

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/77/14

**Title:** 60th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/77/14



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 334

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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOWNSTVILLE AMP	1/3/17		<p>Fatigues supplied as per table received from Brigade Headquarters. C/O went forward to CHEESE ROAD H.Q. QTRS. to become acquainted with the situation forward.</p> <p>Departures: Sick to Hosp. 1 OR                      Wounded 1 OR                      Killed —</p> <p>Arrivals: 2 OR. T. on S. from Hosp.</p>	
TOWNSTVILLE AMP	2/3/17		<p>Fatigues supplied as per Brigade table. All officers forward to front line to take over pickets &amp; become acquainted with dispositions etc.</p> <p>Departures: Sick to Hosp. 4 OR                      Wounded 1 OR                      Killed 1 OR</p> <p>Arrivals: 1 OR. T. on S. from Hosp.</p>	
CHEESE ROAD	3/3/17		<p>The 60<sup>th</sup> P.M. relieved the 59<sup>th</sup> P.M. in the front line on the night of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. Relief was complete by 9.50 P.M. Vide P.M. Order N<sup>o</sup>. 27.</p> <p>No casualties were sustained during the relief.</p> <p>Arrivals: 1 OR T. on S. from Hosp. Departures: 1 OR. Transf. to salvage Corp                      1 OR. Sick to Hosp.                      Wounded: 1 OR.</p>	APPENDIX 1
CHEESE ROAD	4/3/17		<p>Enemy artillery active on our right. Machine Gun fire constant throughout the night. Platoon Commanders report that the system adopted for sending rations, hot foods &amp; drinks, to men in front line gave the utmost satisfaction.</p> <p>Arrivals: 1 officer sick. Departures: 2 to field ant</p>	



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CHEESE ROAD	5/3/17.		<p>Enemy artillery not so active to-day. Patrols sent out under officers. Trenches retted + deepened. Fire steps made in all posts in our right. Issue of rations + hot food again gave satisfaction.</p> <p>Arrivals <del>to</del> Departures. 1 O.R. to field amb. 10 O.R. S.O.S.</p>	
CHEESE ROAD.	6/3/17.		<p>Our Lewis Guns very active during night. Our Snipers kept those of the enemy well in hand. Patrols in charge of officers, went out + inspected enemy wire. Improvement to trenches continued.</p> <p>Arrival Departures. 4 to field amb.</p>	
POSSUM TRENCH.	7/3/17		<p>The 60<sup>th</sup> Batt was relieved by the 57<sup>th</sup> on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup>. "A" + "B" Coy to SWITCH TRENCH. "C" Coy to BULLS ROAD + "D" Coy + Batt HQ to POSSUM. FATIGUES as per table from Brigade were supplied late on the night of 7<sup>th</sup>. The relief was a good one, the Batt having no casualties.</p> <p>arrivals Departures. 8 O.R. to field amb.</p>	



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POSSUM TRENCH.	8/3/17		<p>Fatigues as per Brigade table supplied to 14<sup>th</sup> Field Coy engineers.                      Enemy stelling BULLS ROAD with 5-9 ins.</p> <p>Arrivals <sup>1 Off. ex sick.</sup> 24. OR. Rth T.O.S.</p> <p>Departures <sup>3 Lt field amb.</sup> 9 OR. S.O.S. evac.                      4 OR. S.O.S. wounded                      1 off. wounded. S.O.S.</p>	
POSSUM TRENCH.	9/3/17		<p>All fatigues supplied as per Brigade Table. All Companies inspected Gas Helmets &amp; respirators.</p> <p>Arrivals 2 O.R. ex sick.</p> <p>Departures <sup>3 O.R. Lt. Field Amb.</sup> 10 off S.O.S.                      1 O.R. wounded S.O.S.</p>	
POSSUM TRENCH.	10/3/17		<p>Regular fatigues supplied as for previous dates. STROMBUS HORNS inspected &amp; reported on by B<sup>th</sup> Gas N.C.O.</p> <p>Arrivals 2 O.R. ex sick.</p> <p>Departures <sup>12 O.R. Lt field amb.</sup></p>	



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CHEESE ROAD	11/3/17		<p>Fatigues as previous, same were withdrawn at 3-30 P.M., to permit of Coys making ready for relief. Our unit relieved the 57<sup>th</sup> Batt in the front line system, same was complete at 10-30 P.M. No Casualties. See APPENDIX-2. 10 R. sick. Arrivals. Departures 9.0 P. to field ant. 1.0 R. 5.0 S.</p>	APPENDIX 2.
CHEESE ROAD.	12/3/17		<p>58<sup>th</sup> Batt took over part of our front in N 15. C. Our Artillery active during night. Our Lewis gunners scattered a party of about 40 Germans. Gas masks were engaged in deepening trenches, also laying duckboards. Hot food + drinks were sent to men in front line twice during night. Casualties 3.0 R. wounded 5.0 S. 4 to field ant. Arrivals 10 R. sick. Departures 16.0 R. 5.0 S.</p>	
CHEESE ROAD	13/3/17		<p>Patrols sent out under officers, returned after about 2 1/2 hours. Our right flank was shelled heavily by 5.9's + 4.2's. Improvement of trenches + posts continued. The carriage of rations, hot food + drinks continues to give satisfaction. Killed wounded Casualties 1.0 R. 10 off. 3.0 R. 5.0 S. Arrivals 1.0 R. sick. Departures 5.0 R. to field ant.</p>	







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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
POSSUM TRENCH	17/3/17		<p>All companies drew mine packs from Store Hut at PERTH CAMP. "B" moved forward + occupied part of CHEESE ROAD + PILGRIMS WAY. Major Cameron marched out for the purpose of attending Coy's school in England. Batt is in readiness to move forward as a mobile force. All fatigues withdrawn. Casualties 3 O.R.s. 05 wounded. Arrivals 3 O.R. T.O.S. etc sick 1 O.R. T.O.S. reported incorrectly as killed Departures 3 O.R. to field ant</p>	
MAIN GUARD VANGUARD FROM FLIERS TO FREMICOURT	18/3/17		<p>The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion evacuated POSSUM + SWITCH trenches and moved off in column of route as main guard to 5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Advance Guard WOE 5<sup>th</sup> DIVL OPERATION ORDER NO 1. Two platoons A coy as Battery Escort. Garrison villages of FREMICOURT and BANCOURT during night. No casualties occurred Arrival 6 O.R. etc sick Departures 17 O.R. to field ant</p>	
VANGUARD DELSAUX FARM	19/3/17		<p>The 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion took over Vanguard from 59<sup>th</sup> Bn and were placed under command of Col LAYH, O.C Vanguard. Dispositions of companies extended on whole Divisional Advance Guard front. Two coys Right Flank Guard reached objective VELU and VELU WOOD. Right Flank held up by machine gun fire and had to be reinforced by two platoons of main guard. Unit formed line of outposts through out night Arrivals 2 O.R. etc sick Departures 1 O.R. to field ant</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VANQUARD DELSAUX FARM and BEURNY	20/3/17		<p>Outpost line reform into Vanguard and advance continued. MORCHIES entered by our patrols. Left flank shelled with H.E and Shrapnel. Opposition met with along whole front. 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion during evening took over Vanguard and 60<sup>th</sup> went into garrison of FREMICOURT.</p> <p>Arrived. 5 O.R.T.O.s. ex sick. Departures. 3 O.R. killed. 3 O.R. to field amb. 12 O.R. 5 O.O.S. loas. 14 O.R. wounded.</p>	
FREMICOURT	21/3/17		<p>Relief completed between 29<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Bns at midnight. Companies arriving back at 5 AM. Bn in conjunction with 30<sup>th</sup> acting as reserves to Outposts VIDE Operation Order No 5. Standing by to support 29<sup>th</sup> who are counter-attacking on BEAUMETZ. We were not called on.</p> <p>Arrival. Departures. 10 O.R. to field amb.</p>	
FREMICOURT	22/3/17		<p>Officers make reconnaissance of LIGNACOURT. Arrangements made for Bn properly left and back areas to be brought forward. Party of 3 Officers 300 O.R. under supervision of 14<sup>th</sup> Coy Engs working on road repairs.</p> <p>Arrived. 3 O.R. ex sick. 1 O.R. T.O.S. ex sick. Departures. 1 O.R. to field amb.</p>	



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FREMICOURT	23/3/14		<p>A and D companies moved to DELSAUX FARM. 2 Officers 150 OR engaged on road repairs. All parties recalled at 9 AM. At 10.30 Bn proceeded to VELU where we stood by in artillery formation. At 1.30 pm Bn returned to FREMICOURT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arrivals <span style="float: right;">Departures</span></p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">16.0.R to field amt.</p>	
FREMICOURT	24/3/14		<p>Working party 3 officers 300 O-R engaged on road repairs, recalled at 11 AM and standing by ready to move forward in attack on LIENICOURT</p> <p>Attack forfoned</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arrivals <span style="float: right;">Departures</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">3.0.R. sick 1 off. T.O.S. in enemy camp 1 off. T.O.S. in trench 19.0.R. R/H to T.O.S.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">19.0.R. to field amt 1 off. loc.</p>	
FREMICOURT BANCOURT	25/3/14		<p>Standing by. Two companies sent to support near MORECHIES. Coys returned at 11.30 AM. Bn moved at 2.30 pm from FREMICOURT side</p> <p>Bn OPERATION ORDER No 30. Completed relief with 69th Bn as right flank Guard by 6.30 pm. Bn disposed in BANCOURT, VILLERS-AU-FLOS and VELU</p> <p>Fatigue parties left in back areas when we moved forward marched in. Bn position established at BANCOURT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arrivals <span style="float: right;">Departures</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.0.R. sick 8.0.R. T.O.S. sick</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">1 O.R. wounded 9.0.R. to field amt 8.0.R. S.O.S. loc</p>	Appendix IV



WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BANCOURT	26/5/14		<p>A company and two platoons of C moved out to BEUENY line of trenches at 3 Am to support action of 58<sup>th</sup> Bn. Company returned at noon. Warned of projected enemy attack on our right flank tonight. Two platoons moved to VILLIERS-AU-FLOS in support to D Coy. Garrison act as inlaying picquet.</p> <p>Arrivals 61 O.R. Rts. T.O.S. Departures 7 O.R. to field amb 1 O.R. S.O.S.</p>	
BANCOURT	27/5/14		<p>The two platoons of C company returned from VILLIERS-AU-FLOS. B.D and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command visited outposts. Casualties 2 O.R. wounded.</p> <p>Arrivals 1 O.R. T.O.S. Departures 18 O.R. to field amb 1 O.R. S.O.S. lone.</p>	
BANCOURT and HAPLINCOURT	28/5/14		<p>60<sup>th</sup> Bn to relieve 55<sup>th</sup> Bn in intermediate line of defense. Moved from BANCOURT at 2:30 pm and established H. Qrs in HAPLINCOURT. Relief completed at 8:30 pm. A. D and two platoons of C companies formed outpost line on right flank guard.</p> <p>1 O.R. wounded</p> <p>Arrivals 7 O.R. T.O.S. Departures 8 O.R. to F. Amb.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAPLINCOURT	29/3/17		<p>C.O. visited all posts. Men engaged on erecting shelters. Transport lines moved up from FRENICOURT. 1 officer 1 Sergeant moved to 5<sup>th</sup> Army School. 2 Officers 5. C.O. moved to 5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Infantry School. Party of 1 Lt/Cpl 6 men reported to LINCHY as pushing party for ration trucks.</p> <p>Everything quiet on our front.</p> <p>Arrivals</p> <p>Departures: 8. O.R. Coas. 5. O.S. 1. O.R. transferred to 21<sup>st</sup> Bn.</p>	
HAPLINCOURT	30/3/17		<p>C.O.'s Battalions conference at Bde H. Ops at 10 am. Bn has been detailed to construct a new front line, extending DELSAUX FARM <del>as central</del> on left to right Divisional boundary <del>on right</del>. New trench will extend from O.S. central to 124c.</p> <p>Arrival</p> <p>Departures: 1 O.R. 5 O.S. wounded</p>	
HAPLINCOURT	31/3/17		<p>C.O. Major King (5<sup>th</sup> DIVL STAFF) Major Greenaway 15<sup>th</sup> F. Coy Engrs inspected proposed new line of defence. A. Coy moved forward from HAPLINCOURT and occupy old German trenches which run parallel to proposed new line. Working party of 1 off 64 O.R. commenced laying out new trench at 2.30 pm. Bn Works Officer appointed. C. Coy holding intermediate line, withdraw and billeted in HAPLINCOURT.</p> <p>Arrival: 2 O.R. 7 O.S. 1 sick</p> <p>Departures</p>	<p>Major King CO-Comd Bn 1.4.17</p>



APPENDIX 1

Attack order <sup>2nd March</sup>  
by Major Cameron. C.F.C.O. 60<sup>th</sup> Bn.

MOVE

The 60<sup>th</sup> Bn. will relieve the  
59<sup>th</sup> Bn. in the front line  
on night 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> of  
March.

A further detailed order  
as to time and route  
will be issued later

Distribution of company to  
Left. trench - Report.  
centre - 2. Right sector.  
Capt Roberts. Grenade  
Officer. The following officer  
will be attached to  
Capt. Roberts. During the  
hour in right sector  
of trench. Pizely. 2<sup>nd</sup> trench  
Left. Sector. New corners  
of D. Coy.  
B. Coy. will be divided  
into two - 2 platoons in  
Chickens. 2 platoons under  
2<sup>nd</sup> trench. 2 platoons  
under 2<sup>nd</sup> trench. Holland  
in Chalk pits.

Handwritten notes in left margin, possibly "Grady" or similar.



## APPENDIX I

Officers will go forward on 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.  
 to become thoroughly acquainted with  
 all details of their respective sectors.  
 One Officer per company will  
 remain overnight & take  
 over all stores & become acquainted  
 with their respective sectors.  
Fatigue Parties

It is desired to  
 point out that fatigue parties  
 although they are for the most  
 part divided into 1700 & 10 men  
 their NCO appears to fail to  
 supervise their men. Officers  
 in charge of fatigue parties  
 will report any instances of  
 above to Coy. Commanders  
 who will severely deal with  
 NCO concerned.

Fatigue parties must report  
 punctually on their jobs  
 and NCO should know  
 on what job the party is  
 working.

Sgt. A. Anderson  
 60th



## APPENDIX I

Bn order. 3<sup>rd</sup> March

MOVE 60<sup>th</sup> Bn will relieve the 59<sup>th</sup>  
Bn in the front line at 10 p.m.  
night of 3/4 and at a time  
to be notified later.

ORDER  
ROUTE. The order of relief will be  
C<sup>th</sup> Coy. to Port Lendoch.  
A<sup>th</sup> to "Milky Way" & Bailey  
D<sup>th</sup> Coy. left sector. B<sup>th</sup> 2 platoons  
to Chalk pits. 2 platoons to  
Cheese Road. 2 Coy. HQ of B<sup>th</sup> at  
Chalk Pits. Coy. Commanders  
will take ~~the~~ route most  
suitable to the disposition  
of gunboats. These will be issued  
at the rate of 133 per  
Coy. to 7<sup>th</sup> C & D Coy  
Great care will be  
exercised on the return of  
these boats to see that  
every pair are returned.  
14 gunboats will  
be taken over from the  
59<sup>th</sup> Bn  
Receipts all receipts will be  
made out on forms  
issued to Coy &  
extreme care will be  
taken that a careful



## APPENDIX I

check be made, on all stores, before  
 signing for same  
Foot precautions Coy. Commanders are  
 reminded that, foot precautions  
 will be vigorously persisted  
 Whale oil is not on any  
 account, to be used  
 Camphor, bulk powder  
 to be substituted.

Platoon Cndr.  
reports These will be  
 rendered punctually  
 and in sufficient time  
 for each Bde. Hq. by  
 8. AM. Daily. Special attention  
 be directed to para 12  
 of these reports. It is  
 suggested that they be  
 rendered each evening, with  
 daily states.

State  
reports State will be rendered  
 as usual by 6. PM.  
 daily.

Situations Situation & Intelligence  
 Intelligence reports will be  
 rendered to Capt  
 Doyle



## APPENDIX I

at report centre which  
will be established in  
POYK TRENCH.

The first report will be rendered  
at 11.30 P.M. on 31st & thence  
onward. A report hour prior  
to every other clock hour  
reports will be sent to  
Report Centre by runner  
during the hours of darkness  
and during the daytime  
by code phone message.

Patrols These will be sent out  
by each Coy in the line.  
Coy. Commanders will  
make such arrangements  
to ensure that their Coy.  
patrols are vigorously  
patrolled & that touch  
is kept of enemy movements  
in Tilly Trench.

Work All German wire on the  
Barley & Pork - Stormy lines  
is to be changed over to the  
enemy side of the trenches.  
In the front line this will  
be done as soon as  
possible by the Garrison



## APPENDIX I

In the support line this  
work will not proceed  
the digging of the communication  
trench <sup>the trench</sup> ~~is~~ Bread to  
Stormy trench.

14 King'sley Lane, Leek, Staffs  
E. B. N.



## APPENDIX I

3.3.17

Reference to last night:  
 Pan orders.  
 The times will be as follows  
 "B" Coy. will relieve at 4 P.M.  
 "C" will pass Cheese Road  
 (where guide will be  
 waiting for them) in sufficient  
 time to allow them to  
 begin relief at 6 P.M.  
 "A" Coy will pass and  
 pick up guide at Cheese  
 Road. In time to begin  
 their relief at 6.30 P.M.  
 "D" Coy will pass Cheese Road  
~~at~~ and pick up  
 guide in time to begin  
 their relief of FRONT line  
 at 7 P.M. for relieving  
 the front line in view  
 of the determination of  
 the enemy to obtain  
 identifications it has  
 been decided that our  
 advance posts are too  
 exposed for capture  
 tonight. The posts at  
 N 15 B. O. S. will be  
 abandoned as will



## APPENDIX I

Also the post at N15 90-8.  
 On night of the 30<sup>th</sup> March  
 all forward posts will  
 be withdrawn to the  
 main line. Listening posts  
 will be made use of  
 to give the necessary  
 warning of any hostile  
 approach. Great  
~~patience~~ is necessary  
 vigilance

W. J. Cameron Major  
 Sgt. H. Finley Sergeant  
 Co. B.



## APPENDIX II

By order of Major

W. L. Cameron Commanding 60<sup>th</sup> Bn  
10. 3. 17.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Bn will relieve the  
57<sup>th</sup> Bn on the night of the  
11<sup>th</sup> inst. in the following  
order.

FRONT LINE.

C Coy Right Coy.

B " Left Coy.

D " BORK TRENCH.

A " 2 platoons CHEESE R<sup>s</sup>

2 " with Coy Hq. Chaff. Pt.

Coy Commanders will

arrange to take over

Coy. Administration.

FRONT LINE System

plus working.

Coy in support will

arrange all details for

feeding the Coy on the

FRONT LINE.

Name of home will be

notified later.

57<sup>th</sup> Bn. will not supply

guides for this relief.

If necessary make your

own arrangements for

guides.

Appendix II



## APPENDIX II

✓  
 Works Officer Lieutenant Davie W.  
 has been appointed to  
 FRONT LINE SYSTEM.

O.C.'s boys will render  
 every assistance to this  
 officer for the pushing on  
 for this most necessary  
 work.

In view of continued activity  
 of our ENEMY to our  
 front great vigilance  
 must be displayed and  
 constant patrol under  
 officers must be insisted  
 on.

When reporting give  
 when ever possible.

Map references, calibre  
 of shells etc.

All men will stand to  
 or be at work on their  
 posts during the hours  
 of darkness except those  
 required for patrol during  
 the day time

O.C. will use their  
 discretion



## APPENDIX II

3

O.C. boys will  
 render by 6 A.M. on  
 the 12<sup>th</sup> rough sketch  
 of dispositions to  
 include trench mortars  
 and Vickers Guns.

Arrangements will be  
 similar as previously  
 carried out as regards  
 to ankle boots.

A boy will hand over  
 their gun books to  
 B boy today obtaining  
 receipts.

Attention is again  
 directed to constant  
 inspection of men's feet  
 by Platoon Commanders.  
 Up to date no case of  
 above complaint has  
 appeared in the Platoon.  
 Lieut. Bowen will establish  
 a report centre at FORKTR.  
 where all reports will  
 be sent. Daily States.  
 Must reach B.O.R. Cheese Road  
 by 8 P.M. daily. Platoon



## APPENDIX II

✓  
Commander Reports are  
included in these.

W. L. Cameron Major  
A.C.O. 6th Bn







APPENDIX III

2

ACCOMMODATION  
COOKING.

Accommodation and a cook  
will be provided at the camp.  
C.O. boys will send an officer  
in advance on the morning of  
proceeding to Timorville, where he  
will meet hunt, cocker and  
arrange details.

ANKLE BOOTS

On moving out of the Frontline  
System C.O. boys will make their  
own arrangements to take their  
ankle boots back to Smeth  
where they will establish a drying  
room for same.

GUM BOOTS

No man will wear Gum Boots  
when out of the line.  
As boys change over according to  
the table they will hand over their  
Gum Boots to incoming boys obtaining  
receipts for same.

LEWIS GUNS

Lewis Guns magazines, spare  
parts etc will be left behind  
in charge of a guard of men  
who are not likely to go into  
line next trip.



APPENDIX III

RATIONS

3

arrangements have been made  
 with the P. & M. that boys  
 moving to Townville will have  
 their rations forwarded to  
 that camp on the night of  
 arriving  
 Boys will leave Townville at  
 11.30 P.M. sharp each day.

Sgt. A. G. Cameron Major  
 A/C.O. to P. & M.  
 A.P.O. Order

Specialists attached boys at  
 present will return to their  
 respective boys on the night of  
 the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

Rations have been arranged  
 so that specialists will be  
 rationed by own boys.

Sgt. A. G. Cameron Major  
 A/C.O. to P. & M.



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11/3/17 The P.M. was returned by 57<sup>th</sup> to the night  
of the 7/3/17 while the P.M. were out at  
Possum. The usual fatigues were supplied  
to P.M.

14/3/17 Operation of tent. Appendix:

12/3/17 The P.M. were returned by the  
57<sup>th</sup> returned to former position  
Possum trench.

A Coy came to town via for Bath.

16/3/17 Usual fatigues were supplied  
a Coy moved back to Lardie. P.M. Coy to  
Perth for the purpose of bathing.  
P.M. issued instructions cancelling bathing  
etc. the Coy returned to Chase Rd with  
17/3/17 P.M. issued operating orders for the  
forward.

APPENDIX



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