

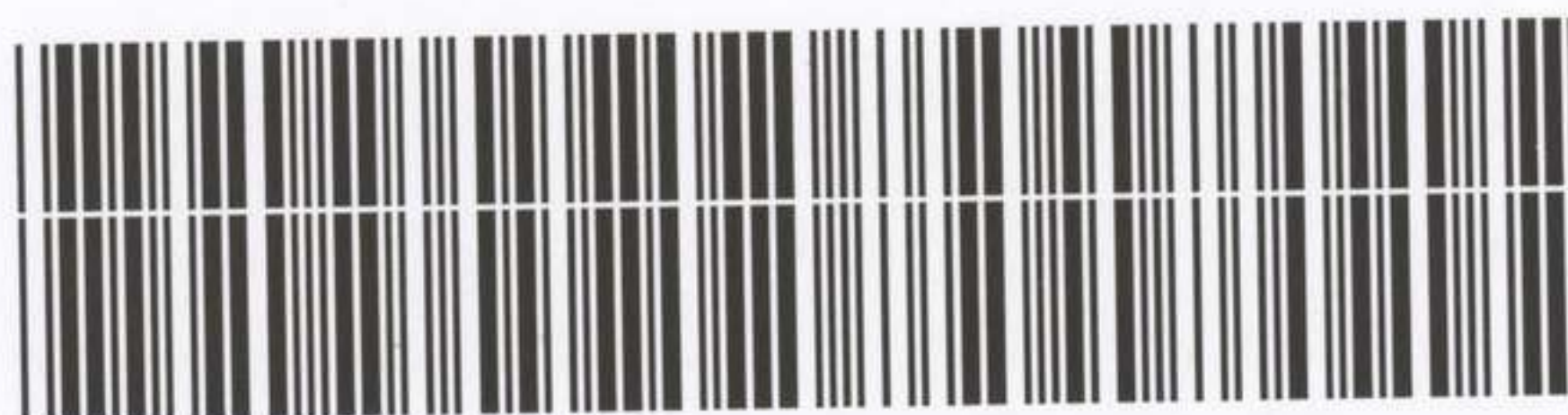
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/26

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-23/35/26

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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18th Bn

8/2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			VOLUME 18	
	3.9.17		Training continued vide Bde Training memo to 19. new attack formations.	
	4.9.17.		Training vide Bde Training memo to 19. programme "A" at CHATEAU de BATAVIA. two days course.	
	5.9.17		<p>Lieut Y. A. Duncan returned from 2nd Div class of Inst in Bombing</p> <p>Lieut C. B. Greaves do do.</p> <p>Lieut J. Harris do do.</p> <p>Lieut F. J. Brown do do.</p> <p>Major R. M. Sadler MC. proceeded on leave to PARIS.</p> <p>Capt. S. Beddie MC. proceeded on leave to PARIS.</p> <p>Capt. R. P. W. Francis (Relieving R. M. O.) from 5th Field Ambulance.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	6.9.17		Divisional exercise under Btū operation order 40016. Division attack on ^{one} Bde front. 2nd Pioneer Btū in defence. Exercise carried out at the FORÊT de CLAIR MARAIS. Btū boundary frontage. Road junction - N. 32. d. 16.80 (inclusive) to N. 32. d. 55.30.	
	7.9.17		Training under bay arrangements. "C." bay selected to represent Btū in Bde competitions for the 8 th ind.	
	8.9.17		Btū (less "C" bay.) carried out Route march. Route: - ARQUES - MALHOVE - CLAIRMARAIS - N. 19. c. 70.20. - Cross roads at N. 31. a. - MALHOVE - ARQUES. Bde competitions on ground S. 29. c. Results as follows. 17 th Btū 1 st . - 19 th Btū 2 nd . - 18 th Btū 3 rd . - 20 th Btū 4 th .	✓

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	9.9.17		6 hunch parades 11.0 AM.	
	10.9.17		Bth moved out to ground at (Sheet 27 SW.) M. 29730. to look over ground on which it is proposed to attack over the on morning of 11 th inst. (exercise) C.O. left at 1 am. for trenches east of WESTHOEK. returning at 3 pm.	
	11.9.17		Bth moved out from billets at 1.30 AM. to ground at M. 29. 773. Bde attack scheme over ground M. 29730 (Sheet 27 SW.). Warning Orders re move to STEENVORDE. received at 2.30 pm. Billeting party detailed to stand by & to report to Bde at 6.0 am on 12 th inst. Movement order received at 7.30 pm.	
	12.9.17		Bth (less details not taking part in future operations) moved to at 7.30 am. for STEENVORDE via STAPLE - HONDEGHEM - ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL. Details moved (Capt A. Paine in charge)	vide Orders att to this sheet

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	12.9.17		to 2nd Div. Reinforcement Camp CAESTRE. Transport moved with Bth.	
	13.9.17		Bth moved at 7.30 am. via ABEELE - RENINGHELST - DICKEBUSCH to CANAL killing area (Shed 2P) H.17.2. Blanket pack etc stored at Bde store STEENVORDE. Transport lines at H.22.6. 90.90.	
	14.9.17		Bth carried out training in camp area under Bth arrangements. Working parties of 1 officer H.NCOs & 500 R. - 1 officer & 500 R. reported to Bde at 6.30 pm. for work in Forward area. Lt. W. J. Graham & party of 26 OR. reported to 5th Field Coy. Engs. for temp. duty.	
	15.9.17		Training under Bth arrangements. Working parties of 2 officers H.NCOs & 500 R. - 2 officers & 500 R. report to Bde at 6.30 pm for work in Forward area. Casualties 1 officer (to death) 6 OR. Lt. Sheath remained on duty. Capt. Checchi returned from leave - Capt. Francis returned to duties 5th Field Amb.	

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	16.9.17		<p>Training under Bth arrangements. Working parties reported to Bde at 6.30 pm for work Forward area. — 1 officer 1 NCO 25 OR — 1 officer 50 OR. — 1 officer 3 NCOs 50 OR — 1 officer 4 NCOs 50 OR. Casualties nil.</p> <p>5th Bde to be Reserve Bde for Division</p>	
	17.9.17		<p>Training in Bth area. Company commanders went forward to WEST HOOK RIDGE to reconnoitre for ground. Working parties reported at 6.30 pm to Bde for work in Forward area. — 1 officer 1 NCO 25 OR. — 1 officer 50 OR. 1 officer 3 NCOs 50 OR. — 1 officer 4 NCOs 50 OR. Casualties nil.</p>	
	18.9.17		<p>Training in Bth area. Address to officers & NCOs on future operations by G.O. Working parties reported</p>	

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1	18/9/17		<p>at 6.30 pm to Bde for work in Forward area. 1 officer 3 NCOs 50 OR. — 1 officer 2 NCOs 20 OR. Major RM. Sadler MC. to 2nd Div. Reinforcement Camp as C.O. 5th A.I. Bde. Details Lt. J.P. Hill MC. reported from 2nd Div. Reinforcement Camp Lt. Woodlands reported from 2nd Div. Reinforcement Camp. Lt. B.P. de C. Cavanagh to Reinforcement Camp.</p>	
	19.9.17		<p>Inspection by Company Commanders. Issue of Lunch Stamps S.A.A. Rations etc. Battalion moved forward at 6.30 pm to assembly point</p>	
	20.9.17		<p>BELLEWAARDE RIDGE. At 1.40 am battalion moved forward to jumping off take at WESTHOEK RIDGE. Battalion reported in position at 4.15 am. At 5.37 am enemy placed artillery Barrage on WESTHOEK RIDGE. At 5.40 am our Barrage opened + Bn moved forward in attack formation "B" Company on the left. "C" Company on right. First objective (Red line)</p>	

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	20.9.17		<p>captured by 20th Bth at 2. am. 18th Bth passed through 20th Bth & captured second objective (Blue line) at 7.41 am. Captain W.L. APPLEBY was killed crossing the HANNEBEKE. Bth again moved forward & occupied & consolidated on Green line at 8 am. 17th Battalion then passed through to Green line arriving about 8.50 am. Bth Ad. Qtr moved forward at 8 am to ANZAC HOUSE. Enemy observed mustering for counter attack about 10.30 am which was broken up by our artillery fire. At 6.0 pm the enemy began to advance from TOKIO — HELLES — ALBANIA. to counter attack but was again smashed by our artillery fire. Casualties: — LIEUTS. A.H. LESLIE (killed) SMITH WRC. (killed) CLEARY C. (killed) CORRIGAN L.G. (killed) FIDGE R.L. (Died of wounds) Capt G.M. LOWTHER (wounded) Capt E.L. DAVIES (wounded) Capt M.K. READFORD (wounded) LIEUTS. PARFITT E. — DANIELS E.B.W. — (wounded) Casualties O.R.</p>	

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	20.9.17		<p>estimated about 200. (two hundred.) Enemy aircraft was very active.</p> <p>Twenty ^{big} Officers six hundred & twenty in other Ranks took part in action</p> <p>Ad. Qtr. 400. 58 OR. - A Coy. 400. 130 OR. - B Coy. 400. 149 - C Coy. 400. 150 OR. - D Coy. 500. 142 OR.</p>	
	21.9.17		<p>Our positions were heavily bombarded by enemy during day. Relief Order received from Brigade about 2 pm. Two guides for company reported to Staff Capt. at MENINGATE at 4 pm. Battalion was relieved by two companies 21st Battalion in front line on night of 21st & 22nd.</p> <p>Relief completed by 2 am on 22nd. Relief carried out by platoons. Casualties during relief were slight.</p> <p>Casualties Lind W.S. MOORS (wounded) 0 Ranks. estimated about 60.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22.9.17		<p>Battalion moved back & occupied Billebo. ESPLANADE S.A.P. YPRES. Muster parade & roll call held at 12 noon.</p> <p>Total casualties reported K.I.A. 6 officers. 54 O.R. Wund. 6 off 210 O.R. 4</p> <p>Movement Order no 114 received from Brigade at 5.26 pm.</p> <p>Bth movement Order issued at 9.0 pm. re move to HALIFAX AREA. Billeting party - Lind Irvine M.C. billeting officer to move 6 am. on 23rd.</p>	<p>Report on Operations attached</p>
	23.9.17		<p>Battalion moved as per Battalion ^{movement} Order no. 14 to "hostel Camp" per route YPRES - FLAMERTINGHE - OUDERDOM. Road.</p> <p>arrived at camp at 7.30 am. Transport moved with Bth.</p> <p>Movement Order received at 8 pm. re further move to WIPPENHOEK. Billeting party Lt Irvine M.C. Billeting officer detailed to stand by & to move at 6.30 am on 24th inst.</p>	
	24.9.17		<p>Battalion moved head of column passing starting point at ^{Railway crossing} OUDERDOM at 8.20 am enroute to WIPPENHOEK.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24.9.17		ROUTE: - OUDERDOK - RENINGHELST - CANNAUGHT CAMP, WIPPEINHOEK. Took over & occupied camp vacated by 31 st Bde. Bde Ad Qtr in that huts at eastern end of camp. Remains of Bde in WIPPEINHOEK AREA.	
	25.9.17		Training & Company organisation. Details Band etc rejoined Battalion from Reinforcement Camp at CHESTRE.	
	26.9.17		Training continued under Bde arrangements. Allotment Bde 8 am to 12 noon. Lecture to NCOs by Major RM SADDLER MC. Lieut L. H. Ross rejoined from 5 th Training Battalion.	
	27.9.17		Training as for 26 th .	
	28.9.17		Training continued. That Presentation of Ribands by Corps Commandant Lieut General Sir W. Broadwood. at 3pm Guard of Honour supplied from 17 th & 18 th Battalions. The following members of Battalion were recipients	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28.9.17		<p>of military medals, Ribands. 1884 Lfpl Blackett LOC. — 5362 Lfpl Madder A A — 3907 Lfpl Meldrum Det — 1725 Lfpl. W. J. Guinness A.A. — 2585 Pte Carey T.L. — 5648 Lfpl. O'Donoghue J.F. — 8815 Pte Glisson H.H.C. Lind of Harris leave to U.K. Lind H. J. G. Clapton reported from 2nd A.D.B.D.</p>	
	29.9.17		<p>Training continued during morning under Bti arrangements Half holiday in afternoon. Lind A. J. B. Mackenzie from Corps School.</p>	
	30.9.17		<p>Church Parade at 11. am. Lind A. Flockhart to Corps School. Movement order received from Bde at 3.30 pm in view to forward area.</p>	

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
30th. August 1917.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM No. 19.

1. The following further allotment of training has been made:-

31st. August 1917	-	"B" programme.
1st. September 1917	-	"D" " (Half Holiday)
		Inter platoon competition.
3rd. September 1917	-	"C" programme.
4th. September 1917	-	Brigade Tactical Exercise.
5th. "	-	"B" programme.
6th. "	-	"D" "
7th. "	-	"A" "
		Inter Coy. Competition.
8th. "	-	"A" programme.
2. "C" and "D" programmes will consist of Company Training in areas as laid down for these programmes in FORET DE CLAIRMARAIS.
Each Coy. Commander will prepare a syllabus for training to be submitted before noon on the day previous to that on which the work is to be carried out.
3. Inter Platoon Competition (vide Training Memo. No. 18) will be held on Saturday 1st. September at a time and place to be notified later.
On 31st. inst., Coys. when not at baths, will prepare for Platoon Competition, on the ground on which the Review was held.
4. It is intended by the 5th. A.I. Bde, to hold an Inter Coy. Competition on Saturday 8th. inst, for turn out, organisation, drill and marching.
One company will be selected from the battalion to compete.
Programme will be issued later.
5. The battalion will be inspected by the G.O.C. 5th. A.I. Bde. during the coming week in full marching order - time and place to be notified later.
Steps will be at once taken to ensure that a good turn out is secured..

L. B. Robson

.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Distribution.
File.

"A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company.

Operation order to 0/6.
(Training) 18th Bn
6917

Sheet 27 SW $\frac{1}{10000}$

1. The Division is attacking on a
one Brigade front in the following
order -

5th Bde 1st Objective -
Blue line 50 yds inside edge of
wood

6th Bde 2nd Obj
7th Bde 3rd Obj
2 co How 2nd p

Battalion is to be in position
by 1 pm

2 The 2nd Pioneer Bn represents
the enemy. Forward shell hole
area. Positions to be held
by small groups of 4 to 6 men.
These groups will remain in
position to practice the
hoppers up =

3. Barrage will be represented
by side drums. Flap etc

- Battalion Frontage -
Rd junction - N. 32 d 15 50
(exclusive) to point of clearing
N. 32 b. 55.30

5 Bde O.G. is T. 2 b. 5.0
to N. 33 d. 30 80.

Formation & distances as for
wood fighting

Frontages of Coys - Inter Coy

Bday 32.6.0020

1st Wave 2 Coy on Right C Coy on left
3rd Wave A Coy " " B " "

The 4th wave will be
moppers up

6. 1st Wave will carry 15 picks
& 20 shovels 2nd & 3rd waves will
carry 6 picks & 10 shovels

7. One part of Engineers will move
with rear wave of A Coy

8. The Senior Officer on Beach front
will organise a party of 100 to

9. Gun Helms at Alert

[N. 32. d. 28 - 10/1/25
to report to the Beach Off
(Hester)]

10. Bn HQ will be on Inter Coy
Bday. also RAP

Dictated at am

to OACoy

B

C

D

2nd Comm

Battalion Headquarters,
11th. September 1917.

~~SECRET~~ OPERATION ORDER No.12.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

By,

LIEUT-COLONEL G.F.MURPHY; D.S.O.

1. The 18th. Battalion will move by march, route to-morrow 12th. inst. to STEENVOORDE area.
2. Reveille 12th. inst. 5 a.m.
Sick parade, " 5'30 a.m.
Rifles will be piled and equipment stacked outside billets by 5'30 a.m.
All blankets and gear will be at the Q.M. Store, ready for loading not later than 6'15 a.m. Blankets etc. for reinforcement camp being separately labelled. An officer from each Coy will personally supervise the rolling of blankets. Breakfast to be finished by 7 a.m.
3. Dress - Marching order. Felt hats will be worn - Steel helmets will be carried on pack. Particular attention to fitting of packs.
4. Details for reinforcement camp will report to Capt. A. Paine at S.22.c.3.7. at 7'30 a.m. One officer per Coy. will report with details: the remainder of officers for reinforcement camp will march with Coys. to LE NIEPPE, where they will report to Capt. A. Paine.
5. Parties. (a) Rear party will report as already detailed. Officer i/c party will be responsible that all tents are struck and handed over to Area Commandant. Receipts for tents and certificates from Area Commandant for cleanliness of billets (in ~~xxxxxx~~ duplicate) will be handed to Adj. immediately on rejoining battalion.
(b) "A" Coy. will detail a guard of 1 N.C.O. and 1 man from reinforcement camp. details to report to Q.M. at 6'45 a.m.
(c) "C" Coy. will detail a guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to report to Q.M. at 6'45 a.m. to proceed direct to forward area on lorry.
(d) "B" Coy. will detail 1 N.C.O. and 10 men as Transport guard to report to Transport Officer at 7'30 a.m.
(e) "C" Coy. will detail a loading party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men to report to Q.M. at 6'15 a.m.
6. Coys. will move in accordance with attached march table.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued at 9'30 p.m. 11/9/17.

Distribution.

Copy No.1. File.

2. Asst. Adjutant (War Diary)
3. "A" Company.
4. "B" Company.
5. "C" Company.
6. "D" Company.
7. Transport Officer & Q. M.

L. B. Hobson
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

APPENDIX

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

MARCH TABLE. (To accompany Operation Order No.12)

Starting Point - Railway Crossing S.21.b.7.4.

Head of column to pass S.P. at 8'5 a.m.

Order of March - Headquarters,
 "A" Company.
 "B" Company.
 "C" Company.
 "D" Company.
 Details for reinforcement camp.
 Transport.

Kitchens will move with Companies.

100 yards between companies. .

100 " " " and Transport.

Strict attention will be paid to instructions issued re March Discipline.

Halts will be for 10 minutes at 10 minutes to each hour

Midday meal 12 noon - 1.30pm

.....Lieut.
 Adjutant 18th.Battalion,A.I.F.

Operation Order.

Ad. Int. 18th

12.9.17

1. The Battalion will move by road, tomorrow 13th inst to CRANK & PIONEER AREA in accordance with march table attached.
2. Routine for 13th inst.
Reveille at 4 am.
Get parade 5.40 am at T. 35. b. 0.5. then parading will take gear etc with them
3. Blankets, packs & extra kit will be stacked on roadstead & found to each boy by 5.30 am. Shaving gear will be retained, felt hats will be placed in packs. One man per boy will remain as a guard & will repair latrine in the day by Henry.

Page 2.
Officers will only take such gear as is absolutely necessary. All such gear will be at Bto H.2. by 5.0 am

Transport Officer will arrange for mess cart to collect B & D Coy. Bto before 4.45 am & bring them to Bto H.2.

5. DRESS: Fighting order. Steel helmets will be worn - Great coats will be rolled in W.P. sheet & fastened on belt along entrenching tool

6. Billings H.C.O. is same as today will report to H. Towns M.C. at 6 am. outside "H" Coy's billet.

7. B. Coy. will detail same limber & guards as for today

8. The following returns will be handed to Adjutant at S. front
(1) Marching and Stairs
(2) Certificate that billets have been left clean.

Page 3.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lehoban^h
ad^h 8th

Issued by Runner at 10.12. pm

- copy to
- 1 File
 - 2 Asst Adj
 - 3 A Coy
 - 4 B Coy
 - 5 C Coy
 - 6 D Coy
 - 7 Transport Officer

all packs & blankets will be
slidely labelled.

March Label
(to accompany 1st Bn of. and 2nd Bn)

Starting point

T. 35. b. 0. 3.

Head of column to pass S.P. at 6.10 am
Order of march Ad. Tab.

A Coy

B Coy

C Coy

D Coy

Transport.

50 yds between bags & Transport.

Leave before moving out.

Breakfast on road about 8 am

lucky meal 11.50 am to 1.30 pm

Halt: 10 minutes to the hour.

SECRET.

Copy No. 23.....

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.Battalion Headquarters,
18th. Sept. 1917.
-----OPERATION ORDER No. 13.

Reference :- Sheet 28 N.E. and N.W. 1/20000)
HOOGE and WESTHOEK, 1/10000)

1. On a date to be notified later, the 5th. brigade will co-operate in an attack upon the enemy to the east of WESTHOEK RIDGE.

The 7th. brigade Aust. Infantry will be operating on the right and the 27th. Infantry Brigade (9th. Divn.) on the left.

There will be three stages in the operation, each stage forming one objective.

2. The brigade is attacking on a one battalion frontage and the "leap frog" formation will be adopted.

The 1st. Objective (Red Line) runs through point J.8.b.80.70. along the eastern edge of HANEBEKE WOOD to point J.2.b.20.15. -allotted to 20th. Battalion.

The 2nd. Objective (Blue Line) includes the capture of IRON CROSS REDOUBT, thence on a line eastwards to points J.3.c.50.50. and J.3.c.40.85. East side of ANZAC -point J.3.a.10.75. -allotted to 18th. Battn.

The 3rd. Objective (Green line) is on the line J.3.d.00.60. - J.3.a.75.20., J.3.a.50.50., J.3.a.20.80. -allotted to 17th. Battalion.

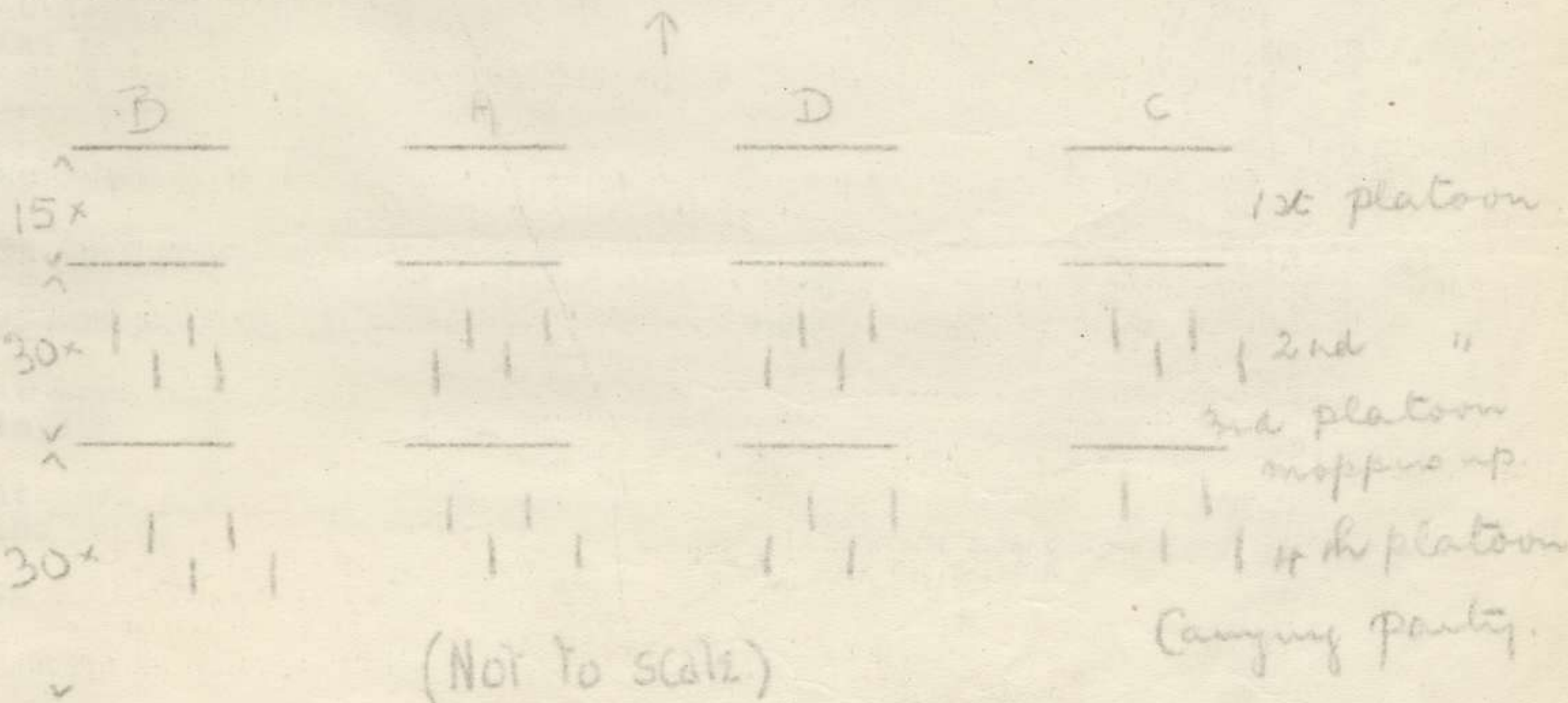
3. The 18th. Battn. will move from the present area along MENIN ROAD to BIRR CROSS ROAD and thence to BELLEWARDE RIDGE in accordance with march table to be issued later.

As each Coy. assembles on BEELEWARDE RIDGE it will be sent forward by Major L.G. FUSSELL, M.C. 17th. Battalion.

4. The front jumping off line (for 20th. Battn.) will be taped out on (approx.) J.8.a.45.45. to J.2.c.00.35.

A second jumping off line will be taped out for the 18th. Battalion about 75 yards in rear of the front jumping off line. To assist in direction, tapes will be laid dividing up the forming up area into company sectors, and will be produced for 50 yards beyond the front jumping off line

5. The 18th. Battalion will be drawn up in rear of the 20th. Battn. on the forward slopes east of WESTHOEK RIDGE in the following formation and order of companies.



Distances between waves will lengthen out to 70 yards as soon as barrage permits.

6. BOUNDARIES.

"G" Coy.- Right Boundary - Brigade right boundary from Cross roads J.8.b.00.75. (inclusive) to J.3.d.00.75.
 Left boundary - J.2.c.85.00 to J.3.a.65.00.
 House at J.2.d.90.55. (east of ZONNEBEKE ROAD inclusive to "A" Coy.

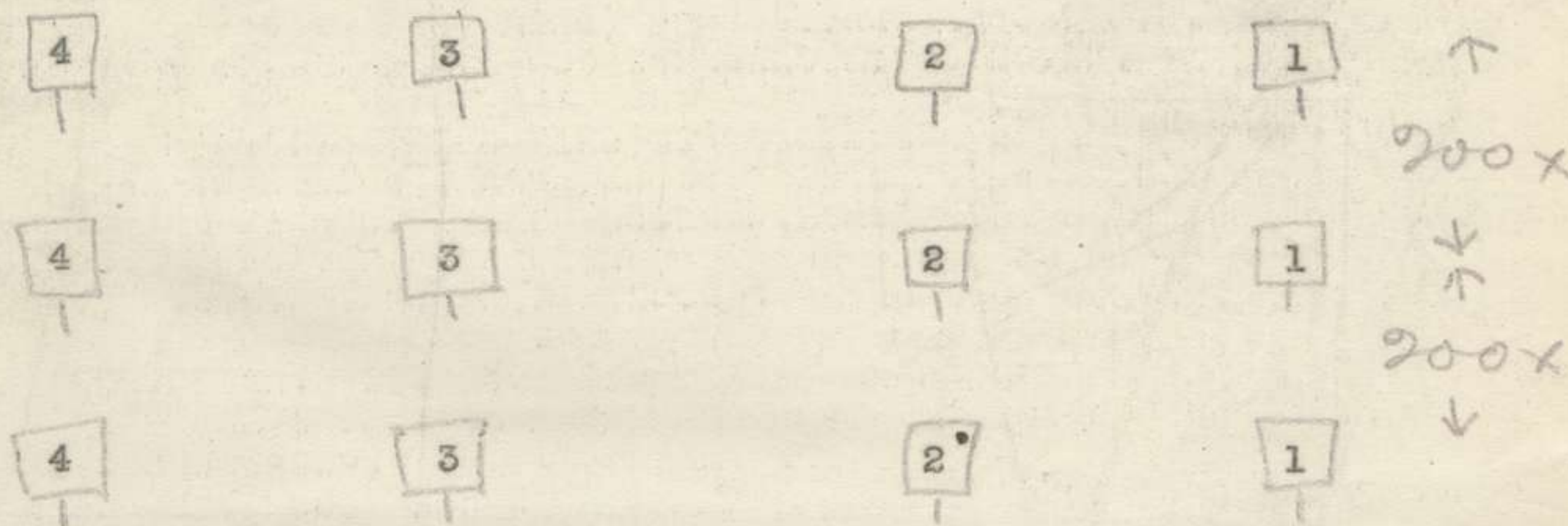
"D" Coy.- Right boundary - As for "A" Coys. left boundary.
 Left " - J.2.c.75.20. to J.3.d.80.40. block house at J.2.d.80.85. inclusive to "D" Coy.

"A" Coy.- Right boundary - As for "D" Coys. left boundary.
 Left boundary - J.2.c.55.45. to J.3.a.50.65

"B" Coy.- ~~Right boundary~~
 From "A" Coys. left boundary to Brigade left boundary at J.2.c.45.70. to J.3.a.25.90.

7. At assembly places and jumping off lines, notice boards will mark the right flank of each Coy.

On the rear slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE three lines of white boards marking the right of Coy. boundaries will be arranged as under :-



The right set of posts will be marked by green lamps, indicating right boundary of 5th. Brigade.

The left boundary of the brigade will be marked by a red lamp at Bde.H.Qrs. J.1.d.65.10. which will be observed as soon as BELLEWARDE RIDGE is passed.

8. Artillery barrage.

At zero the near edge of the barrage will be put down 150 yards in front of infantry jumping off line.

At zero plus 3 minutes the barrage will commence to creep for 200 yards at the rate of 25 yards per minute and then at the rate of 100 yards in 6 min.

From zero plus 23 to zero plus 88 minutes the barrage will halt about 200 yards east of the Red Line. This pause will be indicated by an admixture of smoke shells. -

From zero plus 88 to zero plus 136 the barrage will move at the rate of 25 yards in 2 minutes passing clear of IRON CROSS REDOUBT between zero plus 96 and zero plus 104 ; and ANZAC at zero plus 112 to zero plus 120.

At zero plus 136 barrage will be about 80 yards in advance of GARTER POINT in GREEN LINE (J.3.a.50.50.)

At zero plus 253 barrage will move forward about 200 yards at the rate of 100 yards in 8 minutes, and there form a protective barrage for GREEN LINE.

9. Action of Infantry.

As soon as the barrage is put down, the 20th. Battn. will move up close to the barrage.

The 18th. Battn. will conform, gradually opening out to distance laid down in para. 5. - every care must be taken to prevent waves crowding on each other or on 20th. Battn.

As soon as the 20th. Battn. capture the Red line, the 18th. Battn. will move through and close up to the barrage.

Thereafter the leading wave will keep close up to the barrage until the 17th. Battn. passes through them, the capture of isolated strong points being left to the succeeding waves.

On reaching their objective men will immediately consolidate.

Special action.

Special attention will be paid by moppers up to the following points :-

dugouts at J.2.d.70.50. and J.2.d.95.65.
houses Zonnebeke Road in vicinity of J.2.d.80.60.
IRON CROSS REDOUST.
ANZAC
houses near cross roads J.3.c.20.90.

"B" Coy will be prepared to assist in the capture of ANZAC and ZONNEBEKE REDOUST.

"C" Coy will be prepared to assist in the capture of ALBERT REDOUST.

"C" Coy. will detail special party to establish connection with 7th. Bde. at J.3.c.40.40. - the 17th. Battn. is also connecting with 7th. Bde. at J.3.c.85.55.

"A" Coy. will gain connection with 27th. Bde. on the Blue Line.

10. Strong points.

Strong points will be established at houses at J3.c.50.50., J.3.c.45.85. and ANZAC

(17th. Battn. J.3.a.75.15. and J.3.a.50.50.)

The C.R.E. is also arranging for construction of strong points at J.3.c.20.55. and J.2.b.95.35.

On reaching their objective carrying parties will form dumps at selected spots, and then act under orders of senior commander present.

The 18th. Battn. will be responsible for action against hostile aircraft, harrassing front line troops. Officers will take care that the expenditure of S.A.A. is controlled, and that as large a proportion of the troops as possible continue the work of consolidation.

11. Machine guns.

Two Vickers guns will accompany C Coy. to vicinity of house at J.3.c.50.50. sweeping approaches from POLYGON WOOD.

Two guns will accompany A Coy. to ANZAC sweeping valley to the north in D.26.b. and d. and D.27.c. and approaches from ZONNEBEKE.

Four men per gun will be detailed by Coys. concerned to assist in carrying S.A.A. They will report to 5th. A.M.G. Co. by 1 p.m. 19th. inst.

12. Stokes Mortars.

One gun will move in rear of moppers up of B Coy. and one with D Coy. and on reaching objective will be emplaced to command enemy's position in vicinity of J.3.d.30.80.

Eight men will be detailed from each of B and D Coys. to assist in carrying forward.

13. Dress - Battle Order. W.P. Sheets.
Special stores as per appendix.

14. Success signals.

Red - 3 red flares.
Blue - 3 white flares.
Green - 3 green flares.

(4)

15. Contact Patrol.

Red ground flares will be lit by front line troops when called for by aeroplanes.

16. Communication.

Communication between Battn. and Coys. will be in the first instance by runners.

Signalling officer will arrange for visual as early as possible and later connect forward Battn. Hd. rs. by phone to ANZAC and IRON CROSS REDOUBT. Two pigeons will be sent to each of these places and the remaining four moving with Battn. Headquarters.

17. Medical.

R.A.P. will be at J.7.b.6.9.

On capture of final objective dumps of casualties will be formed in vicinity of ZONNEBEKE ROAD.

18. Battle dump.

Brigade battle dump is at J.7.b.65.50. (Sheet 28 N.E.)

19. Battalion Headquarters will be at J.7.b.70.90.

20. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued at 10.30 p.m. on 18/9/17.

Lehobson
.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

APPENDIX I

Stores etc. to be carried.

On each man :-

228 rounds S.A.A.
2 rifle grenades.
4 sand bags.
2 water bottles (full)
Unexpended portion of current days rations.
1 iron ration.
1 emergency ration.
Each alternate man of 1st. and 2nd. waves 1 Very light white.
Remaining men of 1st. and 2nd waves, 1 red ground flare.

Moppers up :-

Tools in proportion of 3 shovels to 1 pick.

S.O.S. by officers and senior N.C.Os.

Carrying parties, each Coy.

8000 rounds S.A.A.
10 boxes No.23.
10 tins water.
4 picks.
12 shovels.

In each Coy., each section 2 pairs wire cutters.

Mobile echelon will be at Transport Lines.

Distribution.

- Copy No. 1. C.O.
2. Major R.M. Sadler, M.C.
3. Major W.R.C. Robertson, M.C.
4. Adjutant.
5. O.C. "A" Coy.
6. O.C. "B" Coy.
7. O.C. "C" Coy.
8. O.C. "D" Coy.
9. Signalling Officer.
10. Transport Officer.
11. Quartermaster.
12. 5th. A.I. Bde.
13. 5th. A.M.G. Co.
14. 5th. A.L.T.M. Bty.
15. 17th. Battalion.
16. 19th. Battalion.
17. 20th. Battalion.
18. Major W.J.R. Scott, D.S.O.
19. Capt. M.E. Readford.
20. Lieut. Calderwood, M.C.
21. 7th. A.I. Bde.
22. 27th. Infantry Bde.
23. War Diary.
24. War Diary.
25. Sp. R.M.O.
26. File.
27. Spare.
28. Spare.

No. 24

MARCH TABLE.Issued with 18th Battalion Operation Order No. 13.

Starting Point at H.23.b.55.80.

Head of column to pass starting point at 6.30 p.m.

Order of March.

Headquarters.

'C' Coy.

'D' Coy.

'A' Coy.

'B' Coy.

100 yards between platoons.

Battalion to be clear of MENIN GATE by 8.30 p.m.

CORRIGENDUM.18th Battalion Operation Order No. 13.

Delete para 3 and substitute "18th Battalion will move from the present area via MENIN GATE along YERRES-MENIN ROAD to I.9.c.90.80. thence by overland track running through I.9.d., I.10.c. and d. I.11.c. and d. to BELLEWARDE RIDGE moving thence to jumping off line at 3 a.m."

L. Hobson

.....Lieut.
Adjutant 18th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued to all recipients of 18th
Battalion Operation Order no.13.

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters
22nd. Sept. 1917.

Headquarters,
5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS 19/22nd. Sept. 1917.

The Battalion moved from H.17.d.80.20. on the night of 19/20th. at 6'30 p.m. via MENIN GATE. No casualties were sustained until near BIRN CROSS ROADS where three other ranks were killed and nineteen wounded.

There were no casualties on BELLEWARDE RIDGE and only one whilst moving on to the tape line.

Battalion Headquarters was established on WESTHOEK RIDGE at 11'35 p.m.. At 1'40 a.m. the battalion moved forward to WESTHOEK RIDGE and at 3'33 a.m. "B" Company (the left company) reported in position on jumping off line. The whole battalion was in correct formation and settled down by 4'15 a.m.

At 5.37 a.m (Zero - 3) the enemy placed a fairly stiff barrage on WESTHOEK RIDGE. The first shells fell almost on the second tape (i.e. 18th Battalion jumping off line). The Coys. were at once moved forward, and as our barrage came down almost immediately there were only a few casualties amongst the rear waves.

On the capture of the Red line the Battalion moved through mopping up a strong point about J.2.d.45.60.

Capt. W.L. Appleby was killed crossing the HANEBEKE.

The HANEBEKE did not prove any obstacle.

A machine gun at J.2.d.15.30. was missed by the 20th Battalion and was noticed by Lieut. G.H. Duncan firing into the rear of the Battalion. His party immediately rushed the gun, and killed the crew of four. The gun was left there and I later on gave it over to Lieut. Timmins (20th Battn.). Three of Lieut. Duncan's party were killed in this encounter.

At 6.5 a.m. the enemy shortened his barrage to the line of the HANEBEKE, and from then until the end of the operation kept most of his shell fire on WESTHOEK and the line of protective barrage for RED LINE.

Little opposition was encountered except at J.2.b.80.20. in advancing on BLUE LINE, the small groups here and there being mopped up before they could offer any resistance.

At J.2.b.80.20. thirty-six prisoners and two machine guns were taken and sent back under escort.

At ANZAC fifteen men, two guns and a telefunken set were taken. Here a dog carrying a message was captured and message sent to Brigade. A number of maps etc. were also sent back. Another dog was shot near the HANEBEKE.

The BLUE LINE success signal was fired at 7'41 a.m. and the barrage moving forward CARTER POINT - a dressing station - was taken and 12 to 14 prisoners including a doctor, captured.

The GREEN LINE was occupied by the 18th. Battalion about 8 a.m. and the work of consolidation immediately put in hand.

During the advance on the GREEN LINE a machine gun from the DRAUGHT HOUSE (D.27.c.) caused casualties, but it was knocked out by our barrage.

At 8 a.m. I left WESTHOEK and moved down to the line of the HANEBEKE. A little later I saw the 17th. Battalion moving forward through the enemy's barrage on WESTHOEK. Their advance was splendidly carried out and was probably one of the finest things done during the morning. The 17th. arrived at the GREEN LINE about 8'50 a.m. and by that time the troops on the GREEN LINE had got well forward with the work of consolidation.

I saw a field gun at about J.2.d.40.50.

IRON CROSS REDOUBT was taken with little opposition, about a dozen of the garrison attempting to escape, being shot down by Lewis guns. The concrete "pill box" was badly smashed, the trenches almost

obliterated and just a few traces of wire. There were no machine guns here.

The company on this flank had now lost all but one officer. They went forward and dug in in advance of the REDOUBT.

The wood in J.3.a. and c. was very marshy and just a few thin stumps knee high.

ANZAC was found to contain two rooms about 14 feet by 12 feet and an observation tower (about 6 feet square) on top. A small Australian flag was placed on ANZAC and remained there until the house was heavily bombarded next day.

Throughout the operations no difficulty was experienced in keeping touch with the flanks. Communication to the rear was good taking all facts into consideration.

A counter attack during the morning from the North East of POLYGON WOOD was smashed by our artillery. During the afternoon small parties of the enemy were ~~driven~~ dribbled down into the depression between ANZAC and ZONNEBEEK, and sniping from there and from I.3.b. was consistent.

Much movement was observed during the afternoon about HELLES, I.3.b. and about 6 p.m. horses, G.S. ~~big~~ waggons and guns (2 batteries) were seen moving towards the cemetery and the mound in POLYGON WOOD, (I.10.a.70.80.)- and nine enemy planes came over our lines.

About this time the enemy began to advance from TOKIO, HELLES and ALBANIA in strength estimated two battalions. They were caught under our barrage. At about 6'15 p.m. the formation broke and at 6'30 p.m. the last parties of the enemy rushed back over the sky line. All the wires to Brigade had been broken and runners were sent at 6'35 p.m. to report this. About 7'25 p.m. S.O.S. signals were seen on the right of the brigade sector and the barrage came down immediately.

The enemy had large stretcher bearing parties out on the afternoon of the 20th. and morning of the 21st. and his casualties were apparently very serious. It is difficult to estimate the number of enemy dead in the brigade sector. Between brigade forward report centre and ANZAC along the line of the ZONNEBEEK ROAD I counted 47 dead including 3 officers.

Under instructions from the G.O.C. a division of the GREEN and BLUE LINES was arranged with the 17th. Battalion and the battalions gradually drawn to their own sectors, 18th. on the right of I.3.a.20.20 and the 17th. on the left.

The front line was connected throughout and support lines dug on the BLUE LINE.

On the afternoon of the 21st. the enemy opened up a methodical bombardment of ANZAC, CARTER POINT and various concrete "pill boxes" in the area. The guns used were 5'9s and "whiz-bangs". Machine guns played along the front of each place during this bombardment. ANZAC came in for a particularly rough treatment, the enemy evidently attempting to knock out the O.P. there. Five other ranks and a dog were killed here by one shell and a number wounded. Portions of a telefunken set were destroyed and a number of stores damaged.

The battalion was relieved during the night. The actual relief was without incident, but ~~one~~ six of the eight guides were either killed or wounded and a second party of guides also became casualties.

Throughout the two days the enemy made extensive use of his planes flying low, and harassing our troops by machine gun fire.

The losses amongst officers were very high, six being killed and six wounded, one dangerously. Casualties amongst other ranks were about 250.

(3)

Recommendations for immediate rewards will be forwarded later.

Lt-Col.,

Commanding 18th. Battalion, A. I. F.

oc. DCM

For information please

27/9/17

Lieutenant
Adj 18Bm

APPENDIX

EIGHTEENTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,
23rd. September 1917.

Headquarters,
5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON OPERATIONS 19/22 Sept. 1917.

In future operations, it may be found expedient to reduce the quantity of stores carried forward during the actual assault.

On this occasion, R.E. Stores, S.A.A. and water were got forward without great difficulty throughout the day. No R.E. stores were taken forward by the 4th. wave.

It would probably be advisable to issue, as was done in this case, an extra water bottle per man, and let that water suffice until more could be brought up under cover of darkness.

The carrying party with the assaulting troops could then possibly be reduced in numbers, and only S.A.A. and tools sent forward.

Some method of dealing with low flying enemy planes needs to be thought out. The only weapons available are the rifle, Lewis gun, machine gun and the Stokes mortar.

The mortar cannot well be used except under very favourable circumstances - the machine gun crews appeared to be the favourite target, but as the 'bosche' planes were mostly in evidence when a counter attack was developing, it was scarcely the province of the machine gun with the front line troops to engage the planes. This practically reduces the choice of weapons to the rifle and the Lewis gun. I think much more effective use could be made of ~~these weapons~~ these weapons if we knew the vulnerable parts of the plane and how best to get at them. It is no use telling a man to fire at any particular part of a plane; he has many serious difficulties to contend with e.g. a moving target with varying rates of speed, at a range difficult to estimate and which moreover is engaging him. Should fire be reserved till the plane is in a particular position, approaching, turning, banking, flying away from the gun, when is the pilot least protected?

It must be anticipated that the 'bosche' will develop this form of fighting, and he causes sufficient annoyance already.

.....Lt-Col.,
Commanding 18th. Battalion, A.I.F.

3
Co/ 6.0 18th Bat.

19.9.17

Enemy shelling
in rear very light
practically nil

G. H. Eldridge Lp

7.33 a

82
C.O.
18th Bn

I am sending back four
④ men for Stokes Mortars
Please arrange for as
many Stokes as possible
to be sent to
no here
hearer will act as guide

Sgt A. R. Sheath
Lp

7.58 am

20/9/17

ON xipuedc
Appendix 1

6.0. 18th Bn.

Have reached Blue line -
approx Refs - on left 50 yds in
advance of Anzac House
then line running roughly
through T3. A51 thence to
T3 C 50.50 (right flank of
Blue line as laid down)

17th Bn + 28th have passed
through us & are observed
in vicinity of Green line.
Casualties Capt Davies seen
to fall - Lt Sheath, Wrygon
+ Trace all OK

Of Ranks casualties under 25%
visited by hostile planes
Both flanks connected up.
Have already asked for SAA
Stokes shells, Rockets & mortars.

②
I now further request
Saucabags.

Will send duplicate copy of
this report with further
information before 10.30 AM

A. R. Sheath L.

9.15 AM

20/9/17

60 18th. Batt.

Boy reached point
J25 3.5 inclusive to J26 W. 00.
boy HQ. at ANZAC house.
In touch ridge on right (Blair)
and O'Donnell - B Coy left.
Lieut. Smith captured 12 prisoners
who have been sent back.
Casualties slight.
Requisite tools, S.A.A. & water
Enemy snipers active.
Applesby wounded early
forming line of outposts fifty
yards in advance of our
main position

8-37 am W.S. Moads
20th September 1917 A Coy
Lieut 191

Geldriebe den

81
18th Batt. Duplicate

Have reached Blue line - approx Rep-
on left 50 yds in advance of Angus
house then line running rough
through J3 A51 thence to J3 50 50
Right flank of Blue line as laid down
17th & 28th have passed through us
are observed in vicinity of
green line

Casualties - Capt Davies seen to fall
(Lt O'Leary, Corrigan & Fidge all OK)
Of ranks casualties under 25%
Visited by hostile planes
Both flanks connected, None
already asked for S.M.A., Stokes
Shells, Pickers & shovels.

Enclose further request sandbags
will send duplicate copy of this
report with further information
before 10.30 am

9.15 am A.P. Sheath
20/9/17

Appendix

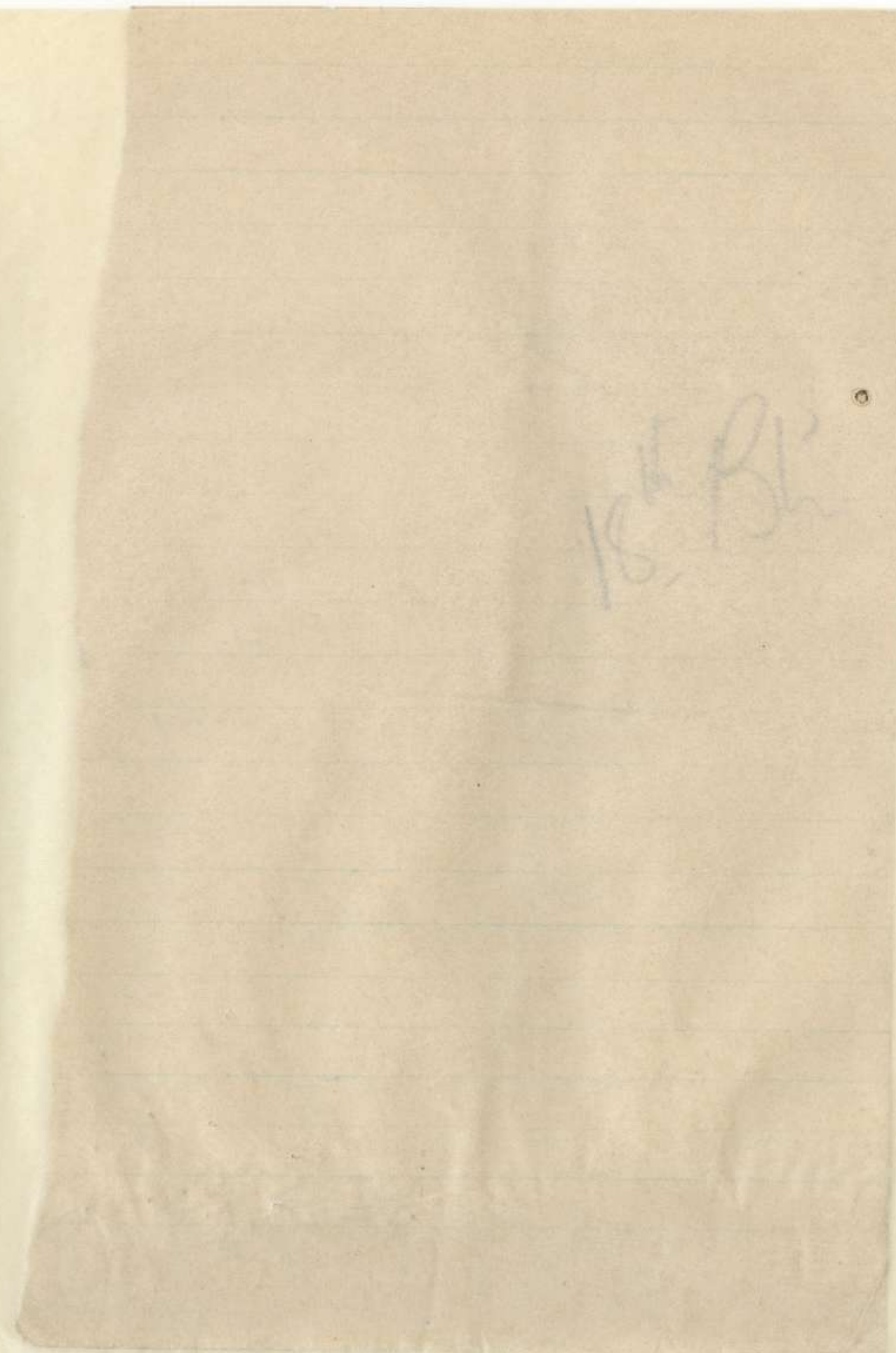
Abfender: { Dienstgrad _____
Name _____

Heimathort	Religion
Division	Abteilung
Regt. Nr.	Komp.
	Batterie
	Escadron
	Reinitt

Besondere Vorkenntnisse
(Flieger, Funker etc.)
Bei diesen ist die Nummer
oder die Stappenanzahl
anzugeben

in _____
An _____
Feldpostkarte
(Antwort)
in _____
Kochung _____
(Sonne und Stunden)

Hufgabeltempel



Abfender

13

84

DC 18th Battalion

Am busy consolidating
in front line
urgently require ammunition
All going well
Signed

Rich Smith Lt
for A Comp

Time 10. AM

18th Bn.

Further to my report of
9.15. AM —

The 17th Bn is consolidating
along line already held by this
Coy —

Lt Fidge & Corrigan both
wounded — also Capt Davies
Have 4 or 6 Vickers Guns in
immediate vicinity —

Want S.A.A

A R Shealt Lt
C Co

10.30 AM

20.9.17.

Appendix

1481



Meldung	Ort	Dat.	Zeit
Abgeg.			
Angel.			

An

S.A.A. Stores re. Party under Sgt Wilkins returned with information that no S.A.A. was available.

Casualties (approximate)

Killed. Capt Appleby
Sgt Baxter
Sgt Ritchie

Wounded. Plt Lee
Plt G. Evans
Plt J. Douglas
Plt Rodgers
" Reed
" Hyslop
" Finch
Lieut. W.B. Smith (Slightly hurt at Garter Farm)

Meldung	Ort	Dat.	Zeit
Abgeg.			
Angel.			

Wounded. Plt Perry

Missing. Plt Colborne
Sgt Hufferess
Plt Kussell
Plt Omoden
Plt Berry

Admiral A. Loy.

20/9/17. 2.5pm

Appendix

Appendix.

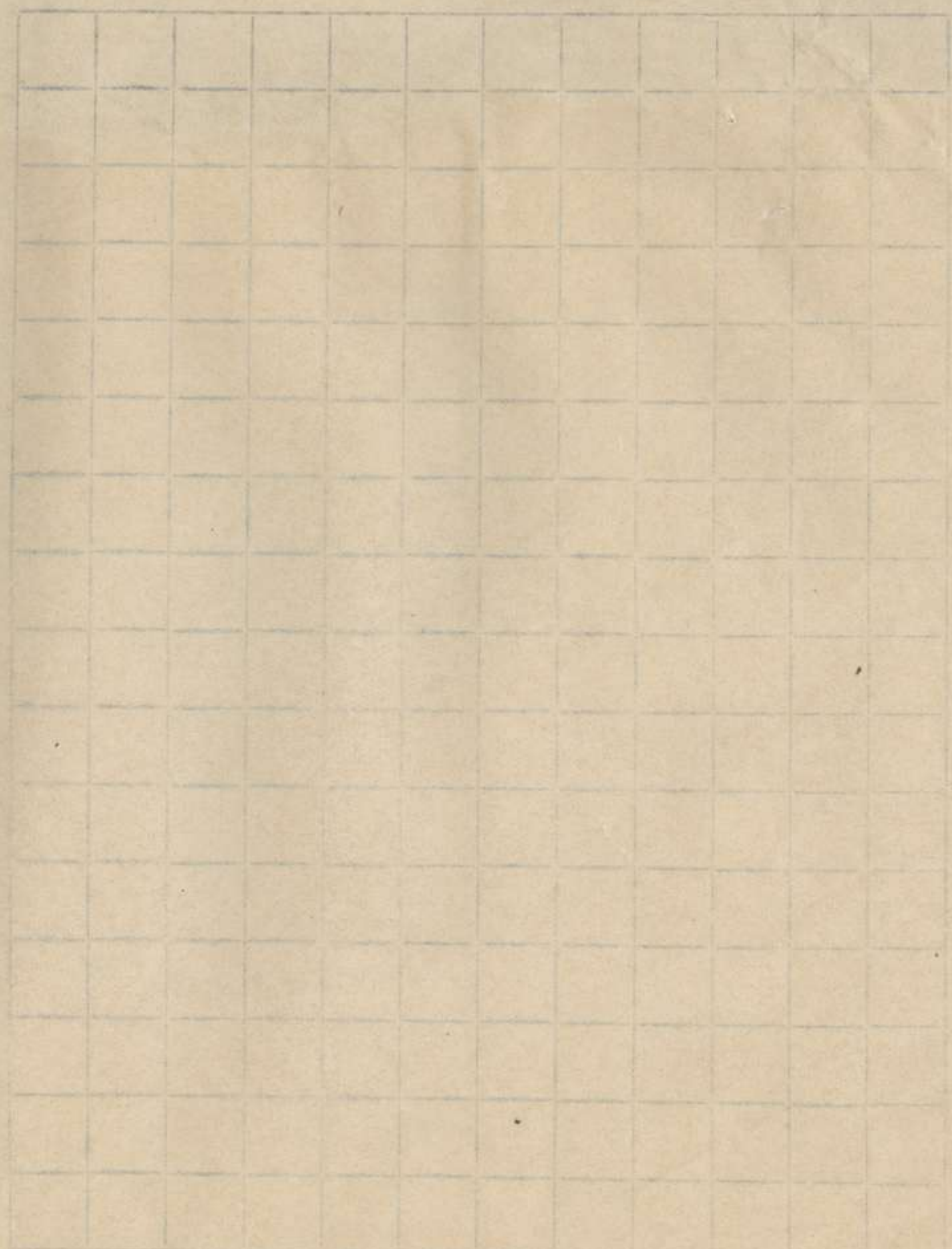
Head Q15

18th Batt

~~5th Batt~~
18th

Forwarded. It is not
understood when the 8th
was not available.
E. H. H. H.

1:25000 1:50000 1:100000
0 250 500 750 1000 m 0 500 1000 m 0 1 2 3 4 km



SV 101 10000 100000 1000000

To OC 15th Battalion.

RAP is occupied by

19th & 20th RMO's

and as there is no room
for us I have detail
in a dug^{out} close by RAP
which is next to 19th & 20th
HQ & I will await
at RAP if desired to
move up etc.

19th & 20th meanwhile will
beat our cannon.

Has our water gauge

3 May

Obeyesque
Capt RMC

28 Nov
1918

Appendix I

Copy No 2

18th Batts Order 17th
Headquarters
22.9.17

1 The 18th Batts will move from the present area on 23rd inst, in accordance with march Table attached, to the HALIFAX AREA (H14C)

Reveille will be at 3.30 am 23rd inst

2 Transport with the exception of Cookers, Mess Cart & Mailbag cart will not move with units. Bombers for heavy guns, signalling gear etc will be near cookers at 4 am 23rd inst. All gear will be dumped alongside timber by 4 am 23rd inst & will be loaded by rear party. Bombers will then take it to transport lines, joining unit on 24th inst.

Dress - Fighting Order. Great Coats rolled & hung with waterproof sheets hung below haversacks

Each Coy will detail advance party of one N.C.O. to report to

to Lt Irvine at Batts O.R. at 4.30 am 23rd inst.

6 B Coy will detail 1 Off 1 N.C.O. and 5 O.R. A, C, & D Coys 1 N.C.O. & 5 O.R. for rear party, to assemble at Batts O.R. Room and will move to regroup unit as transport is loaded & area is thoroughly clean.

7 AC KNOWLEDGE

Distribution

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | File | |
| 2 | O.C. | A Coy |
| 3 | | B " |
| 4 | | C " |
| 5 | | D " |
| 6 | Transport Officer | |
| 7 | Quartermaster | |

MARCH TABLE

(To accompany 18th Bn Order N^o 14)

Starting point. Railway Crossing
at I 13 to O. 7

Head of Column to pass SP at
4 30 am

Order of March

A	Q
A	Coy
B	"
C	"
D	"

200 yards between Coys
Kitchens will move in rear of
their Coys

ROUTE! YPRES - FLAMERTINGHE-
OODERDOM Road

Breakfast on road