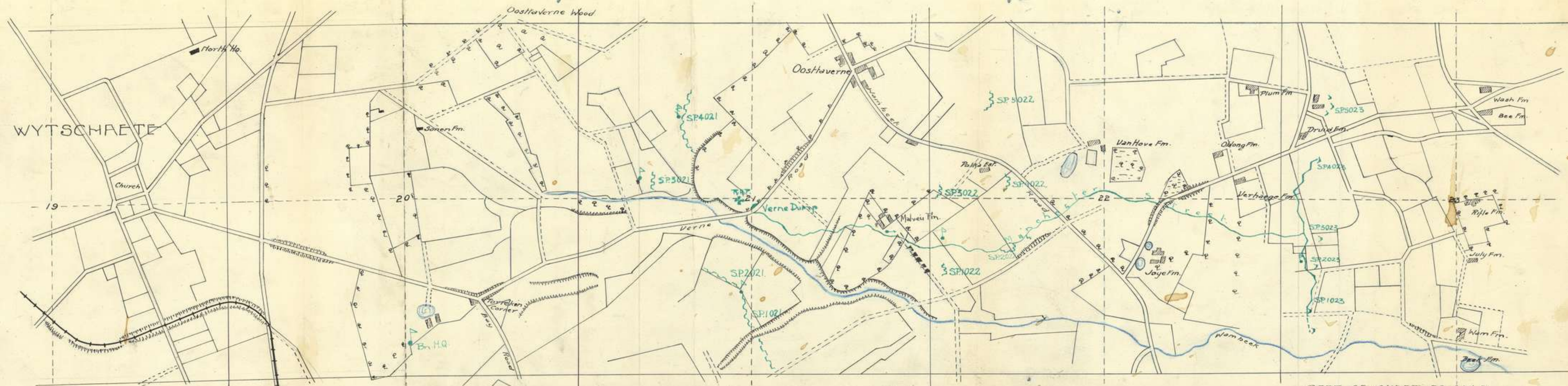


INSTRUMENTS

- (FT6 ← → →
- FS32A ← → →
- EW69 ←
- FS56 ← →
- FS31 ← → →
- WALL Fm. ←

Runner Commn. to
- all Coys -
Circuits - all Metallic

Chas. J. Day
8.1.18



PART OF SHEET 28 S.W. 2
 Scale 1:5000

3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 57.

Appendix I

REFERENCE MAP -
WITSCHALLE. 1-10,000.

Battalion Headquarters,
21st. January, 1918.

The 1st. & 2nd. Battalions will be relieved on the night of the 22nd./23rd. January, 1918.

The 3rd. Battalion will relieve the 1st. Battalion in the left Brigade Sector on the night 22nd./23rd. January, 1918.

"C" COMPANY relieves PICQUET LINE (OLIVE TRENCH)

"D" Company relieves SUPPORT LINE (RAVINE)

"B" Company relieves No. 1 RESERVE (ROCK WOOD)

"A" Company relieves No. 2 RESERVE (DENYS WOOD)

Battalion Headquarters - QUARTY FARM.

TIME.

"C" Company ^{will move} at 1630.

"D" Company at 1645.

"B" Company at 1700.

"A" Company at 1715.

DISTANCES. Column of sections at 50 yards.

ADVANCE PARTIES. "C" Company will send forward on afternoon of 21st. Inst., 1 Officer, 4 M.C.Os., 1 Signaller and 2 Scouts to PICQUET LINE to take over Stores and take part in patrols that night.

Remaining companies will send forward on morning of 22nd. inst., 1 Officer, 4 M.C.Os., and 2 Scouts to take over stores.

Battalion Headquarters will send 1 Officer, 2 M.C.Os., 2 Signallers, and 2 Linemen for same purpose.

DEFENCE SCHEMES. All maps, photographs, defence schemes, plans of work and documents of value will be taken over and receipts forwarded to reach Battalion Headquarters by 1200 on 23rd. inst.

A certificate will also be rendered at same time that Companies have been properly detailed to the defences and orders for action in connection with the respective schemes have been promulgated to all ranks.

TRENCH STORES. All Trench Stores are to be taken over and receipts obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 1200 on 23rd. inst.

DISPOSITION MAPS - will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 1200 on 23rd. inst.

WORK. All work in progress will be continued.

GUM BOOTS. will be drawn from Gum Boot Store, RAVINE, by "C" Company as they move through. An Officer will be sent forward to have these in readiness for issue.

DRESS. Battle Order, 1 blanket. Packs to be returned to Store by Q.M. on night 21st. inst.

RATIONS. Arrangements for issue of dry rations for consumption on 23rd. inst., will be notified later.

PATROLS. "C" Company will arrange that the usual patrols are sent out on night 22nd./23rd. Inst.

LEFT BATTALION SECTOR - 1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE FRONT.

REFERENCE MAP - WYTSCHAETE 1- 10,000.

Appendix 1

12

1. DESCRIPTION OF AREA.(a) FRONTAGE.

The front of the Battalion extends from 0.12.a.0.6. to the ROOZEBEEK at 0.11.d.0.3.

(b) BOUNDARIES.

NORTHERN Boundary runs from LOCK NO.5. to 0.12.a.0.6. along the ST.ELOI-HOLLEBEKE Road, exclusive to ST.ELOI thence to 0.1.d.Central, thence to VIERSTRAAT.

SOUTHERN Boundary - The ROOZEBEEK - 0.16.a.2.4. - 0.15.b.75.45. - 0.9.d.0.0. - MARTEN'S FARM.

(c) TOPOGRAPHY - The front line position absolutely commands the enemy positions in front.

The ROOZEBEEK Valley on the SOUTHERN boundary is very marshy and impassable in wet weather, but during a thaw or fine weather has to be watched.

The HOLLEBEKE Spur is the main tactical feature. In Square 0.10. is an important tactical feature "THE RAVINE", a deep cutting with the ground rising steeply on either side, forming a strong defensive position.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DEFENCES.(a) FRONT LINE - The outpost line is a series of five strong points, as under :-

No. 1.0.11.

2.0.11.

3.0.11.

4.0.11.

5.0.11.

No. 1.0.11 is two revetted and duckboarded trenches, connected by duckwalks, about 50 yds apart. They cover the valley of the ROOZEBEEK. Cupola shelters for garrison.

No. 2.0.11 is a revetted trench, but accomodation is not completed.

No. 3.0.11 is FORET FARM - one small revetted trench. There is pillbox accomodation here. FORET FARM itself is a pillbox, and is used as forward Company Headquarters.

No. 4.0.11 is in HOLLEBEKE, with 2 posts about 20 yards apart, built upon ruins. Pillbox accomodation.

No. 5.0.11 is a revetted trench with cupola accomodation.

Duckwalks connect all posts. There is a moderately good belt of wire in front. A thick belt is under construction covering the whole front.

REAR Company Headquarters is in a pillbox at 0.10.d.9.7.

SUPPORT SYSTEM - A line of strong posts comprising :-

S.P. 1.0.10 - not yet completed.

S.P. 2.0.10.

S.P. 3.0.10.

S.P. 4.0.10.

These are very well sighted posts - duckboarded and revetted. Each one platoon posts. Two platoons could fight in S.P. 3.0.10.

There is a deep dugout in the RAVINE, which requires pumping out regularly.

The new support line will run No. 1.0.10, 2.0.10, 6.0.10, 7.0.10 when accomodation has been completed in two latter posts. No.6.0.10 practically does not exist, but 7.0.10 is in good condition. Wiring is also to be done here.

RESERVE SYSTEM - A line of strong posts of one platoon strength namely :-

S.P. 1. 0.9 - completed.

The remaining strong posts are being completed at

0. 10. c. 2. 9.

0. 10. a. 7. 5.

0. 10. b. 1.9.

Wiring - very thin.

Both the Support and Reserve Line will conform to the Support and Reserve Line of the Battalions on left and right.

COMMUNICATIONS.

OLIVE TRENCH is in good condition as far as 0.11.c.0.6. where it becomes shallow. It is not advisable to use this trench beyond Company Headquarters at 0.10.d.9.7. in daylight.

"RAVINE TRACK" is the combined tramline and duckwalk from Battalion Headquarters to the RAVINE.

OLIVE TRACK is the duckwalk track from CLARKE'S DUMP through DENYS WOOD at 0.9.d.3.4. to OLIVE TRENCH.

There are duckwalks under construction from

(a) 0.10.c.2.7. - DELESKE FARM - No. 7.0.II post - through SUNKEN ROAD - FORRET FARM.

(b) 0.10.c.2.3. to ROSE WOOD Company Headquarters at 0.16.a.8.7.

SECOND ZONE - Divisional Reserve Line consisting of strong points in Square 9 A & D.

3. METHOD OF HOLDING THE LINE.

- (a) One Company and 3 Lewis Guns in the PICQUET LINE.
- (b) One Company in Support in the RAVINE.
- (c) One Company in 1st. Reserve - ROSE WOOD.
- (d) One Company, minus 3 Lewis Gun, in 2nd. Reserve - DENYS WOOD.

The PICQUET LINE is held by 4 platoon strong points. A proportion of the garrison of S.P.2.0.II withdraws to No. 1.0.II by day, as accomodation is not yet complete there.

Similarly a proportion of the garrison of S.P.3.0.II and 4.0.II is withdrawn by day to S.P.5.0.II. Advanced Company Headquarters at FORRET FARM at 0.11.b.2.1 Rear Company Headquarters at 0.10.d.9.7.

SUPPORT COMPANY - in deep dugout in RAVINE. Company Headquarters at 0.10.d.1.6.

No. 1 RESERVE COMPANY - in strong posts as under
1 Platoon in S.P. 3.0.10 (carrying party for front line rations.)

2 platoons in dugouts at Northern end of ROSE WOOD, and 1 platoon in S.P. 3.0.16.

Company Headquarters - ROSE WOOD - 0.16.a.8.7.

No. 2 RESERVE COMPANY.

2 platoons in pillboxes at DENYS WOOD - 0.9.d.4.6.

2 platoons in S.P. at GOUDEZEUNE FARM.

Company Headquarters in pillbox at DENYS WOOD-0.9.d.5.3.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS - ONRAET FARM - 0.14.a.2.1.

Forward Battalion Headquarters - RAVINE - 0.10.d.1.4.

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4. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

THE PICQUET LINE is the line of resistance and must be held at all costs.

SUPPORTS - Should the enemy succeed in penetrating any portion of our line, an immediate counter-attack will be launched by the support company - the Company Commander advising Battalion Headquarters and No.1. Reserve Company when moving off. To ensure that no time is lost in launching the counter-attack the O.C.Support Company will, on the first signs of an attack, warn his S.P. garrison to stand to and send forward patrols to watch the defence of the Picquet Line. These patrols will send word back immediately there is any likelihood of the PICQUET LINE being penetrated - the counter-attack will then be launched at once.

NO.1. RESERVE COMPANY - ROSE WOOD - will on receiving word that the Support Company has moved forward take up position as under

- 1 Platoon - S.P. 1.0.10.
- 1 " - S.P. 2.0.10.
- 2 Sections - Southern part of S.P.3.0.10.
- 2 " - Northern part of S.P.3.0.10.
- 1 Platoon - S.P. 4.0.10.
- Company Headquarters - O.IO.d.1.6.

NO.2. RESERVE COMPANY will NOT move forward unless by the orders of the Brigade Commander through Commanding Officer of the Battalion, but will garrison S.P. L.O.9 and the posts at
O.IO.c.2.9.
O.IO.a.7.5.
O.IO.b.1.9.

WORKING PARTIES.

- (a) Parties forward of Front Line Company Headquarters will at once report to the Picquet Line.
- (b) Parties in rear of Front Line Company Headquarters will report to the nearest strong point.

5. S.O.S.

By (a) Rifle Grenade Signal
(b) Signal Service
There are relay posts at all company headquarters and Forward Battalion Headquarters.
S.O.S. fired by the front line will be repeated by these stations.

6. SIGNAL COMMUNICATION.

- (1) Buried Cable from Brigade Headquarters to Battalion Headquarters, to No. 2 Reserve Company Headquarters, to Advanced Battalion Headquarters, to Artillery Group Headquarters, to Headquarters of the Battalion on our right. From Advanced Battalion Headquarters to the Headquarters of the Battalion on our left.
- (2) Wireless. There is a station at Advanced Battalion Headquarters working with Brigade Headquarters and also direct with Corps. Directing Station.
- (3) Power Buzzer & Amplifier. There is a station at Advanced Battalion Headquarters.- FORRET FARM.
- (4) Ground line telephone from No.2 Reserve Company Headquarters to No. 1 Reserve Company Headquarters to Advanced Battalion Headquarters to Front Line Company Headquarters to FORRET FARM. Also from Advanced Battalion Headquarters to Headquarters of the Battalion on our left.
- (5) Visual from FORRET FARM to Front Line Company Headquarters for DDDD messages only.
- (6) Runner to all Headquarters. A Battalion relay station is at Advanced Battalion Headquarters.

7. MEDICAL.

RA.P. in RAVINE.
A supply of dry socks is maintained and wet socks will be exchanged as often as required.

8. S.A.A.
GRENADERS, ETC.

DUMPS -
1. BRIGADE -
CLARKE DUMP - 0.15.a.1.4.
ONRAET WOOD - 0.14.c.4.4.

2. BATTALION -
ROSE DUMP - 0.10.c.25.25.

In addition there are company and S.P. dumps of ammunition and grenades at Company Headquarters and strong posts.

9. DAILY RATIONS-

By RAILWAY to CLARKE'S DUMP thence by push truck to the RAVINE.

10. WATER.

- (1) ONRAET FARM. Battalion Headquarters.
- (2) RAVINE.
- (3) ROSE WOOD.

Companies in DENYS WOOD draw water from RAVINE. There is a spring at Company Headquarters in DENYS WOOD but it has been condemned.

11. RESERVE RATIONS.

FRONT LINE - 8 tins biscuits.
REAR BATTALION HEADQUARTERS - 272 tins Bully Beef & 153 tins Pork & Beans.

These will only be used in case of an extreme emergency and by the order of an Officer.

12. GAS.

Strombos Horns are located at all Company Headquarters and Forward & Rear Battalion Headquarters.

13. ARTILLERY.

The Brigade front is covered by the HOLLEBEKE GROUP - Headquarters at N.18.b.8.2.

The Group consists of three batteries of 18 pounders and one battery of 4.5" Howitzers, all of six guns each. The Australian Corps Heavy Artillery is available for counter-battery work. Liaison Officers are at Forward Battalion Headquarters.

14. MACHINE GUNS.

- No. 19 Gun - 0.10.d.9.6.
- 20 " - 0.11.a.0.0.
- 21 " - 0.10.d.1.1.
- 22 " - 0.11.a.1.4.
- 23 " - 0.11.a.1.5.

Sketch map attached.
There is also a 6 gun battery at 0.10.b.1.3.

15. TRENCH MORTARS.

STOKES -
0.10.d.3.6.
0.11.c.2.7.
HEAVY MORTARS-
9.45" at 0.10.d.65.35.
6" Newton at 0.10.d.9.6.

16. ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS.

- Lewis Guns are mounted
- 1. 0.10.d.4.5.
 - 1. 0.16.a.9.6.
 - 1. 0.8.d.60.05. (MARTEN'S FARM)
 - 1. 0.9.d.5.3.

They are supplied alternately by the two Reserve Companies.

- 17. BATTALION OBSERVATION POSTS.
 - 1. O.11.b.8.3. (supplied by Front Line Company.)
 - 1. O.11.c.15.95. (supplied by Battalion Intelligence section.)
 - 1. O.16.a.80.95. (supplied by No.1 Reserve Company.)
- 18. CEMETERY. OOSTAVERNE WOOD - O.15.c.40.85.
- 19. CANTEEN. Battalion Headquarters - Forward & Rear.
- 20. Q.M.STORE - LINDENHOEK Camp.
 TRANSPORT LINES - NORFOLK Farm.
 A.S.C. RATION DUMP - *Maccouchie* Railway Siding.

Captain & Adjutant,
3rd. Australian Battalion.

- DISTRIBUTION -

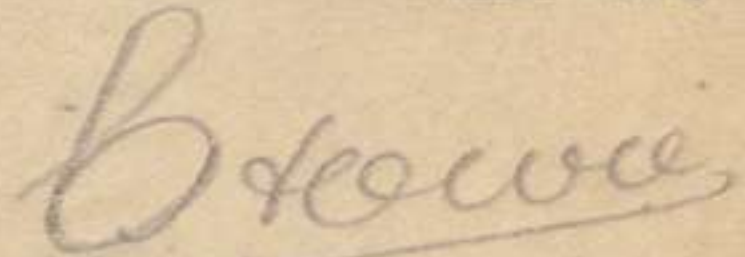
No. 1	'Copy	-	Picquet Line Company.
2	"	-	Support Company.
3.	"	-	No.1 Reserve Company.
4.	"	-	No. 2 Reserve Company.
5,6&7	"	-	War Diary.
8.	"	-	C.O.
9.	"	-	Advanced Headquarters.
10.	"	-	Spare.

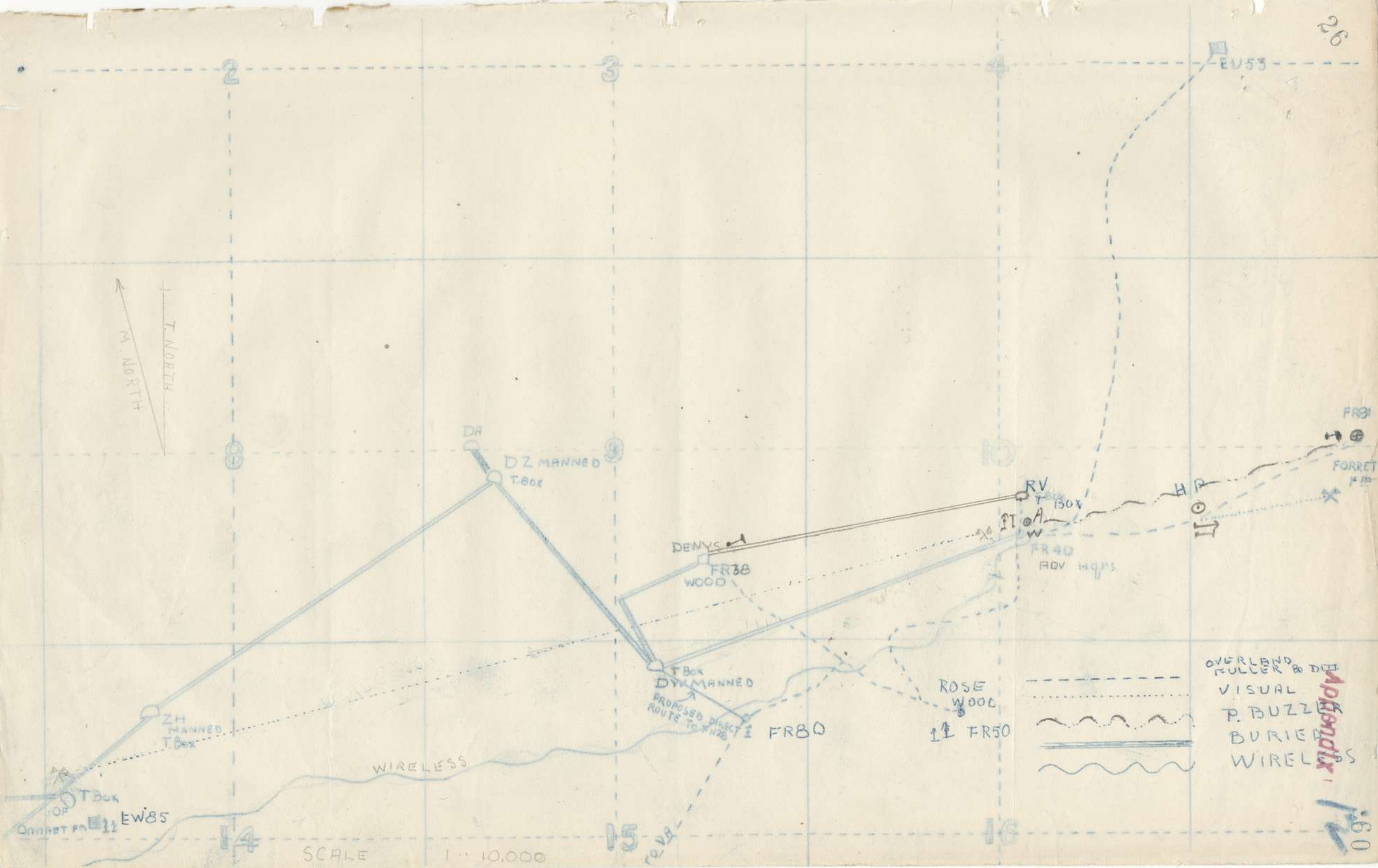
SECRET.

Appendix 12

1st. ADDENDA TO 3rd. AUSTRALIAN BATTALION DEFENCE SCHEME.Battalion Headquarters,
27th January, 1918.SECTION 4. - Action in case of attack add :-MINOR OPERATIONS.

- (1) The following arrangements are made to deal with a minor attack.
- (a) The Artillery Group has a forward O.P. at "RAVINE" which is in direct telephone communication.
- (b) If the S.O.S. Signal is sent up the Artillery opens on the usual S.O.S. barrage lines.
- (c) In order to bring concentrated artillery fire to bear on the enemy raiders as soon as the locality on which the raid is being made can be determined, a special light signal is sent up from the Company attacked. The signal is issued to and sent up by Officers of the front line company only.
If the special light signal is sent up, the artillery barrage is concentrated on the Battalion front from which the signal appears.
- (d) The special signal to be employed is notified from time to time.
- (2) The garrison of S.P. 5.O.II will at all times be ready to counter-attack, should the enemy succeed in establishing himself in any of our posts. The counter-attack is to be launched by the order of the commander on the spot.
It is essential that the counter-attack be delivered without delay to prevent the enemy from consolidating.
- (III) Signal to be sent up in addition to S.O.S. is at present a white light bursting into two RED and two WHITE lights.


Capt. & Adjutant.
3rd. Australian Battalion.DISTRIBUTION - As for Defence Scheme.



SCALE 1:10,000

Dashed line: OVERLAND FULLER & DUT
 Dotted line: VISUAL
 Wavy line: P. BUZZER BURIED
 Double wavy line: WIRELESS

Appendix 1

1:50

3rd. BATTALION A.I.F. OPERATION ORDER NO. 58.

REFERENCE MAP -
WYTSCHAETE 1-10,000.

Battalion Headquarters,
25th. January 1918.

Appendix

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1. In inter-company relief will take place on night 26th./27th. January, 1918.

2. "A" Company will relieve "D" Company in PICQUET LINE.
"B" " " " " "C" " " " SUPPORT LINE.
("RAVINE")

On completion of relief "C" Company will move to DENYS WOOD and "D" Company to ROSE WOOD.

3. TIME. "A" Company will move at 1730.
"B" " " " " " 1745.

DISTANCES. Section columns.

ADVANCE PARTIES. "A" Company will send forward on night of 25th. inst., 1 Officer, 4 N.C.Os., 1 Signaller, and 2 Scouts to PICQUET LINE to take over Stores and take part in patrols that night.

DEFENCE SCHEME. All maps, photographs, defence schemes, plans of work, etc., will be taken over and receipts forwarded to ADVANCED BATTALION H.QRS., by 1200 on 27th. inst.

TRENCH STORES. All trench stores are to be taken over and receipts obtained and forwarded to ADVANCED BATTALION H.QRS., by 1200 on 27th. inst.

DISPOSITION MAP. - will be forwarded by "A" Company to Battalion Headquarters by 0600 on 27th. inst.

WORK. All work in progress will be continued.

LEWIS GUNS. "B" Company's 3 Lewis Guns will be relieved by 3 Lewis Guns of "C" Company in PICQUET LINE. "C" Company will relieve Lewis Gun of "A" Company at MARTINS FARM. Relief to be completed by 1430 on 26th. inst.

GUM BOOTS. Will be drawn from Store at RAVINE by "A" Company as they move through. An Officer will be sent forward to have these in readiness for issue.

PATROLS. "A" Company will send out usual patrols.

4. REPORTS. To Battalion Headquarters as soon as reliefs are complete in each new position by code word "ROSS".

B. Howie
Capt. & Adjutant.
3rd. Battalion A.I.F.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

ISSUED BY RUNNER AT 10 a.m.

-DISTRIBUTION-

No. 1 Copy - "A" Company, No. 2 Copy - "B" Company, No. 3 Copy - "C" Coy.,
No. 4 Copy - "D" Company, No. 5, 6 & 7 copies - War Diary, No. 8 Copy - File
No 9 Copy - 1st Aust. Inf Bde, No 10 Copy - Q.M., No 11 Copy - R.M.O.

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3rd AUSTRALIAN BATTALION - OPERATION ORDER No. 5 AppendixBattalion Headquarters,
29th January 1918.REFERENCE MAP - SHEET 28 SW 1/20,000.

1. The 1st Australian Infantry Brigade will be relieved by the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade on the 30th and night of the 2 30th/31st January 1918.
2. The 3rd Australian Battalion will be relieved by the 56th Australian Battalion on night 30th/31st January 1918.

"E" Coy. 56th Battalion relieves Firing Line.
 "A" " " " " Support Company RAVINE.
 "D" " " " " No. 1 Reserve ROSE WOOD.
 "C" " " " " " 2 " DENYS WOOD.

On completion of relief Battalion will move to RANILLES CAMP - KEMMEL. The move will be continued to METTREM Area at a time to be notified later.

TIME. No movement E of MESSINES-WYTSCHAETE Ridge will take place before 5. p.m. Should the day prove foggy Companies will be advised as to the time they will be relieved.

DISTANCES. E. of WYTSCHAETE - Section Columns at 50 yards.
 W. " " " - Platoons at 100 yards.

GUIDES. One N.C.O. per Platoon and One for Advance and One for Rear Headquarters will meet incoming Unit near A.D.S. WYTSCHAETE - to be there by 4.30 p.m. on 30th inst. They will guide Platoons of 56th Battalion to Company area.

MAPS. All Maps, photographs, defence scheme, plans of work, and documents of value to the incoming troops will be handed over and receipts obtained, and forwarded to ADVANCED Battalion Headquarters by 4.45 p.m. on 30th inst.

TRENCH STORES. All area and trench Stores will be handed over and receipts obtained on pro-forma issued to Companies and forwarded to ADVANCED Battalion Headquarters by 4.30 p.m. on 30th inst.

GUM BOOTS. Will NOT be handed over. Companies not in line will return Gum Boots to Gum Boot Store by 12 Noon on 29th inst. Front Line Company will hand in Boots immediately on completion of relief on 29th inst. Company moving to Line on 29th inst. will not draw Gum Boots.

MOBILISATION STORES. These must be brought out of Line. On no account must they be handed over as Trench Stores.

COMPANY ADVANCE PARTY. S.C. "C" Company will detail One Officer and all Companies and Headquarters One N.C.O. to report to REAR Battalion Headquarters by 8 a.m. on 30th inst. to proceed to RANILLES CAMP.

MEDICAL. R.M.O. will arrange relief with R.M.O. 56th Bn.

TRANSPORT. Wagon Lines will remain at present location until 3 a.m. on 31st inst.

4. REPORTS. Completion of relief from present position will be sent to REAR Battalion Headquarters by Code Word "ROBE".

ACKNOWLEDGE.

B. Howie
 Capt. & Adjutant.
 3rd Australian Battalion.

ISSUED BY RUNNER at 8 a.m.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS of 3rd AUSTRALIAN BATTALION in the
HOLLEBEKE Sector for the period 22nd - 30th January 1918

1. RELIEF. The relief of the 1st Australian Battalion was completed by 8 p.m. on night 22nd/23rd January without incident.
2. AREA. The Area is described in Defence Scheme attached.
3. WEATHER. The weather during the period was exceptionally fine - and nights were moonlight.
4. OUR ACTION IN LINE. The Battalion adopted a very offensive attitude - Patrols were always out looking for Hun Patrols - our strength usually 1 Officer 12 O/Ranks. No Enemy Patrols were met.
Lewis Machine Guns were pushed forward into shell holes and kept a continuous barrage on enemy position during night.- Usually 7500 rounds being expended in one night.
The 9.45" T.M. fired very effectively for Battalion on enemy front positions. The Artillery fired at Battalion's request on various targets.
Telescopic Sighted Rifles were placed in the Front line.
5. ENEMY ACTION. Usually very quiet with all arms.
6. WORK. Report attached.
7. COMMAND.

"A" Company	-	Capt. L. R. H. HIGINBOTHAM.
"B" "	-	" S. F. P. WHITE.
"C" "	-	" A. McDERMID.
"D" "	-	" G. E. BLAKE.

Major. W. B. CARTER returned from Invalided on 24th January 1918 and assumed Command of Battalion from Major. A. F. BURRETT.
8. STRENGTH. 32 Officers - 614 Other Ranks.
9. CASUALTIES.

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
Killed in action.	Nil.	Nil.
Wounded.	Nil.	1.
Evacuated ill.	(Lieut. C.L.SMITH.M.C. (2/ " A.R.WHITWORTH.	16.
10. COMPANY DISPOSITIONS. Syllabus of Reliefs attached.
11. MAPS. Attached.

W. B. Carter
Major.
Commanding 3rd Australian Battalion

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SYLLABUS OF COMPANY RELIEFS - 22nd/30th January 1918.

DATE.	PICQUET LINE.	CARRYING PARTY.	SUPPORT Coy.	1st RESERVE Coy.	2nd RESERVE Coy.
22 Day	C Coy.	1 Platoon "B" Coy.	D Coy	B Coy	A Coy
23 "	D "	do do	C "	B "	A "
24 "	C "	do do	D "	B "	A "
25 "	D "	do do	C "	B "	A "
26 "	A "	do "D" Coy	B "	D "	C "
27 "	B "	do do	A "	D "	C "
28 "	A "	do do	B "	D "	C "
29 "	B "	do do	A "	D "	C "

Appendix

15:05

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3rd AUSTRALIAN BATTALION

SUMMARY OF WORK - from 23rd January to 30th January 1918

MATERIAL CARRIED FORWARD AND USED IN PICQUET LINE.

<u>Barbed Wire.</u>	<u>French Wire.</u>	<u>Duckboards.</u>	<u>"A" FRAMES</u>	<u>Corr..Iron.</u>
133 coils.	213 coils.	181	181	44
<u>Sandbags.</u>	<u>Revetting Frames.</u>	<u>Camouflage.</u>	<u>Angle Iron.</u>	<u>Timber.</u>
850.	18	3 rolls.	89	50'

WORK COMPLETED.

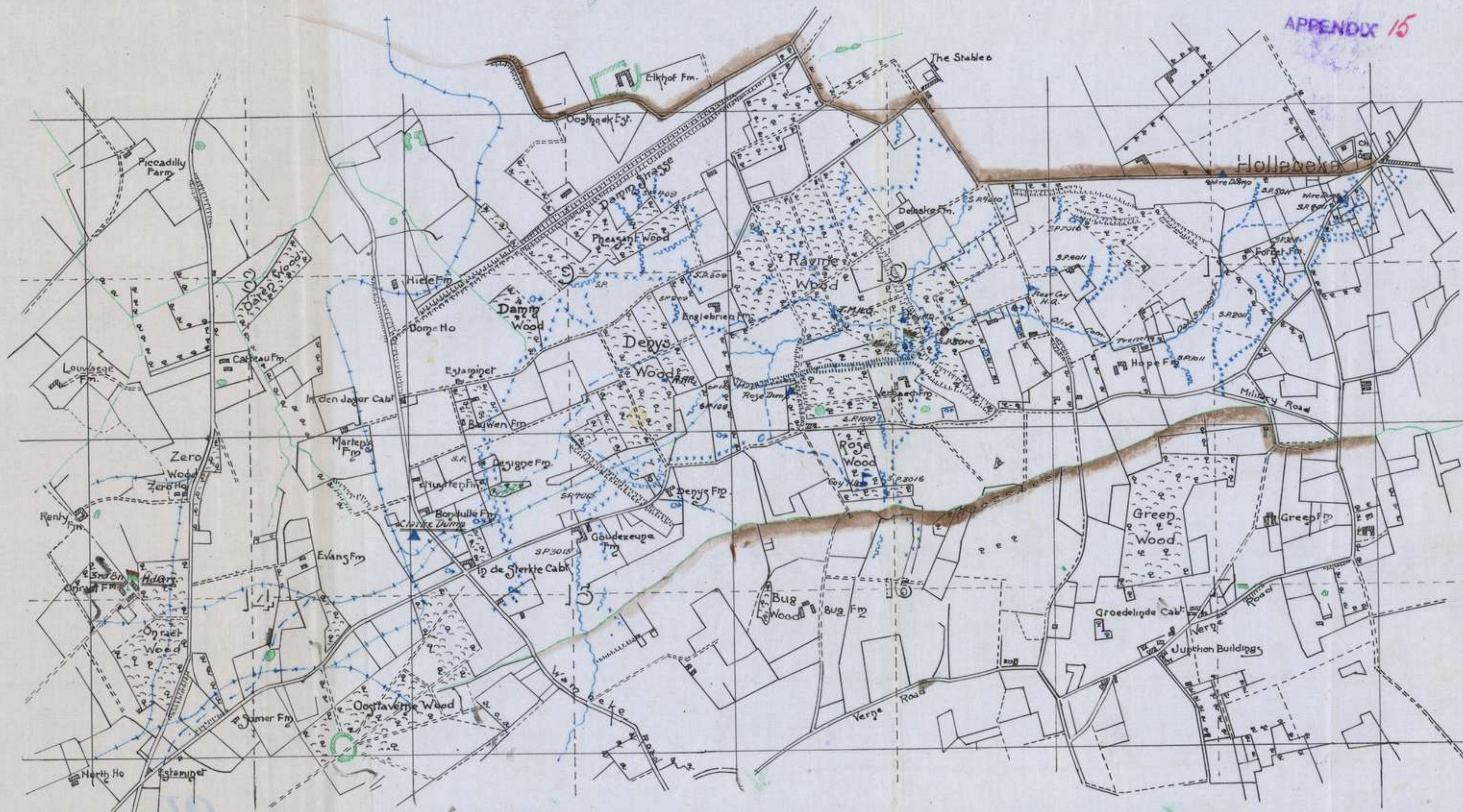
<u>Treble Concertina Wire.</u>	<u>Apron Wire.</u>	<u>Trench Improved and Drained.</u>	
630 yds.	800 yds.	142 yards.	
<u>Duckboard Track.</u>	<u>Drainage of Shell Holes.</u>	<u>Revetting Trench.</u>	<u>Latrines.</u>
400 yards.	260 yards.	50 yards.	1.

MATERIAL CARRIED FORWARD AND USED IN SUPPORT LINE.

<u>Barbed Wire.</u>	<u>French Wire.</u>	<u>Corkscrews.</u>	<u>"A" Frames.</u>	<u>Rev. Frames.</u>	
51 coils.	52 coils.	630	38.	30.	
<u>Corr..Iron.</u>	<u>Duckboards.</u>	<u>Wire Netting.</u>	<u>Sandbags.</u>	<u>H.T.H.</u>	<u>M.T.M.</u>
18	168.	17½ coils.	700.	175.	228.
<u>Camouflage.</u>	<u>Angle Iron.</u>	<u>Blankets.</u>	<u>Timber.</u>	<u>Fish Plates.</u>	
2 rolls.	70.	2.	570.	2.	
<u>Tanks.</u>	<u>Forest Stakes.</u>	<u>Hessian.</u>			
2-200 gal.Tanks.	60.	20 yds.			

WORK COMPLETED.

<u>Netting Duckboards.</u>	<u>Gas Proof Dugout.</u>	<u>Water Tanks erected.</u>
370 yds.	1.	2.
<u>Trench Improved.</u>	<u>Latrines.</u>	<u>New Duckboard Track.</u>
82 yards.	2.	80 yards.
<u>Cookhouse.</u>	<u>Concertina Wire with double Apron.</u>	
1.	30 yards.	



Handwritten text in blue ink, possibly '12' or similar, located at the bottom left of the map area.