

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/26/27

Title: 9th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/26/27

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

604

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.)

9th Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAZENTIN LE GRAND	1/3/17		Whole Battalion on Corps and Divisional fatigues.	Lm
"	2/3/17		Bn. on Corps & Divisional Fatigues. Lieut. Brown & Shields returned from Div. School. Lieut. Monteth's & Gower proceeded to 3 rd Training Bn. England. Lieut. MacTaggart, Threosbury & Parrott to Div. School. Capt. Collins evacuated slightly wounded. Strength of Bn. 42 off. 967 O.Rants.	Lm
"	3/3/17		Bn. engaged on Corps & Divisional Fatigues. Details in Camp sent to Baths and received clean change of underclothing.	Lm
"	4/3/17		Bn. engaged on Fatigues and working Parties.	Lm
"	5/3/17		do. do. Moved to SHELTER	movement
SHELTER WOOD	6/3/17		WOOD Camp at 1000. Camp taken over in a very insanitary condition. Fatigues continued. "A" and "B" Coy. moved to Albury Camp, Bazentin Le Grand. Capt. G. F. Ross in command at Albury Camp. Lieut. Wittkott, Bailey & Chataway and 42 Reinforcements joined Battalion.	Order attached Lm
"	7/3/17		Working Parties Continued.	Lm
"	8/3/17		do. do. Lt. J. Young proceeded to Army Training School.	Lm
"	9/3/17		Lt. Rantema and 17 O.Rants rejoined. Bn. training at ALBERT for demonstration of Battalion in Attack. Strength of Bn. 42 off. 945 O.R.	Syllabus of training attached.
"	10/3/17		Demonstration by Bn. to other Units of "Battalion in Attack".	Lm

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9th Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHELTER WOOD	10/3/17 (contd)		Lieut. Nicholls proceeded to Army Signalling School.	Lm
"	11/3/17		Bn. in training at SHELTER WOOD, one Company on fatigue work in ALBERT. Lieut. Chapman proceeded to Intelligence School. Lieut. Bailey evacuated sick.	Lm
"	12/3/17		Training continued. 17 Reinforcements arrived from Base.	} Lm
"	13/3/17		Training continued.	
"	14/3/17		do. do. Lieut. Wittkopf to Hospital Sick.	
"	15/3/17		do. do.	
"	16/3/17		do. do. Strength of Bn. 39 off. 938 ranks.	
"	17/3/17		do. do. Capt. Armstrong & Lieut. Scrymgeour evacuated sick.	} Lm
"	18/3/17		Bde. Church Parade. Lieut. Shaw, Richards & Kewell joined Battalion from Base.	
"	19/3/17		Training continued. Bayonet Fighting Course commenced at Bde.	
"	20/3/17		do. do.	
"	21/3/17		do. do. Lieut. W.B. Henszell rejoined Bn. from Cadet School England.	
"	22/3/17		do. do. Preparing to move. Capt. Collins returned from Hospital.	} Lm
"	23/3/17		Bn. moved out of SHELTER WOOD camp and marched to BRESLE. Band movement Order attached.	} Lm

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
23/3 SHELTER WOOD	23/3/17 (Contd)		rejoined at DERNANCOURT. Billeting accommodation at BRESLE very poor. Strength of Battalion 44 off. 958 O.Ranks	} Lm
BRESLE	24/3/17		Training recommenced. 3 days class per company on each weapon inaugurated and found to work admirably.	
"	25/3/17		Church parade for Bn. Lieut. G. Page returned from Hospital and Lieut. C. H. Ryan returned from duties as Town Major FRICOURT.	
"	26/3/17		Training Continued. Wet day. 2 Coy. visited Baths.	
"	27/3/17		do. do. - 2 Coy. visited Baths.	
"	28/3/17		Training Continued.	
"	29/3/17		Capt. Boylan & Lieut. Page returned from Army School and Lieut. Willkott from Hospital. Brigadier lectured to officers on a tactical scheme.	
"	30/3/17		Bn. moved out and carried out a tactical scheme under Divisional arrangements. Strength of Battalion 41 off 942 O.R.	
"	31/3/17		Training - Bn. carried out a tactical scheme. Capt. C. Carroll to 5 th Army School.	

J. M. Muller Lieut. Col
Commanding 9th Bn.

MOVEMENT ORDER
BY

LIEUT. COL. L.M. MULLEN, COMMANDING 9TH BATTALION.

In the Field,
5-3-1917.

Map Reference:- ALBERT 1/40,000.

1. The Battalion will move from Bendigo Camp to Camp at Shelter Wood at X.22.C. today the 5th inst.

2. ORDER OF MARCH

"B" Company
"C" "
"D" "
"HQ" "
"A" "

HOUR OF MARCH.

1000
1005.
1010.
1015.
1020.

Troops will move in file.

100 yds. will be maintained between Platoons and every six vehicles.

3. ROUTE. Via Contalmaison.

4. DRESS Full marching order plus two blankets. Blankets to be rolled round the pack. Leather jerkins and sheepskins to be worn. Steel helmets will be worn, felt hats and greatcoats to be carried in the pack. Full water bottles and unexpended portion of days rations to be carried.

5. Lieut. H.M. Shield will march in rear of the Battalion and collect all stragglers.

6. Lieut. S.J. Chapman with a party of 5 N.C.O.'s (one from each Coy.) will report to Bgde. Headquarters at 0900 as advance party, to allot accommodation in the new area. Lieut. Chapman will report to Battalion Office before moving out, to obtain Coy. strengths etc. After allocation of accommodation the N.C.O.'s in the party will be instructed to meet their units, and guide them to their allotted area.

7. Lieut. J.S. Young and a party consisting of 2 Sanitary men from each Coy., and a Sanitary Sjt. will remain in present camp as rear party, to hand over the camp to the incoming Unit. A certificate will be obtained from the incoming Unit that the camp has been handed over in a clean and tidy condition. The certificate will be forwarded to the Adjt.

8. The Q.M. in conjunction with the Tpt. Officer, will make all necessary arrangements for the transport of all baggage, stores etc, to the new camp.

9. Officers kits will be stacked at Q.M.'s store by 0930.

10. Officers and Sjts. mess equipment will be packed and stacked at Q.M.'s store by 0930.

11. O/C. "D" Coy., will detail one N.C.O. and 8 O.R. to report to the Q.M. at 0945 as loading party.

12. All huts will be left in a thoroughly clean and tidy condition. Coy. Cdrs. will furnish a certificate to this effect, to Battalion Office before moving out.

13. The Medical Officer accompanied by the Q.M. will inspect the camp after the Comps., have moved out, and will furnish a report on the state of the Camp to Battalion Office.

14. The Tpt. Officer will arrange for hacks for the following Officers, to be at Bendigo Camp at 1000.

Commanding Officer, Senior Major, Adjt, MG., and Q.M.

15. The Sanitary Sjt. will ensure that all latrines, incinerators, etc., are left in a clean sanitary condition.

16. Marching out states will be furnished to Battalion Office by 0945.

Marching in States will be furnished immediately on arrival at destination.

18. Working parties will continue as at present until further orders are issued.

L.A. Meyers
Lieut.
A/Adjt. 9th Battalion.

Dress for all parades- Full marching order less Pack plus water-proof sheet which will be carried under flap of haversack.

Place of parade will be notified later.

War
Diary

Date	Time	Subject.
9-3-17.	0900-1600.	Battalion in attack-trenches at W.29.C.5.6.
10-3-17.	0900-1600.	Demonstration -Battalion in/ attack-trenches at W.29.C.5.6.
11-3-17.	0900 Afternoon	Church Parade. Half holiday.
12-3-17.	0900-1200. 1400-1600:	The Battalion less Lewis Gunners and Bombers will carry out Musketry at Rifle Range. These Coys. now actually shooting- Battalion drill. Company Lewis Gunners (Musketry). Coys. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, 1 hour Coy.drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
13-3-17.	0900-1200. 1400-1600.	1 hour Battalion drill, 2 hours Route march without Transport. One hour Company Drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Extended order drill. Specialists train under their Specialist Officers as under:- (a) Lewis Gunners. (b) Signallers - Coy. and Hqrs. (c) Bombers. (d) Scouts. (e) Mens Lectures. (f) Officers Lectures. (g) Instruction in Court Martials. These Specialists will carry out Specialist Training in their special subjects as laid down in attached appendices. The afternoon parade from and including this date will be utilised for this purpose.
14-3-17.	0900-1200. 1400-1600.	Two Companies in attack on Trenches. Remainder of Battalion $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Guard, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Bayonet fighting, 1 hour Coy.drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Musketry (to include aiming, triggerpressing, and recognition of target s) $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill. Two Coys. in attack on trenches. Remainder of Battalion one hour Coy.drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour skirmishing, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Orga. ed sports.
15-3-17.	0900-1200 1400-1600	As for 14-3-17. As for 14-3-17.
16-3-17.	0900-1200 1400-1600	Lewis Gunners - Musketry on range. Remainder of Battalion - Route March. Lewis Gunners-Musketry on Range. Remainder of Battalion - 1 hour Platoon drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
17-3-17.	0900-1200 1400-1600.	Two hours Battalion in attack. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Artillery formation. 1 hour Extended order and Skirmishing, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Artillery formation, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
18-3-17.	0900-1200. Afternoon	Church Parade. Mock Court martial.
19-3-17.	0900-1200. 1400-1600.	One hour Battalion drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour drill in handling of arms, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Bayonet fighting, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour fitting and inspection of Gas helmets and Respirators, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Coy.drill One hour extended order and Skirmishing, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Artillery formation, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
20-3-17.	0900-1200 1400-1600	One hour Battalion drill, 1 hour Coy.drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Bayonet fighting, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill. One hour extended order drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Rifle Exercises, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
21-3-17.	0900-1200	Three Coys - Musketry. Remainder of Battalion one hour Musketry Instruction, 1 hour Squad

Date	Time	Subject.
21-3-17.	0900-1200. 1400-1600.	Drill $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Guards, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Outposts. Two Companies- Musketry. Remainder of Battalion $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Musketry Instruction, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Guards and Outposts, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Squad drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
22-3-17.	0900-1200 1400-1600	Battalion Route March with Transport. One hour Battalion drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Artillery formation, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.

L. Muller

Lieut. Col.
Commanding 9th Battalion.

LEWIS GUNNERS.

9-3-17.	0900-1600	Battalion in at tack.
10-3-17.	" "	Demonstration of Battalion in attack.
11-3-17.	1400-1600	Half holiday.
12-3-17.	" "	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Musketry.
13-3-17.	" "	Description and stripping.
14-3-17.	" "	Stripping and mechanism.
15-3-17.	" "	Musketry.
16-3-17.	" "	Mechanism and stoppages.
17-3-17.	" "	Points before, during and after action.
18-3-17.	" "	Half holiday.
19-3-17.	" "	Elementary drill, care and cleaning.
20-3-17.	" "	Description and stoppages.
21-3-17.	" "	Musketry.
22-3-17.	" "	Battalion in attack.

SIGNALERS.

9-3-17.	0900-1600	Battalion in attack.
10-3-17.	" "	Demonstration of Battalion in attack.
11-3-17.	1400-1600	Half holiday.
12-3-17.	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, 1 hour Coy. drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
13-3-17.	" "	Flag drill, semaphore and sound reading.
14-3-17.	" "	Message writing and carrying. Verbal mes- sages. Station work (flag).
15-3-17.	" "	Line erecting and repairing, xxxxxxxxxx Buzzer practice.
16-3-17.	" "	Test reading and sending (flag). Code writing and deciphering.
17-3-17.	" "	Buzzer practice. Verbal messages and test reading.
18-3-17.	" "	Half holiday.
19-3-17.	" "	Flag drill and message writing. Buzzer practice.
20-3-17.	" "	Test reading and sending (Buzzer).
21-3-17.	" "	Station work (flag).
22-3-17.	" "	Buzzer practice.

BOMBERS.

9-3-17.	0900-1600	Battalion in attack.
10-3-17.	" "	Demonstration of Battalion in attack.
11-3-17.	1400-1600.	Half holiday.
12-3-17.	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, 1 hour Coy. drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
13-3-17.	" "	Team drill. Lectures and precautions in handling live grenades.
14-3-17.	" "	Trench tactics. Throwing dummies.
15-3-17.	" "	Bayonet fighting and firing Rifle grenades.
16-3-17.	" "	Competitions in throwing dummies.
17-3-17.	" "	Lecture on trench tactics. Most common British grenades.

Date	Time	Subject.
18-3-17.	1400-1600.	Half holiday.
19-3-17.	" "	Bayonet fighting and throwing dummies.
20-3-17.	" "	Musketry.
21-3-17.	" "	Team drill and trench tactics.
22-3-17.	" "	Throwing live grenades. Firing Rifle grenades.

SCOUTS.

9-3-17.	0900-1600	Battalion in attack.
10-3-17.	" "	Demonstration of Battalion in attack.
11-3-17.	1400-1600	Half holiday.
12-3-17.	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour Physical drill, 1 hour Coy. drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Organised sports.
13-3-17.	" "	Compass and its uses. Taking of bearings.
14-3-17.	" "	Map reading and map location. Checking of actual and reverse bearings.
15-3-17.	" "	Sketching and marching on compass bearings.
16-3-17.	" "	Observation march.
17-3-17.	" "	Map setting.
18-3-17.	" "	Half holiday.
19-3-17.	" "	Writing of Intelligence Reports.
20-3-17.	" "	Musketry.
21-3-17.	" "	Map reading and map locations.
22-3-17.	" "	Observation march.

LECTURES FOR MEN.

Lectures will be given by Company Officers during "Smoke-cha" on the following subjects:-

1. History and traditions of the Battalion and Brigade.
2. Esprit de Corps.
3. Care of feet on the march and in the trenches.
4. Sanitation in billets, Camps etc.
5. Care of arms.
6. Care of clothing and all Government issue in view of the National need for economy.
7. Discipline and the reasons why strict discipline is necessary.

OFFICERS LECTURES.

Company Commanders will in succession lecture to all Officers on the following subjects at a time and place to be arranged by the lecturer:-

1. Interior Economy - C.C. Hqs. Company.
2. Prevention of Crime - C.C. "A" Company.
3. The investigation of charges by C.C. Companies - C.C. "B" Company.
4. Diet and method of variation - C.C. "C" Company.
5. Duties of junior Officers - C.C. "D" Company.

The Battalion Commander will lecture on the following subjects:-

1. Battalion in attack.
2. Battalion on the defensive.
3. Artillery co-operation.

A series of lectures will be given by the Medical Officer on the following subjects at a time and place to be notified later-

1. Venereal disease.
2. Sanitation.
3. Precautions against Trench feet.

INSTRUCTION IN COURT MARTIAL.

A Mock Court Martial will be held on Sunday 18th instant in which all Officers will take part. A crime will be dealt with from its inception until final sentence by F.G.C.M. is passed. It is hoped that all Officers will take advantage of the lessons then learned in their future dealings with offences.

C. J. Miller

Commanding 9th Division

8-3-17.

baggage, stores etc., to new area.

14. Officers kits will be stacked ready for loading by 0800. Officers and Serjeants Mess equipment will be packed and stacked ready for loading by 0800.
15. All blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 with the Company and Platoon clearly marked on each bundle, and stacked ready for loading by 0800.
16. O.C. "A" Company will detail one N.C.O. and 12 Other Ranks to report to Q.M. at 0800 to act as loading party and baggage guard.
17. All Hutments must be left in a thoroughly clean and tidy condition. Company Commanders will furnish a certificate to this effect to Battalion Office before moving out.
18. The Medical Officer accompanied by the Quartermaster will inspect the Camp after the Companies have moved out, and will furnish a report on the state of the Camp to the Adjutant.
19. The Transport Officer will arrange for hacks for the following officers to be at Shelter Wood Camp at 0845.
 Commanding Officer.
 Senior Major.
 Adjutant.
 Medical Officer.
 Quartermaster.
20. The Sanitary Serjeant will ensure that all latrines, incinerators etc., are left in a clean and sanitary condition.
21. Watches will be synchronised at Battalion Office at 0800.
22. Marching out states will be furnished to Battalion Office by 0845.
 Marching in states will be furnished immediately on arrival at destination.

H. Meyer

Lieut.
 Adjy. 9th Battalion.

NARRATIVE OF ADVANCE BY 9TH. BATTALION A.I.F.
on 24th., 25th., and 26th. February 1917.

SITUATION
1700

At 1700 the Battalion was defending the line from M.24.B.9.7. to M.18.C.3½.½. Companies were distributed as follows :- "A" Company, right subsector firing line, from M.24.B.9.7. to M.24.A.8.4½. "B" Company, left subsector firing line, from M.24.A.8.4½. to M.18.C.3½.½. "C" Company, Cobham Trench, M.24.C.4.4. and Cough Drop, M.35.A.7.3. This Company was support to "B" Coy. "D" Company, Yarra Avenue, M.20.B.5.7. This Company was support to "A" Company.
Battalion Headquarters, Nexham Road, M.30.A.8½.5.

PATROLS
1700-1900

Patrols on the nights of 22nd. and 23rd. reported no enemy movement in the front line, and a daylight patrol was sent out at 1700 to reconnoitre THE MAZE, and returned at 1900, having been all through the enemy lines facing our sector, reporting that the enemy had vacated his lines.

SITUATION
1930

At 1930 the two Companies in support were ordered to proceed to YARRA BANK, preparatory to the advance into the enemy lines.

2030

The order was given to advance - Two bombing teams from "A" Coy. were ordered to proceed into THE MAZE, one team to clean up the CHORD LINE, and the other to work up BAYONET TRENCH, and create a bomb stop at M.24.B.40.99. Two bombing teams from "B" Coy. were ordered to proceed into the MAZE, one team to clean up the MAZE, and the other to work up GIRD TRENCH as far as BLUE CUT and create a bomb stop at M.18.C.4.7.

2035

At 2035 the remainder of "A" and "B" Companies moved out and occupied the enemy trenches, "A" Company occupying BAYONET TRENCH and the CHORD LINE, "B" Company occupying GIRD TRENCH. The CHORD LINE was then consolidated and saps dug from YARRA BEND to M.24.B.3½.9½. and M.24.A.5.8. and M.24.A.7½.9.

2038

"D" Company moved up from YARRA BANK and took over old line from "A" Company, "C" Company taking over from "B" Company.

PATROLS
2100

A patrol consisting of 1 Officer and 10 Other ranks was sent out to investigate BANK TRENCH. This patrol found BANK TRENCH occupied by a few snipers. These were driven off by the patrol. At 2300 this patrol reported BANK TRENCH clear of the enemy.

ADVANCE
2330

AT 2330 "D" Company was ordered to advance and occupy BANK TRENCH and consolidate it. Up to this point there was no connection between us and the flank Battalions.

SITUATION
2400

The situation at midnight was :- A line from M.18.C.7.2. to M.18.D.5.1., Outpost line M.18.D.7.5.. "A" Company, "B" and "C" Companies occupying the MAZE.

0130 25th.

"D" Company reported BANK TRENCH occupied and consolidation commenced. During the advance this Company was held up on three different occasions by Machine guns and snipers. All, however, were effectively dealt with, but our casualties were fairly heavy. BANK TRENCH was in a very bad condition.

PATROLS
0200

Patrols were sent out from this point to locate the enemy, and they were found at about M.18.B.8.1. A fighting patrol consisting of 1 Officer and 30 Other ranks was sent out to engage the enemy at this point. They met with strong opposition and were forced back.

0300

Two more Officers' patrols were then sent forward, one working up BLUE CUT and the other working up YELLOW CUT. These patrols examined the ground forward for about 600 yards, and reported the enemy retiring to OATS LANE.

SITUATION
0530

The situation was as follows :- One Company M.18.C.4.7. to M.18.C.6½.2½. One Company M.18.C.6½.2½. to M.18.C.7½.00. to M.18.D.5.1. One Company M.18.C.6½.2½. to M.18.D.5.1.

One Company M.18.A.8.2. to M.18.D.7.5½.

Battalion Headquarters - M.24.B.3.3½.

The enemy placed a heavy barrage on our positions and greatly hampered operations. We linked up with the right Battalion at BANK TRENCH. No connection so far with the left Battalion. It was owing to our flanks being unprotected, our advance was held up till 1300.

ADVANCE
1300

At 1300 our line moved forward towards OAT LANE, reinforced by one company from THE MAZE. Strong opposition was met with and enemy shelling was intense. Casualties heavy from machine gun fire and artillery fire.

At 1530 OAT LANE was occupied, 2 machine guns and 2 prisoners being captured.

SITUATION
1530

The situation of the companies was as follows :-
"C" and "D" Companies, OAT LANE. "A" Company, BANK TRENCH.
"B" Company, THE MAZE.

PATROLS
1700

At 1700 patrols were sent forward to examine MALT TRENCH. One proceeded up YELLOW CUT, crossing WHEAT TRENCH, the other via GINGER CUT. These patrols all met with opposition, being harassed a good deal by snipers. MALT TRENCH was cleaned up to about M.12.D.7.6. and a bomb stop was formed at this point. The patrol via GINGER CUT proceeded up ~~GINGER CUT~~ sunken road as far as M.7.C.8.7. and formed a bombing post at M.7.C.70.95. Parties of the enemy were encountered in dugouts along the road, and all were summarily dealt with.

ARTILLERY

During the advance from BANK TRENCH the enemy persisted in a strong barrage, hampering our movement to a great extent.

ADVANCE

At 0100, "D" Company moved forward to occupy WHEAT TRENCH, 0100 - 25th from M.12.D.4.3. to N.7.C.1.6. The enemy were fairly strong in numbers, and they accounted for one Officer (Lieut. Barnett) and fifteen Other ranks. During the enemy retirement, they used to great advantage Machine guns and snipers.

SITUATION
1300

"D" Company, WHEAT TRENCH, M.12.D.4.3. to N.7.C.1.6.
"C" " OAT LANE, M.12.D.6.2. to N.13.A.6.5.
"A" " BANK TRENCH
"B" " THE MAZE

MACHINE GUNS

Two Vickers Guns were placed in advanced line, one about M.12.D.3.3., the other about N.7.C.1.6., two in BANK TRENCH and two in CHORD LINE of MAZE.

PATROLS
1330

One Officer, 1 Lewis Gun and 30 Other ranks to establish a post at N.7.C.8.9. One Bomb team and fifteen riflemen to N.7.A.4.4. At 1530 the patrols returned having encountered the enemy and were forced back. Enemy snipers and machine guns were active. A fighting patrol was then sent along WHEAT TRENCH and finally dislodged the enemy.

1800

At 1800 our troops established posts at N.7.C.5.7. and N.7.C.8.5½. Patrols were despatched from the left and right to link up with the flank Battalions, and duly reported having done so.

CASUALTIES.

Total Casualties during advance : 4 Officers 74 Other ranks

RELIEF

At 2000 the relief commenced, the 11th, Battalion taking over the following dispositions :-

One Company, WHEAT TRENCH, advanced post at N.7.D.5.7.
One Company, OAT LANE
One Company, BANK TRENCH
One Company, THE MAZE.

Relief completed at 2400.

W. H. Meyers
Lieut. Col.

Lieut. Col.

1st. March 1917.

Commanding 9th. Battalion

Battalion Headquarters
29th March 1917.

The Battalion will move out to-morrow to rendezvous to carry out a tactical exercise.

Order of March, "A", "B", "C", "D", and "Hqs." Coys.
Starting Point - D.15.A.4.8. (ALBERT Map).

The leading Company will start at the starting point at 0800.

Company Commanders will make internal arrangements for a suitable breakfast hour.

All Stretcher Bearers will move out with the Battalion.
Sick Parade - 0600.

The Transport Officer will arrange for a limbered wagon to be at Battalion Headquarters at 0730 for conveyance of Signalling gear etc to rendezvous, and for pack horses to report to Companies.

Lieut. E.F. LITTLE will act as Signalling Officer for the period of the exercise.

Company Commanders Messes will be at Officers' Mess at 0745.

H. Meyer
Lieut.
Adjutant 9th Battalion.

SECRET.

9th Battalion Order No. 11

Reference Maps ... 57. D. S.E.)
62 D. N.W.) 1/20,000.
62. D. N.E.)

Battalion Headquarters
29th March 1917.

TACTICAL EXERCISE.

1. INFORMATION. The Woods North of BAIZIEUX in Squares C.5. and U.29. are enclosed by a belt of wire, in most places about 12 feet deep. All trenches are manned. A deep and steep valley extends from the road junction at C.6.A. 1.3. to U.29.C.0.0. which is swept by a Machine Gun at C.5.B.6.2.

The Wood at C.5. is occupied but no trenches or wire can be seen in it.

BAIZIEUX Village does not appear to be defended.

Movement of Guns and Infantry in a S.E. direction was seen on all roads south of AMIENS-ALBERT Road.

The 2nd Australian Division is operating on our right and the 14th Corps on our left.

2. INTENTIONS. The 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade will capture and consolidate trenches and Wood North of BAIZIEUX in Squares C.5. and U.29. and from a defensive line along the southern edges of the Woods in C.5.

3. BOUNDARIES. The Brigade Boundaries are :-

Left Boundary, - U.24.C.8.0. - U.30.A.9.0. - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
U.30.C.6.0. along road to Cemetery.

Right Boundary, - U.22.D.2.0. - U.28.E.5.0. - U.28.D.8.9. -
C.5.A. 0.0. - C.4.D.7.0.

The Dividing Line between Battalions will be - Cross Roads at U.29.B.55.45. - U.29.D.35.00. - C.5.B.25.00. - C.5.D.15.00.

4. ORDER OF BATTLE. "A" and "B" Company will be formed up under the ledges running from U.30.C.60.75. - U.30.C.0.6. - U.29.D.00.45. "C" and "D" Companies will be formed up under the ledges immediately in rear.

"A" Company on the right - "B" Company on the left.
"C" Company on the right - "D" Company on the left.

5. DISTRIBUTION. The 9th and 10th Battalions will attack the enemy's position.

9th Battalion on the left. -
10th Battalion on the Right

and will be formed up under the ledges running from U.30.C.60.75, - U.30.C.0.6. - U.29.D.00.45 and the ledge immediately in rear. 9th and 10th Battalions will be formed up ready in position by 0100.

The 12th Battalion will be in close support and will be formed up below bottom ledge running along U.30.A.8.4. - U.30.A.0.1. - U.29.D.0.8.4 - and will be in a position of readiness by 0400.

The 11th Battalion will be in reserve in VADENCOURT WOOD.

The 3rd A.L.T.M. Battery will place 3 Sections at disposal of 9th Battalion and 1 Section at disposal of 10th Battalion.

The 3rd Machine Gun Company will place 2 Sections at disposal of 9th Battalion and 2 Sections at disposal of 10th Battalion. The remainder will be at U.30.A.0.0.

(N.B.) For the purposes of this exercise all troops will be in position ready to attack at 1015 on the morning of the 30th March

6. OBJECTIVES. First Objective. From U.30.C.15.00, - U.29.D.6.2. ~~XXXXX~~ U.29.D.20.45.

Second Objective. C.6.A.0.8. - C.5.B.60.75. -
C.5.B.6.6. - U.29.C.8.2.

Third Objective. C.6.A.1.1. - C.5.B.75.10. -

Fourth Objective. C.6.C.00.85. - C.5.D.7.9.

7. METHOD OF ATTACK. At 1030 the attacking troops for the

2.

first Objective will move forward, and at 1035 on barrage lifting from 1st Objective, they will rush and capture enemy's position.

The troops for the second Objective will move up through troops of the first Objective and at 1045 on barrage lifting will rush and capture enemy's position.

The troops for the third Objective will move up and through troops of second Objective and at 1105 on barrage lifting they will rush and capture enemy's position.

The troops for the fourth Objective will move up and through troops of the third Objective and at 1115 on barrage lifting they will rush and capture enemy's position.

At 1120 the 10th Battalion will establish itself on the Southern edge of the wood in C.5. Central.

The 9th Battalion will push out on the right after final Objective has been taken and join with 10th Battalion and the final line will be from C.6.A.4.1. along Southern edge of Wood to E.5.D.75.75. thence along Southern edge of Wood in Square 5 Central to C.5.A.O.O.

8. ARTILLERY. From 0930 to 1030 the Artillery will bombard the whole of the enemy's position and the woods in the vicinity of U.29.C., and D, and U.30.C., and in C.5. and 6.

From 1030 to 1035 the Artillery will bombard first Objective, and will then lift 100 yards and then by creeping barrage at rate of 25 yards per minute until it rests on second Objective.

At 1045 the barrage will lift 100 yards and then by creeping barrage at rate of 25 yards per minute until it rests on third Objective.

The 4.5.s and 60 pounders with 1 Brigade A.F.A. will operate on trenches in Wood at C.5.B. and D, and E.6.A. and C, and will lift at 1105 to a line South of the wood, while the 2nd Brigade A.F.A. (less Battery of 4.5.s) will operate on the wood at C.5. Central, and will lift at 1115 to a line 100 yds. beyond South edge of Wood.

On 4th Objective being captured all guns will form a stationery barrage 100 yds. in front of front line troops (C.6.A.4.1. along southern edge of wood to C.5.D.75.75. thence along southern edge of wood in Square 5 Central to C.5.A.O.O.), until further orders.

9. SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS. Telephone wires will be laid from Battalion Headquarters to all Company Headquarters.

Flags and flappers will be used wherever possible.

10. CONTACT. A Contact Patrol will fly over the position at 1130 and 1200, and on Klaxon Horn being sounded troops in front line will show flares.

All ranks will carry 1 Signal flare for use in conjunction with Contact aeroplanes

11. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS. Advanced Dressing Station will be established at WARLOY. The

The Medical Officer will arrange for an Aid Post to be established at Battalion Headquarters.

- 12. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS - Brigade Hqrs. - U.30.A.O.9.
- 9th Battalion - U.30.C.1.6.
- 10th Battalion - U.29.D.4.8.
- 12th Battalion - U.29.B.5.1.
- 11th Battalion - VADENCOURT WOOD.
- 3rd T.M. Battery - U.30.C.1.6.
- 3rd M.G. Company - U.29.D.7.6.

(Battalion Flags will be shown at Headquarters).

3.

604
13. DUMPS. Advanced Brigade Dump will be at U.29.E.8.1. and Battalion Dumps will be at U.30.C.3.7. and U.29.D.2.9.

14. REPORTS. All Reports will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters at U.30.C.1.6.

15. RECONNAISSANCE. All Officers and leading N.C.O's will carry out at least one Patrol over that portion of ~~KXXE~~ NO MANS LAND between jumping off Trench and first Objective.

16. ARMING OF UNITS.

Riflemen - 200 Rounds S.A.A. - 4 Bombs.
Bombers - 14 Bombs per man, slung Rifle, 100 rds. S.A.A.
Rifle Grenadiers - ~~KM~~ Rifle Slung, 1 box Rifle Grenades, no S.A.A.
Runners - 4 Bombs, slung rifles, 50 rds. S.A.A.
Signallers - Slung rifles, 50 Rounds S.A.A.
Moppers Up - 6 Bombs, 50 rds. S.A.A., slung rifles.
Lewis Gunners - Normal equipment.
Carrying Parties - 4 Bombs, slung rifle, 50 rds. S.A.A.

17. DRESS. Fighting Order, plus two sandbags per manto be attached behind entrenching tool carrier except in the case of Carrying parties.

18. DISTINGUISHING MARKS.

1 one-inch band of the undermentioned colours to be worn on the left fore-arm,-

Runners - Red.
Signallers - Blue.
Carrying Parties - Yellow.
Scouts - Green.
Moppers Up - White.
Salvage Parties - Khaki.
Lewis Gunners - Black.
Rifle Grenadiers - Brown.
Riflemen - Pink.
Bombers - Purple.

19. RATIONS. The Quartermaster will make arrangements for 48 hours Rations and water for all Ranks to be placed on forward Dumps. In addition all Ranks will carry 24 hours rations and full water bottles, irrespective of current day.

20. S.O.S. All Officers and one man per Lewis Gun team, one man per bomb team, and one man per Rifle Grenade team will carry two S.O.S. Signals. In addition each Officer will carry one 1 inch Very pistol and 5 cartridges.

21. DATE. 30th March 1917.

22. TIME. 1015.

All watches will be synchronised at midnight 29/30th March 1917 and at 0800 and 0900 on the morning of the attack by means of a watch sent from Battalion Headquarters to all Officers concerned.

23. GENERAL.

(a) When once the fourth Objective has been gained it will be held at all costs.

(b) As soon as consolidation has commenced all men not actually employed in outposts or consolidation will be placed in captured dugouts to act as reserve garrison.

(c) The then Senior Officer will take command of newly established front line.

(d) Constant communication must be maintained between leaders and the Battalion Commander - whenever possible by ~~any~~ means of written memoranda. All Officers and N.C.O's who forward information must bear in mind that negative information is of great importance.

(e) The evacuation of wounded by anybody except Stretcher Bearers or carrying parties making their return journey is strictly prohibited.

(f) All leaders will carefully explain to all ranks under their command the objects of the attack and the action of juniors in the event of seniors becoming casualties.

(g) In the event of an enemy counter attack dislodging any part of the garrison of our forward ~~of out forward~~, or any other part of our newly captured area, the reserve garrison, located in captured enemy dugouts, must immediately launch a counter attack to regain the lost ground.

On outpost line sending up S.O.S. Signal reserve garrison in 2nd line will immediately man their trenches. If outpost line is dislodged it will become the duty of the garrison occupying the second right flank objective to launch a counter attack in order to regain the lost ground.

(h) The Medical Officer in conjunction with the A.D.M.S. will make all arrangements for the evacuation of wounded.

(i) All leaders will make sure that every man carries his first Field Dressing and Identity Disc.

(j) The most stringent precautions will be taken to ensure that no Officer or Other Rank carries with him any papers, maps or documents.

APPENDICES.

1. Sketch Map (already issued).
2. Table of Artillery Barrages.
3. Vickers Machine Gun and Trench Mortar barrages.
4. Secret Signal Code.

As these operations are in the nature of a manoeuvre appendices Nos. 2, 3 and 4 have been dispensed with.

A. E. [Signature]
Lieut.
Adjutant 9th Battalion. A.I.F.

Recommendations for Honours

604

9th Bn. Capt. ALFRED RAINALD Knightley

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Capt. Knightley shewed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of the two companies in the front line while the Bn. was advancing. He kept touch with the enemy pursuing him with untiring energy to LE BARQUE VILLAGE. By his coolness and courage in re-organising his command after each objective was gained under heavy artillery and M.G. fire he shewed exceptional ability and was a splendid example to all. Previously recommended but not rewarded.

" Lieut. Ralph Morton White

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. White particularly distinguished himself in engaging a machine gun and drew who were harassing our advance. He was successful in capturing the gun and two of the crew, and rendered valuable assistance till the final objective was gained. Previously awarded M.C.

" " Frank Richard Burdett Scougall

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. Scougall was the Officer in charge of outposts after the final objective was reached. He placed his patrols most tactfully and gained valuable information for the Bn. Commander. This Officer personally patrolled LE BARQUE and rendered valuable assistance to his Co. Commander. Throughout the action he displayed unusual coolness. Not previously recommended.

171

9th Bn. Lieut. James William King

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. King was in charge of one of the forward dumps. He remained on duty night and day throughout the operation and rendered most valuable service in getting food, bombs, water, and all other stores to the front line. The dump was continually under heavy shell fire nevertheless this Officer remained at his post and by his coolness, initiative and foresight, considerably influenced the success of the operation. Previously ~~xxx~~ recommended but not rewarded.

" " HUBERT Finter.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. Finter was in charge of one of the forward dumps. He remained on duty night and day throughout the operation and rendered most valuable service in getting food, bombs, water and all other stores to the front line. The dump was continually under heavy shell fire nevertheless this Officer remained at his post and by his coolness, initiative and foresight, considerable influenced the success of the operation. Not previously recommended or ~~rewarded~~ rewarded.

" Lieut. Frederick Donaldson

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. Donaldson displayed great bravery, skill and initiative. His brilliant example inspired all ranks under his command. At one period of the engagement when

9th Bn. Lieut. Frederick Donaldson
(contd)

leading a carrying party to the forward line he came under extremely heavy artillery and M.G. fire. Notwithstanding this fact he displayed the greatest determination and led his party through the barrage and to the front line with the minimum of casualties. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" " Frederick John Biggs

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. Biggs displayed the greatest courage coolness and initiative. He visited all the machine gun teams, saw to their emplacements, reorganising those in which casualties occurred. To achieve this it was necessary to continually move through heavy enemy artillery and M.G. fire. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of this Officer. Previously recommended but not rewarded.

" " NELSON THOMAS
Scrivener.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Lieut. Scrivener who is the Battalion Bombing Officer displayed great courage and initiative. He rendered valuable assistance to his bomb teams, reorganising those where necessary. This Officer also carried out two extremely valuable patrols one into LE BARQUE and eventually established a strong point about 150 yards in front of our front line on the outskirts of LE BARQUE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Recommendations for Honours.

604

9th
Br.

Capt. Cecil James Carroll

Capt. Carroll's services with the Unit have shewn a constant and marked devotion to duty. He has had fifteen months service with the Battalion and his work both as a subaltern and as a Company Commander have been of the highest order and most praiseworthy. During the recent operations near LE BARQUE Capt. Carroll discharged his arduous duties most efficiently shewing a keen sense of initiative and under the most trying conditions constantly devoted his energy to relieving the hardships of the men under his command. I cannot speak too highly of the excellent qualities of this Officer. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

"
A.A.M.C.

Expt. Capt. Archibald McKillop

Captain McKillop has constantly carried out the duties of Regimental Medical Officer in the most praiseworthy manner. During the recent operations near LE BARQUE he was in constant attendance at the Aid Post tending and succouring the wounded. His cheerful manner and devoted attendance had a great effect in relieving the sufferings of wounded men. This Officer particularly distinguished himself during a bombardment ~~ix~~ when the Battalion arrived in France in April 1916. His sterling qualities and constant devotion to duty are deserving of the highest mention. *Not*

*previously recommended
or rewarded.*

20

9th
Br

Capt. William Arthur Collin Capt. Collin has had continuous service with the Battalion for 15 months which has been marked with constant devotion to duty and loyalty of the highest order. This Officer has been through every engagement with the Battalion since its arrival in FRANCE. During the operations both at POZIERES and at LE BARQUE the Capt. Collin distinguished himself and on one occasion although wounded carried on and discharged his duties in a most praiseworthy manner. I cannot speak too highly of this Officer.

"

Lieut. Sidney Lewis McIntyre Lieut. McIntyre has had 2½ yrs. continuous service. He has constantly discharged the duties of Quartermaster in a most praiseworthy manner. Often under the most trying conditions the work of this Officer has been of invaluable assistance to the Battalion. His constant devotion to duty and sterling qualities are deserving of the highest mention. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

"

" William Arnold
Shrewsbury

This Officer has been a member of the Battalion since its inception in August 1914. His sterling qualities and keen sense of duty have been of great value to the Unit. During the recent operations near LE BARQUE this Officer carried out several daring and hazardous patrols reflecting great credit on himself. All through the operation the coolness and initiative of this Officer was of great value to his Company Commander. Not previously recommended.

9th Bn. 2178 Sgt W

JAMES MICHAEL
MCDonald

Sgt. McDonald who is the Pioneer Sgt. has had continuous service with the Unit for 18 months which has been marked by loyalty and devotion to duty of the highest order. His work has been most praiseworthy and often when the Battalion was engaged in operations this N.C.O. has organised parties for the carrying of ammunition, food, water etc. for the troops in the front line with reflecting great credit on himself. His sterling qualities are deserving of the highest praise. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

†

1922

Cpl. HAROLD JOYCE Bull

This N.C.O. has rendered constant and most praiseworthy service to the Battalion in carrying out the duties of Medical Orderly. He has had 20 months continuous ~~xxx~~ and loyal service with the Unit in the Field. At all times when the Bn. has been engaged in operations this N.C.O. has rendered invaluable assistance in tending and relieving the sufferings of the wounded. I cannot speak too highly of this N.C.O. ~~He~~ Previously recommended but not rewarded.

"

334

Sgt. ARTHUR WILLIAM.

FARMER

~~He~~ Sgt. Farmer who is the Transport Sgt. has had 2½ years continuous loyal service with the Unit. He has discharged his duties most capably and is deserving of the highest praise. Often when the Battalion is in the line this N.C.O. has repeatedly and under most adverse conditions conveyed munitions, food and water to the Battalion when no other means of transport were

9th Bn. 334

Sgt. ^{ARTHUR} ^{WILLIAM}
Farmer (Contd)

of transport was available. His
constant devotion to duty is
worthy of high mention. Not
previously recommended or rewarded.

604

23

Recommendations for Honours.

604

9th
Bn.

Lieut. Thomas William
Cameron

Lieut. Cameron is the Battalion Transport Officer. He has had 2½ years service with this Bn. which has been continuous except for a period of four months due to a severe wound sustained by this Officer during the Gallipoli operations. He has proved himself a most reliable and trustworthy Officer and has done excellent work with the Unit. This Officer also distinguished himself during the POZIERES operations when doing duty as a C.Q.M.S. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Frank Page

Lieut. Page who is Adjutant of the Battalion has continually done excellent work for the progress of the Unit. His keenness and activity have been of immense value to the Battalion both in the line and when in training. He has had continuous service with the Battalion since 26th August 1914 except for a period of two months due to sickness. Prior to his being appointed Adjutant this Officer particularly distinguished himself as Signalling Officer during the operations at POZIERES in July 1916. Previously awarded Military Medal (for act of gallantry when a Private).

Sgt.
2919a

Sgt. Allan Livingstone
Raff

Sgt. Raff has had continuous service with the Battalion since 29th Feby. 1916. His sterling qualities and general ability as Orderly Room Sergeant have been

CLERK.

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9th 2919a Sgt. Allan Livingstone
Bn. Raff (contd)

of very great value to the Battalion and on one occasion when the Adjutant of the Battalion was killed in action this N.C.O. carried on with the administrative work of the Battalion with marked ability. His continuous good work is deserving of the highest praise. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

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Schedule No.	Unit.	Reg.No.	Rank.	Name.	Action for which commended	Recommended by.	Honour or Reward.	Remarks
	9th Bn.	271	Cpl.	JAMES Brodie	Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917 Cpl. Brodie who was in charge of the forward dumps did exceptionally good work in organising and sending out parties with stores to the newly captured area. This dump was continually under heavy fire artillery fire, nevertheless this N.C.O. remained cool and collected throughout. His devotion to duty and coolness under fire were most praiseworthy. Not previously recommended or rewarded.			
	do.	2759	Sgt.	WILLIAM WOOD Malin	Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Malin was one of a patrol of five who carried out an extremely difficult and hazardous patrol by daylight through that portion of the enemy's trenches known as THE MAZE. At the time this patrol went out it was only surmised that the enemy had evacuated this position. The patrol lasted some two hours and it was as a result of the information brought in that our troops moved forward and occupied this area. This N.C.O. had previously carried out several daring and successful patrols when the enemy was still in possession of THE MAZE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.			

604

9th Bn. 2819 L/Spl. WILLIAM Griffiths
A.I.F.

do. 2734 Pte. BENJAMIN George King

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on 24th Feby. 1917, L/Spl. Griffiths was one of a patrol of five who carried out an extremely difficult and hazardous patrol by daylight

through that portion of the enemys trenches known as THE MAZE. At the time this patrol went out it was only surmised that the enemy had evacuated this position. The patrol lasted some two hours and it was as a result of the information brought in that our troops moved forward and occupied this area. This N.C.O. had previously carried out several daring and successful patrols ~~wh~~ when the enemy was still in possession of the MAZE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on 24th Feby. 1917, Pte. King was one of a patrol of five who carried out an extremely difficult and hazardous patrol by daylight through that portion of the enemys trenches known as THE MAZE. At the time this patrol went out it was only surmised that the enemy had evacuated this position. The patrol lasted some two hours and it was a result of the information brought in that our troops ~~h~~ moved forward and occupied this area. This soldier had previously carried out several daring and successful patrols when the enemy was still in possession of THE MAZE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

27

9th Bn.
A.I.F.

1526

Pte. HENRY

Charlton

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24th Feby. 1917, Pte. Charlton was one of a patrol of five men who carried out an extremely difficult and hazardous patrol by daylight through that portion of the enemys trenches known as THE MAZE. At the time this patrol went out it was only surmised that the enemy had evacuated this position. The patrol lasted some two hours and it was as a result of the information brought in that our troops moved forward and occupied this area. This soldier had previously carried out several daring successful patrols when the enemy was still in possession of THE MAZE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

do.

1597

Spl. Joseph

Molloy

Near LE BARQUE FRANCE, on the 24th Feby. 1917, Spl. Molloy was one of a patrol of five who carried out an extremely difficult and hazardous patrol through that portion of the enemys trenches known as THE MAZE. At the time this patrol went out it was only surmised that the enemy had evacuated this position. The patrol lasted some two hours and it was as a result of the information brought in that our troops moved forward and occupied this area. This soldier N.C.O. had previously carried out several daring and successful patrols when the enemy was

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9th Bn. 1597 Spl. Joseph Molloy (contd)

" 3091 Pte. HENRY ERNEST Orth

" 2730 Pte. Basil Kelly

" 5437 Pte NEIL Nelson

still in possession of THE MAZE. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Orth throughout the operations scouted over the enemy country and after investigation returned and acted as a guide to advancing troops. His devotion to duty & tireless energy cannot be too highly commended. On many occasions he successfully advanced and returned through heavy enemy barrages bringing back information for guiding up reinforcements. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Kelly throughout the operations scouted over the enemy country and after investigation returned and acted as a guide to advancing troops. His devotion to duty and tireless energy cannot be too highly commended. On many occasions he successfully advanced and returned through heavy enemy barrages bringing back information for guiding up reinforcements. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Nelson throughout the operations scouted over the enemy country and after investigation returned and acted as a guide to advancing

9th Bn. 5437 Pte. N. Nelson (contd)

troops His devotion to duty and tireless energy cannot be too highly commended. On many occasions he successfully advanced and returned through heavy enemy barrages bringing back information for guiding up reinforcements. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 2787 " VINCENT AMBROSE Bowman

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Bowman scouted over the enemy country and after investigation returned and acted as a guide to advancing troops. His devotion to duty and tireless energy cannot be too highly commended. On many occasions he successfully advanced and returned through heavy enemy barrages bringing back information for guiding up reinforcements. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" ~~1308~~ 1308 " LEONARD LLEWELYN Brooks

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Brooks scouted over the enemy country and after investigation returned and acted as a guide to advancing troops. His devotion to duty and tireless energy cannot be too highly commended. On many occasions he successfully advanced and returned through heavy enemy barrages bringing back information for guiding up reinforcements. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 179 Sgt. GEORGE REID Gray
reconnoitre

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Gray was in charge of a patrol sent out to ~~reconnoitre~~ the area between the MAZE and the next German line. He did particularly good work, and he himself accounted for two out of three snipers dislodged by the patrol. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 5447 L/Cpl. JAMES LIONEL Payne

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, L/Cpl. Payne took charge of a party to take up water which had failed to reach the front line. Notwithstanding the fact that it was broad daylight and that the enemy were heavily barraging the area he successfully led his party through and delivered the water to the new front line. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 3876 Pte. GEORGE WILLIAM Porter

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Porter who is a Company signaller continually went out sometimes ~~during~~ during extremely heavy bombardments to mend broken signal wires. His prompt action and fearless conduct were largely instrumental in maintaining communication with the front line. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 2779a Pte. Joseph Henry Nash

" 2110 L/C. Percy Brown

" 1943 Cpl. THOMAS ANDREW Dalzell

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Nash who is a Signaller continually went out, sometimes during extremely heavy bombardments to mend broken signal wires. His prompt action and fearless conduct were largely instrumental in maintaining communication with the front line. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, ~~Pte.~~ L/C. Brown who is a Signaller went out, sometimes during extremely heavy bombardments to mend broken signal wires. His prompt action and fearless conduct were largely instrumental in maintaining communication with the front line. Previously awarded Military Medal.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Cpl. Dalzell who was in charge of Hqrs. Signallers and runners showed the greatest bravery and devotion to ~~his~~ duty throughout. He continuously supervised the laying of new telephone lines to the front line often under exceptionally heavy artillery and M.G. fire. I cannot speak too highly of the work of this N.C.O. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th. Bn. 824 Pte. J T Cleary

" 1180 Pte. PERCY GARFIELD Smith

" 1969 Pte W T Jones

" A126 Pte. R KEVIN O'Neill

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Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE on the 24/26th. Feby. 1917 Pte. Cleary showed great bravery and devotion to duty throughout the operations. This soldier who is a linesman continually went out repairing broken telephone lines often under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire and enemy sniping. *NOT PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED.*

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE on the 24/26th. Feby. 1917 Pte. Smith showed great bravery and devotion to duty throughout the operations. This soldier who is a linesman continually went out repairing broken telephone lines often under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire and enemy sniping. *NOT PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED.*

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE on the 24/26th. Feby. 1917, Pte. Jones showed great bravery and devotion to duty throughout the operations. This soldier who is a linesman continually went out repairing broken telephone lines often under very heavy artillery and machine gun fire and enemy sniping. *NOT PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED.*

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th. February 1917 Pte. O'Neill displayed the greatest bravery and devotion to duty throughout the operations. He was employed as a runner between Battalion Headquarters and the front line, to reach which he had to continually pass through

63
63

9th. Bn. Pte. R O'Neill
(Continued)

heavy artillery and machine gun
fire and enemy sniping.
Not previously recommended or
rewarded.

" L/C D G Fraser
2671a

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the
24/26th. Feby. 1917 L/C Fraser
who is a signaller went out,
sometimes during extremely
heavy bombardments to mend bro-
ken signal wires. His prompt action
and fearless conduct were lar-
gely instrumental in maintain-
ing communication with the
front line. Not previously rec-
ommended or rewarded.

" 5472 Pte W E Bowler

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the
26th. Feby. 1917, Pte. Bowler
who is a signaller, went out,
sometimes during extremely heavy
bombardments to mend broken sig-
nal wires. His prompt action
and fearless conduct were largely
instrumental in maintaining com-
munication with the front line.
Not previously recommended or
rewarded.

" 2145 L/C WILLIAM JOHN Goodspeed

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the
25/26th. Feby. 1917, L/C Good-
speed showed very good judgement
in maintaining direction whilst
advancing, and at a critical time
during heavy shelling he con-
tinually helped his men forward
gaining valuable time and saving
many casualties. His coolness
and devotion to duty were most
praiseworthy. Not previously
recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn.

4564

Pte. FRANK

Spearritt

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on 25/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Spearritt, a Co. Signaller, shewed great pluck and devotion to duty, by going out continually during heavy shell and machine gun fire to repair broken signal wires. He also acted as a runner between the outpost line and Bn. Hqs. and continually passed through a heavy fire without the slightest hesitation. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

541

Sgt. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Herbert

Wilson

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on 25th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Wilson whilst advancing under heavy fire showed splendid initiative in handling his platoon after his Platoon Commander had become a casualty by shepherding and helping his men forward as quickly as possible. After gaining the objective he pushed on with a party of men into LE BARQUE village and brought back information of great importance. Throughout the operations he set a splendid example to his men. Previously awarded D.C.M.

571

Sgt. Isaac Wantling

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on 25th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Wantling when advancing under heavy fire held his men together splendidly and brought them forward maintaining accurate direction. He shewed the greatest coolness at critical times, and his example had a very marked effect on the men under his command. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

65

9th Bn. 3643a
Sgt.

REGINALD ROBERT Dell

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Dell whilst advancing up to the forward line under very shell and M.G. fire repeatedly went back along the files advising and sending the men forward. He afterwards stood on the parados assisting them into the trench. This N.C.O. showed great calmness and deliberation during the whole of the operation and set a fine example to his men.

Not previously recommended or rewarded.

"

2795a
L/C

JOHN Nagel

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26 th. Feby. 1917 ~~at Bruex~~
L/C Nagel displayed great courage and initiative, posting men and advising in the erection of a bomb stop on the right flank. Throughout he set a fine example and his self sacrifice and prompt action stood out especially during the heavy bombardment of the trench. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

"

4182
CPL.

ERNEST Dearden

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th. Feby. 1917 Cpl. Dearden went back and gathered together some men who had become slightly disorganised by the enemy's artillery fire, and brought them up to the front line by a track which was not under fire.. Later he showed excellent spirit and proved of great assistance in tending the wounded. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th. Bn. 2127 Pte. CLEMENT LOVELL Dearden

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th. Feby. 1917 continually carried despatches through heavy barrages during the advance and brought valuable information. This man was, together with Pte. Margerrison, the sole connection between the front line and the control post, when the telephone became disconnected through shell fire. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 84A " WILLIAM Margerrison

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE on the 24/26th. Feby. 1917, Pte. Margerrison continually carried despatches through heavy barrages and Machine Gun fire during the advance, and brought valuable information. This man was, together with Pte. Dearden the sole connection between the firing line and control post, when the telephone became disconnected through shell fire. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 450 CQMS J ohn Maddock

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, C.Q.M.S. Maddock while accompanying a ration party was blown in the air by a shell which caused 24 casualties in the party. Notwithstanding this he immediately reorganised the party and carried on although very bruised and shaken himself. The example set by him deserves the highest recommendation. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

60A

63

9th Bn. 4604 Pte. JAMES JOSEPH Toomey

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Toomey, after working with a fatigue party all night, obtained a stretcher and in company with Pte. Flynn worked from 0500 until 2000 under heavy shell and N.G. fire carrying in wounded, doing more than the work of a full squad. The carrying distance becoming too great he then attached himself to another squad and continued till the following night when the Bn. was relieved. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 2328 " THOMAS MICHAEL Flynn

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Flynn after working with a fatigue party all night, obtained a stretcher and in company with Pte. Toomey worked from 0500 until 2000 under heavy shell and M.G. fire carrying in wounded, doing more than the work of a full squad. The carrying distance then becoming too great he attached himself to another squad and continued till the following night when the Bn. was relieved. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

~~2810a~~ 2810a Pte. Walter Jones

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/27th Feby. 1917, while acting as a stretcher bearer was tireless in his duties, never hesitating to face artillery & M.G. fire, and crossed ground which was continually under fire of snipers. His devotion to

9th Bn. 2810a Pte. Walter Jones (contd)

" 963 L/Cpl. THOMAS WILLIAM Lewis

" 4626 Pte. W G Lake

" 2657a " Charles Dungey

duty undoubtedly saved many lives. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/27th Feby. 1916, L/Cpl. Lewis showed his devotion to duty by his skill and initiative in handling men in the face of artillery barrage and M.G. fire. His initiative under trying circumstances greatly assisted in consolidating positions won. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Lake shewed great bravery while on patrol duty. After his Officer had become a casualty he assumed command and completed the work allotted to this patrol in a most exact and praiseworthy manner. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Dungey acted as a Company runner, and displayed the greatest bravery in carrying dispatches through artillery barrages. In spite of fatigue he volunteered to carry on in the face of great danger, and although knocked down twice by concussion he carried on and delivered dispatches which greatly assisted further operations. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 1970

Cpl. ALAN

STOKES Jones

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, Cpl. Jones while in charge of a Lewis Gun showed marked devotion to duty and initiative. His skill in handling in his gun and consolidating positions in the face of artillery and M.G. fire was most praiseworthy. His action did much, by example, to help his subordinates. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" a1162 Pte. A E Biggs.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Pte. Biggs who acted as a runner during the operations showed great courage in carrying despatches often through heavy artillery and M.G. fire. On one occasion he was thrown into the air by the concussion by a shell and though badly shaken he carried on with his duties. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" a104 " STEPHEN Gould

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Gould, who acted as a runner during operations, showed great courage in carrying despatches through enemy artillery barrages and machine gun fire. His constant devotion to duty greatly assisted the operations. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

40

9th Bn. 3033. Pte. J Devries

• 680 Cpl. Sidney Thomas Lucas

• 1329 Sgt. FREDERICK JOSEPH Clacy

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Devries, who acted as a runner during operations shewed ~~marked~~ great courage in carrying despatches through the enemy artillery and M.G. fire. His constant devotion to duty greatly assisted the operations. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, Cpl. Lucas shewed continuous and marked devotion to duty and coolness under fire. This N.C.O. who is a Lewis Gunner stood to his gun and used it with effect when the remainder of his team ~~were~~ were missing. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Clacy shewed good leadership and coolness under exceptional circumstances. He remained calm and collected while under fire and set an ~~example~~ excellent example to the men under his command. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 3038 L/Cpl. LESLIE GEORGE Fowles

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, L/Cpl. Fowles shewed marked leadership and gallantry when in charge of a Lewis gun. By his initiative and skill he succeeded in capturing a sniper who was giving a great deal of trouble and causing many casualties. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 1454 Pte. BURTON ARTHUR King

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. King shewed marked leadership and gallantry in the face of heavy enemy shell fire and during his advance kept his gun and team well to the fore throughout the operation. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 1000 Sgt. WILLIAM FREDERICK Atkinson

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/25th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Atkinson shewed marked devotion to duty and initiative. While under heavy shell fire he re-organised several bombing teams and erected a bomb-stop on the left flank making it safe from hostile bombers. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 997

L/Cpl. Lionel SANDYS Harding Wilson Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, ^{Cpl. Wilson} who was in command of a bombing team worked down a portion of the enemy's trench and established a bomb-stop while under heavy enemy artillery and M.G. fire. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 1905

• Frederick William Savage
Martin

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, L/Cpl. Martin shewed marked devotion to duty during the whole of the operations. His bravery and initiative both on patrol and in consolidating positions while under heavy artillery and M.G. fire were most praiseworthy. On one occasion when the Officer in charge of the patrol of which this N.C.O. was a member was killed by an enemy sniper he successfully carried on and returned with the required information. His excellent example was greatly inspiring to all his men. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 2600a

• Cpl. Albert Edward Green

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Cpl. Green was one of a patrol who were surprised by a strong party of the enemy firing on them from a cunningly laid position. This N.C.O. waited in a shell hole for some minutes and then although ignorant of the exact position of the enemy he crept forward and rescued the two wounded men and brought them back a considerable distance.

9th Bn.

126

W.O.

JOHN

FREDERICK Kelsall

604

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, W.O. Kelsall was an excellent example for all ranks in the manner he led his men into position under heavy shell fire. His coolness and quiet word of command had the effect of steadying every man who was likely to get excited. He was of ~~xxx~~ invaluable assistance during the whole of ~~the~~ the advance in keeping direction and distance. His conduct and example cannot be too highly spoken of. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

329

Pte.

Charles Boyle

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Pte. Boyle continually shouted words of encouragement to men near him & was one of the first men into ~~the~~ the enemy's trench. He set a fine example to all ranks. He shot an enemy sniper who was doing considerable damage and while in a detached post rescued a wounded man from the village of LE BARQUE. To do this he had to carry the wounded man a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile over badly broken ground the whole of which was under heavy fire. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

44

9th Bn. 2262a Pte. G Wise

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Pte. Wise ~~xxxx~~ was a member of a bomb carrying party. The party were caught by an enemy artillery barrage and the N.C.O. became a casualty. The party became demoralised but Pte. Wise reorganised them and brought them safely to the firing line. Through his coolness and courage the bombs were brought forward to the front line. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 671 L/Cpl. Robert Kerr

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE on the 25th Feby. 1917, L/Cpl. Kerr shewed splendid leadership and ~~xxx~~ bravery during the advance. He rushed an enemy sniper who was causing considerable damage and killed him. He was also one of a small party who pushed out and rushed a machine gun capturing it and taking two prisoners. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 1115 Pte. ARTHUR Coombes

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 24/26th Feby. 1917, Pte. Coombes who was a stretcher bearer did excellent work in attending wounded men during the advance. He carried many men in during very heavy shell fire. His remarkable coolness and prompt action did much in keeping the mens spirits up. Previously recommended but not rewarded.

" 907 L/Cpl. Charles Smith
x

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the

9th Bn. 907 L/Cpl. Charles Smith (contd)

25th Feby.1917, L/Cpl. Smith was one of a patrol who were surprised by a strong party of the enemy firing on them from a cunningly laid position. He crept forward and assisted in rescuing two wounded men and brought them back safely. He was sent on a daylight patrol and through his bravery and coolness brought back information which was instrumental in our occupying an enemy trench 400 yds. in advance. Npt previously recommended or rewarded.

" 5467 Pte. JAMES HENRY Saul

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 26th Feby.1917, Pte. Saul volunteered to advance into LE BARQUE and bring back men who had gone too far. He did excellent work moving about fearlessly and coolly bringing back with him many men. At all times during the heavy enemy shell-ing his humour and good spirits cheered everyone with whom he came in contact. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

" 5738 " E Reid

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby.1917, Pte. Reid who is a signaller did magnificent work in keeping communication by telephone with Bn. Hqrs. Many times the wires were cut by shell fire and each time he went out and repaired the break. He was cool and determined throughout and thoroughly deserves the highest praise. Not previously recommended.

9th Bn. 4856

Pte. S G C Murr

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Pte. Murr did excellent work during the operations by keeping communication by telephone with Bn. Hqrs.

Many times the wires were cut and each time he went back and repaired the break while under heavy artillery fire. He was cool and collected throughout. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 664 Sgt. John Bentley

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Sgt. Bentley shewed great leadership during the advance. His cool word of command gave the men great spirit. He went on a patrol along RYE Trench and was instrumental in bringing in much valuable information, thus making it possible for a further advance to be made. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

• 2471a Pte. HUGH FREDERICK McDonnell

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the 25th Feby. 1917, Pte. McDonnell shewed good judgment and great bravery in maintaining communication when running messages under heavy shell fire from forward position back to OAT Lane. He did excellent work especially at night under very trying conditions and was of great assistance throughout. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ He shewed fine initiative and great keenness in his work. Not previously recommended or rewarded.

9th Bn. 3447
L/Cpl.

J

H

Bryson

Near LE BARQUE, FRANCE, on the
25th Feby. 1917, L/Cpl. Bryson
displayed marked devotion to
duty when on guard duty at TURK DUMP.
The enemy heavily shelled the
Dump killing 10 and wounding 14.
This N.C.O. although wounded re-
mained at his post and was most
prominent in relieving all suff-
erers. His coolness and pluck
was of invaluable assistance in
getting the party away to the
front line with rations. Through-
out L/Cpl. Bryson ~~displayed~~
displayed admirable conduct
which was very inspiring to those
around him. Not previously
recommended or rewarded.

604

48