

AWM4

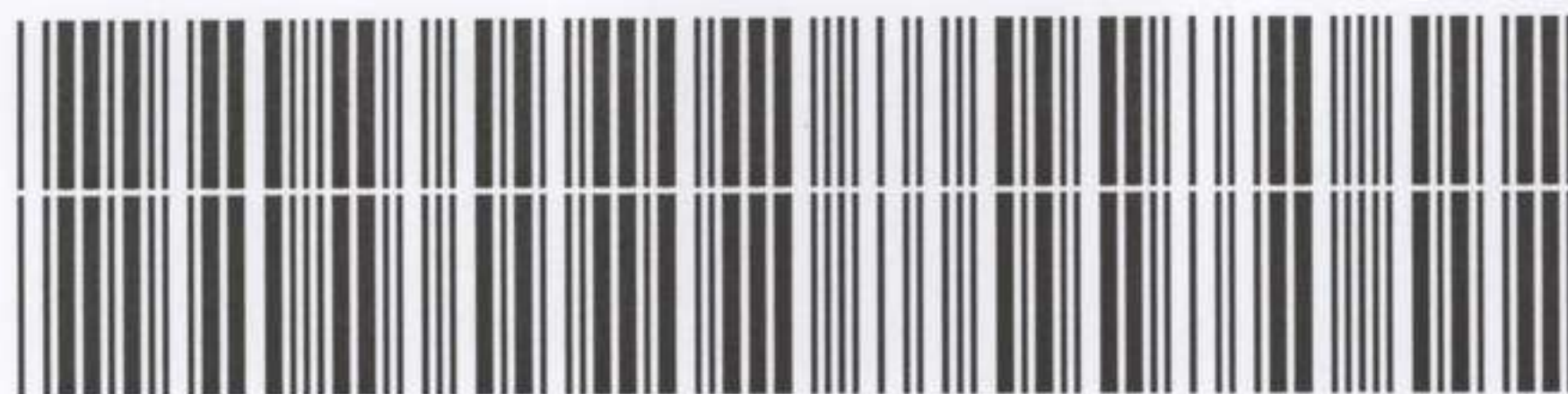
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/34

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

July 1918



AWM4-23/40/34

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

93

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF
23rd Battalion

FOR

JULY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

M. Weir Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Brazenor Lt Col

Original
Confidential

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.

23rd Bn
A. I. F.

WAR DIARY VOLUME
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. P. 1.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength.	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62D N34D85 B.H.Q.	1918 JULY 1		Bde in reserve. Battalion in trenches near TRONVILLE WOOD N35 + T 5. Maj. W. J. Bateman Gen. + Lt. Elliott + Fethers (Adj. + T.O) went forward, to O 24 C 22 and then to proposed battle H.Q. BANANA DUMP O 30 + 39. In the afternoon a conference of Coy commanders was held at B.H.Q. Commanding Officer Lt Col W. Bringenor came up from transport. Major Bateman returning there after his arrival - Officers of Tank section who are to cooperate in forthcoming operations visited the Bn today.		
Do.	2		B.O.C. No 122 issued today, CO. adj. + Transport Officer went forward to Battle H.Q. O 30 + 39 in morning. In the afternoon CO. adj. attended a conference of Bn commanders at Bde H.Q. GLISY. - Weather dry but hazy. Bn moved off to relieve at 9 pm. Relief of 2 Coy 17 th Bn A.I.F. + 2 Coy 18 th Bn A.I.F. was completed without casualty by 12.30 am - 25 th Bn (Maj. Page) on right + 21 st Bn A.I.F. left were units on flanks. C Coy (Lt W. A. Martin) carried up wire to forward dumps. P 25 + 9520 + P 25 + 7565. - R.A.P. established at P 25 + 3580. Bn O.C. for HAMEL ATTACK issued. B.H.Q. moved forward at 8 pm to O 30 + 39.		Mr. W. App 1 Relief Orders app 1 Mr. W.
B.H.Q. O 24 C 22	3				app 2 Mr. W.

WAR DIARY

VOLUME

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date/9 Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
O 30639.	4	Uneventful night. At 3.10 am. in conjunction with 7 th A.I. Bde on right & 4 th A.I. Bde on left, Bde attacked, this B ⁿ being allotted right sub sector frontage. Coys were Right D Coy. (Lt S.T. Hodgson). Centre B (Capt. Hinchcliffe) left A (Capt. Moss) - carrying Coy. C. (Lt W.A. Martin). All objectives were gained; no serious opposition or counter attacks were experienced. CO accompanied by Lt. Lowe made an extended reconnaissance of captured area immediately afterwards. They returned to H.Q. at 12.15 pm. H.Q. moved back to O 24 C 13 at 2 pm. At night enemy showed increased activity but no C. Attacks developed.	app 3 & 4
O 24 C 13	5	after further reconnaissance and conference between CO, CO. 21 st B ⁿ & CO 24 th B ⁿ & Right flank B. it was decided to advance general line to give a better defensive position and a closer supervision over enemy territory. In accordance with this decision Coys pushed forward - Right B ⁿ also conforming.	mw.
	pm 6.45	Lt. Morrison (Right Coy) advised having occupied trenches P25d & P26a.	do

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23. B.
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME.

P. 3.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
O 24 C 13	5	-	at the same hour Capt. Moss (left Coy) notified the occupation of posts at Pz 6 4545 and Pz 6 a 8045. Later Lt Morrison further reported that his Coy were in trench Pz d 99 & had pushed down to Pz 6 c 17. at 7.12 pm. Bde were advised that we held Pz 6 c 17 (1st H) Pz 6 a 2005 (1 Platoon) Pz 6 a 84 (1/2 Platoon) & Pz 6 b 3045 to Pz 6 b 4045 in conjunction with 21st B.		app 3.
			Advance Parties of 18th B. A.I.F. were sent on to their respective Coys in front lines		4 min.
O 24 C 13	6	-	Orders re the relief was received. Consolidation was proceeded with.	33 of 893 O.K.	app 5. min.
B 146	7	-	2.20 am. relief of B. by 18th B. A.I.F. was completed. at 5 am. B. had arrived at BLANBY system near TRONVILE WOOD - A Coy. being last in.		
N 34 d 85			In the afternoon Maj. D. Beith, Lt L. Maddrell relieved the CO & adj. temporarily, the latter returning to Transport. for a short rest.		mw.
	8	-	at night position practice as per Bde order carried out. "Stand to" received at 8.15 pm. B. reported ready to move at 8.37 pm. Stand		app 6. mw
	9	-	down received at 1.20 am. Capt. J. Pascoe M.C. returned to B. from Training B. CO. visited Bde, GLISY, in the afternoon.		mw
	10	-	CO. (Col. Brazner) attends a conference of B. commanders at Bde		mw.

Original
Expenditure

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A.I.E

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July			
N 34 d 85.	11	-	Weather cloudy but fine 170 men employed burying cable.	new.
	12	-	Continuation of cable burying - 60 men. In the afternoon Bothas at BLANCY TRONVILLE were allotted.	new.
	13	-	Survival parade held West of LAMOTTE (M18a) a quota for each Bde parading. Present: Corp. Div. of Bde commanders & also French Divisional commander. Trophies captured in HAMEL attack were inspected after which Corp. Commander addressed troops.	34th 843 CR new.
	14	-	A game of football between a Bde & 3rd Zouave Regt teams resulted in a win for former by 3 goals. Bde supplied 5 of 11 players. In evening officers 3 Zouave Regt entertained Coy officers at dinner. Cable burying 150 men. Weather dull.	new.
	15	-	Weather fine. Usual working parties supplied. CO went to Bde to dinner at night. 8 pm shelling of C Coy area - no casualties suffered.	new.
	16	-	Rain fell during the night; fatigues cancelled as a consequence. Lewis Gun Training being proceeded with.	new.

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23rd Bⁿ
A. I. F.

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. Page 5
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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
N 34 d 85.	1918	July 17	- Brig. Genl. J. C. Robertson, now commanding 6 th A. I. Bde met B ⁿ officers at B H B today. Brig. Genl. J. Paton accompanied him, & took the opportunity say goodbye on his relinquishing command.	n.w.
Do.	18	-	Reconnaissance forward to 26 th B ⁿ H B. 035 d 14 by C.O. adj. & Coy. Commanders. In afternoon, C.O. attended Bde meeting members of French Mission about to leave for Australia. These includes Genl. Pau. - Dispositions for the forthcoming tour were laid down. and advance Parties 1079 GOR per Coy. sent forward at 9.30 pm	n.w. app. 8.
035 d 21	19	-	B ⁿ relieved 26 th B ⁿ in the line SE VILLERS BRETONNEUX. - Relief completed by 1.45 am. - Units on flanks were Right (French) 3 rd TIRAILLEURS Left 22 nd B ⁿ A. I. F.	n.w.
Do	20	-	C.O. accompanied by I.O. visited the left line Coy. at 6 am. Rain fell during the day.	33 7/8 863 R. n.w.
Do	21	-	St lower 1000R patrolled down SYRIA TRENCH 150' which	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
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Army Form C. 2118:

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
	JULY		was at once occupied		mw.
035d14	21		Bug. Genl. Robertson, Lt Col Miles (2 nd DIV) & C.O. made a tour of line right Coy. at 6.30 am - Rain during the night. - at 10 pm. Lt Findlay's operation (see special Report)		mw.
Do	22		2 am - Lt a Babers operation - severe gas shelling of B. area resulted in 90 casualties. Lt Lowe & Party patrol east from VIC 26 - 2 casualties - SYRIA TRENCH occupied to VIC 26.		mw.
Do	23		C.O. & adj. visited Right & Centre Coys. Col. McKenzie (Genl. List) attached for duty (Left Coy. pushed out posts)		mw.
Do	24		Raid by enemy at 8 pm. of CRAFT TRENCH Post repulsed. our casualties 3 wounded. Enemy 1 Prisoner wounded captured.		mw.
Do	24		Lt Genl. Kiffin relieved Lt Claydon		mw.
Do	25		Artillery activity 9 pm to 11 pm. Capt Pascoe relieved Lt Martin (to school) as O.C. Left Coy. May. Pedler taking over Capt Pascoe's Coy in Support.		mw.

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23rd Bⁿ
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY
or
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
Q35d14	26		Heavy rain at night. Trenches in a very bad state being neither duckboarded nor revetted - An accident occurred at CRAFT TRENCH post in Right Coy. sector. Lt. Ellis, 6 th P. Coy. Engineers, was shot by one of the garrison while engaged laying a tape for sap construction. Pte Scott, also of the garrison, hearing the shot, fell while in the act of throwing a bomb which exploded in trench killing both him and Sgt Jacques who was in charge.		8
Do	27		CO. & adj. visited line American troops 1 Coy 3 rd B ⁿ 129 Regt. were attached to 18 th . They were distributed to boys by section on their arrival at 11 pm. - 2 officers remained at B. 146. Further rain fell during the day.		Appendix
Do	28		on Right flank 3 rd ZONA VES relieved TIRAHLEURS. Lt. Col. McKinnon left for rear to conduct Courts. Martial Army Commander Sir H. Rawlinson accompanied by G/DIV. commander Brig Genl. Wisdom, visited B.H.G.	9791 762.	mw

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Longtail

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Strength	Remarks and references to Appendices
035d14	28		b.c. accompanied Brigadier to line (left Coy)		mw
100	29	-	Gas shoot by us at night on WARFUSEE - ABAN COURT areas. Hostile shelling as result showed a big decrease. 21 st B. A.I.F. relieved 22 nd B. on left. Our advance parties were sent out in anticipation of relief, 24 th B. parties moving in.		mw
Do.	30	-	Fine day but trenches still very muddy in trenches. 24 th B. moved in at 11 pm. & relieved B. relief completed		app 9 mw.
026074	31	-	at 2.20 am. - slight gas shelling at 2.5 am. - no casualties. Baths, reorganisation, and general clean up, constitutes only activities. Weather fine warm.	40 off 745 on.	mw.

List of Appendices

93 JULY. 1918

- 92 Original
- | No. | Subject |
|-----|---|
| 1 | B.O.B. NO 122 relief of 17 th -18 th B th A.I.F. 2/3 July. |
| 2 | B.O.B. NO 123 - attack 4 th July. |
| 3 | Report on operations 4 th July (incl message map) |
| 4 | Notes on same. |
| 5 | B.O.B. NO 124 - Relief by 18 th B th A.I.F. 6/7 July. |
| 6 | Instructions for Defensive - 9 th July. |
| 7 | B.O.B. NO 125 - Relief of 26 th B th A.I.F. 19/20 July. |
| 8 | Report on tour of duty 19/20 July to 30/31 July. |
| 9 | B.O.B. NO 126 relief by 24 th B th 30/31 July. |
| 10 | Transport officer's Report |
| 11 | Quartermaster's do. |
| 12 | General Report for month. |
| 13 | Movements of officers - |
| 14 | Honours - Awards - for period. |
| 15 | Training. |

Also air Photos + maps.

Copies of Bth Papers.

1.8.18

M. W. L.

SECRET.-

Appendix Copy No 3 10

alt
93
BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 122.

Ref. Maps.- SHEET 62.D. S.W. & S.E. 1/20,000.

1st JULY, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will relieve the 5th A.I. Brigade in the FRONT LINE N.E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX on the night 2nd/3rd inst.
- 2.- *alt* The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve 2 Coys. of the 17th Battn., A.I.F., and 2 Coys. of the 18th Battn., A.I.F., in the FRONT LINE running from Grid Line P.25.central to Grid Line between P.19. and P.25.
ADVANCE PARTIES consisting of 1 Officer, 4 N.C.O's. and 12 O.R's. per Coy., will proceed to Line on the night of 1st inst.
48 hours Rations will be carried.
- 3.- Dispositions.-
"D" Coy. less 1 Platoon - RIGHT FLANK.
"B" " " 1 " - CENTRE.
"A" " " 1 " - LEFT FLANK.
Nucleus of 1 Platoon per Coy. will be in SUPPORT to their respective Coys. in DIGGERS SUPPORT.
"C" Coy. - SUPPORT in VILLERS LINE.
- 4.- STARTING POINT.- Cross Road. N.29.c.9.3.
TIME.- 9.00 p.m.
ORDER OF MARCH.- "H'Qrs", "D", "B", "A" and "C" Coys.
All movement will be by Half-Platoons at 200 yards distance.
ROUTE.- Main Road to RAILWAY CROSSING, O.25.c., thence NORTH of RAILWAY to Battn. H'Qrs. at O.24.c.1.3. (Beginning of SUSSEX Street) where Guides will meet Platoons.
- 5.- DRESS.- Fighting Order (Greatcoat in Waterproof Sheet carried on back).
220 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
24 hours Rations.
Water Bottles filled.
- 6.- VALISES will be dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. by 3.00 p.m. 2nd inst.
BLANKETS rolled in bundles of 10 and clearly labelled will be dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. by 2.00 p.m. 2nd inst.
- 7.- All Trench Stores, Maps, Aeroplane Photographs, etc., will be taken over and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. within 8 hours after completion of Relief.
- 8.- Any details not covered by this Order will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
- 9.- On completion of Relief "BRISTOL" will be wired to Battn. H'Qrs.
- 10.- Battalion H'Qrs.- at O.24.c.1.3.
R.A.F.- at O.24.c.1.3.
- 11.- ACKNOWLEDGE.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- 17th Battn., A.I.F.
- 14.- 18th Battn., A.I.F.
- 15.- Transport Officer.
- 16.- Q.M.

for CP & others
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.W. & S.E. 1/20,000.

3rd JULY, 1918.

- 1.- An attack will be made on "Z" Day with the co-operation of TANKS with the object of improving our Line between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and the SOMME.

The 7th A.I. Brigade is at ZERO moving troops forward to occupy Bank from P.25.d.1.4. to P.25.d.1.8., and will connect this to Enemy Front Line at P.25.b.V.0.

- 2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will carry the Enemy Positions between the RIGHT Boundary Grid Line P.25.b.X.0. to P.26.b.6.9.

3.- OBJECTIVES.-

RIGHT FLANK - "D" COY.-

The Enemy Trenches running from P.25.b.V.0. to P.26.a.0.5. and will establish BLOCK in Enemy Trench at P.25.b.V.0., carried out by party under Lieut. F. HOLDSWORTH.

CENTRE - "B" COY.-

Enemy Trenches running from P.26.a.0.5. to P.26.a.6.8.

LEFT FLANK - "A" COY.-

On the RIGHT will connect up a Series of Half-Platoon Posts with "B" Coy. at P.26.b.6.8. on a line running EAST to RIGHT Flank of 21st Battn., A.I.F., at P.26.b.6.9. *Lieut. R.P. Morrison will direct the Left Flank with the Right of the 21st Bn. A.I.F.*

"C" Coy. will detail one Platoon to follow in rear of each of the Attacking Companies as CARRYING PARTY. They will rejoin the Company in the OLD FRONT LINE from where they may be used for Counter-Attack purposes.

4.- JUMPING-OFF TAPES.-

Companies are to be in position on Jumping-Off Tapes by ZERO minus 1 hour.

6th Field Coy. Engineers will lay the Tapes by ZERO - 3 hours.

DIRECTION TAPES will be laid 50 yards forward on Company Flanks.

"D" Coy.- from P.25.b.2.5. ⁰⁵²⁰ to P.25.b.5.7.

"B" Coy.- from P.25.b.5.7. to RIGHT FLANK of 21st Battn., A.I.F. at P.25.b.8.9.

"A" Coy.- A Jumping-off Tape will be laid on 100 yard Front - Centre Point in rear of junction of 21st and 23rd A.I. Battalions.

5.- FORMATION.-

"B" and "D" Coys.

One Wave.- 1st Line, Line of Skirmishers.
2nd Line, Line of Sections at 20 yards distance.

"A" Coy.

2 Platoons in Line of Sections. RIGHT Platoon in rear of "B" Coy. LEFT Platoon in rear of RIGHT Flank Company 21st Bn. RIGHT Platoon being responsible for connecting with "B" Coy., and LEFT Platoon with 21st Battn., on line of Objective.

Remaining 2 Platoons in rear of Forward Platoons in line of Sections at 20 yards distance and are responsible for connection between their Forward Platoons on line of Objective.

P.T.O.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 123 (Contd).

6.- DRESS.- Battle Order (Entrenching Tool to be carried in front).
 220 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
 2 No. 23 Grenades per man.
 2 No. 34 Grenades per man.
 Rifle Grenade Sections will carry 4 No. 36 Grenades.
 2 Water Bottles filled per man.
 4 Sand-bags per man.
 48 hours Rations and Iron Rations.
 50% Personnel will carry Picks and Shovels, in the proportion of 1 pick to 3 shovels.
 8 men in each Platoon will carry Ground Flares.
 Every Officer will carry 1 S.G.S. Signal and 2 extra Signals will be carried by each Coy. H'qrs.
 Each Lewis Gun Team will carry forward 20 Magazines.
 Reserve of 10 Magazines per Gun at Coy. Dumps.
 Further Reserve at Battalion Dump.

7.- ARTILLERY ACTION.-

Active harassing fire will be put down by the Artillery from ZERO - 8 minutes to ZERO. At ZERO a Barrage will be put down for four minutes on the Start Line shown in attached Map. The subsequent movement of this Barrage is shown on the Map issued to Coy. Commanders.

A maximum of counter-Battery work and bombardment of communications and Assembly Areas will be carried out by the Heavy Artillery from ZERO until the consolidation is well in hand. Should the Enemy Artillery fire be heavy prior to ZERO, counter-battery work may commence before ZERO - and this and the harassing fire of the Field Artillery must not be mistaken for the opening of the Attack Barrage.

4" Stokes Mortars are putting down a smoke Screen along the WARFUSEE ROAD at ZERO and are maintaining it till plus 2 hours. The Artillery fire will also contain some Smoke but no Gas.

8.- ACTION OF TANKS.-

1 Section of "C" Coy., 13th Battalion Tank Corps will be employed on the Battalion Front after the gaining of the Objective, and also to assist the Infantry in dealing with any opposition that may be met; in this case the TANKS would precede the Infantry in continuation of the attack.

TANKS will carry 3 Flags which represent the following, and will be pushed out of the Tank as required.-

GREEN and WHITE (Diagonal)	-	"All right - Come on".
RED and YELLOW (Diagonal)	-	"Broken Down".
RED, WHITE & BLUE (Vertical)	-	Denotes a British Tank coming out of action.

9.- MACHINE GUN ACTION.-

(a) 2nd Aust. M.G. Bn. is using 26 Guns to put down a Barrage which will conform with the Field Artillery Barrage.

(b) Two guns moving forward to positions at about P.26.b.3.8. will pass our present Front Line by ZERO plus 30 minutes. These guns will cover the Front of the 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., and the Right Flank of the 21st Battalion, A.I.F.

10.- LIGHT TRENCH MORTAR ACTION.-

(a) Eight 3" Stokes Mortars will fire on the Enemy Front Line between P.25.d.3.9. and P.25.b.7.3. and SAP running EAST from P.25.b.7.3. from ZERO to plus 4 minutes.

RATE OF FIRE.- 20 rounds per gun per minute.

(b) These eight guns will then lift to targets in P.25.b. beyond the Objective maintaining a steady rate of fire until ZERO plus 30 minutes.

P.T.O.

9 BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 123 (Contd).

xibnagga

11.- ACTION OF BRIGADE SNIPERS.-

At ZERO plus 30 minutes Brigade Snipers will be sent forward from our present Front Line to establish five double posts in the area of each Attacking Battalion.

12.- CONSOLIDATION.-

(a) As far as possible existing Trenches in the captured area are to be consolidated into Posts for minimum garrisons of half a Platoon.

(b) These Posts will be connected by Traffic Trenches as early as possible.

(c) On the night following the attack Concertina Wire is to be put out along the whole front.

(d) On the night following the attack a C.T. will be dug by one Coy. 24th Battn., A.I.F., connecting YORK STREET with the present Enemy Front Line.

ALL Consolidation must be covered by Lewis Guns under Coy. arrangements.

13.- FINAL DISPOSITIONS.-

After Consolidation each Attacking Battalion will have three Coys. in the line providing their own Supports and one Counter-Attack Coy. in Reserve.

A Sketch showing dispositions by Coys. will be rendered to Battalion H'qrs. as early as possible on "Z" Morning.

The 24th Battalion, A.I.F., will have one Coy. in our present Front Line and one Coy. in DIGGER SUPPORT, and two Coys. in the VILLERS SYSTEM.

14.- A.A. DEFENCE.-

Lewis Guns of "C" Coy. are to be ready to engage Enemy Aircraft.

15.- CONTACT PLANES.-

Contact planes will patrol Front Line from ZERO to plus 2 hours. They will be distinguished by small BLACK FLAP which projects from wing.

COUNTER-ATTACK PLANE distinguished by STREAMER will fly at 2,000 feet and will indicate the location of a formation for Counter-Attack by firing a FLARE bursting into SMOKE in that direction.

16.- RUNNERS RELAY POST will be established at "C" Coy's. H'qrs. Signalling Officer will arrange all necessary communications.

17.- The word RETIRE must on no account be used.

18.- PRISONERS OF WAR will be brought back to original Front Line by walking wounded and attacking troops, where they will be taken over by "C" Coy. and conducted to Battn. H'qrs. and thence to Brigade H'qrs.

19.- Final SYNCHRONISATION of Watches will be carried out by ZERO - 2 hours.

20.- Battalion H'qrs.- O.30.b.5.6.
R.A.P.- P.25.a.70.85.
Battalion Dump.- P.25.b.2.5.

21.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

Overleaf.

[Signature]
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION

At 0800 hours 30 minutes Brigades will be sent forward from our present front line. The area of each Brigade will be as follows:

- 1. 1st Brigade. 1st A.I. Brigade.
- 2. 2nd Brigade. 2nd A.I. Brigade.
- 3. 3rd Brigade. 3rd A.I. Brigade.
- 4. 4th Brigade. 4th A.I. Brigade.
- 5. 5th Brigade. 5th A.I. Brigade.
- 6. 6th Brigade. 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 7. 7th Brigade. 7th A.I. Brigade.
- 8. 8th Brigade. 8th A.I. Brigade.
- 9. 9th Brigade. 9th A.I. Brigade.
- 10. 10th Brigade. 10th A.I. Brigade.
- 11. 11th Brigade. 11th A.I. Brigade.
- 12. 12th Brigade. 12th A.I. Brigade.
- 13. 13th Brigade. 13th A.I. Brigade.
- 14. 14th Brigade. 14th A.I. Brigade.
- 15. 15th Brigade. 15th A.I. Brigade.
- 16. 16th Brigade. 16th A.I. Brigade.
- 17. 17th Brigade. 17th A.I. Brigade.
- 18. 18th Brigade. 18th A.I. Brigade.
- 19. 19th Brigade. 19th A.I. Brigade.
- 20. 20th Brigade. 20th A.I. Brigade.
- 21. 21st Brigade. 21st A.I. Brigade.
- 22. 22nd Brigade. 22nd A.I. Brigade.
- 23. 23rd Brigade. 23rd A.I. Brigade.
- 24. 24th Brigade. 24th A.I. Brigade.
- 25. 25th Brigade. 25th A.I. Brigade.
- 26. 26th Brigade. 26th A.I. Brigade.
- 27. 27th Brigade. 27th A.I. Brigade.
- 28. 28th Brigade. 28th A.I. Brigade.
- 29. 29th Brigade. 29th A.I. Brigade.
- 30. 30th Brigade. 30th A.I. Brigade.

All Brigades will be covered by Lewis Gun under Coy.

13. THE DISPOSITION

After consolidation each attacking Battalion will have three Coy. in the line, one Coy. in support and one Coy. in reserve. A section showing disposition by Coy. will be rendered to Battalion H' Coy. as early as possible on 17th morning. The 1st Battalion, A.I. will have one Coy. in our present front line and one Coy. in reserve. The 2nd Coy. in the front line and one Coy. in reserve.

14. A.A. BATTALION

1st Coy. of A.A. Coy. are to be ready to engage enemy aircraft.

15. CONTACT PLANS

Contact plans will patrol front line from 0800 to plus 2 hours. They will be distinguished by small BLACK FLAG which projects from line.

Counter-attack plans distinguished by STRIKE will fly at 5,000 feet and will indicate the location of a formation for counter-attack by firing a WHITE bullet into smoke in that direction.

NUMBERS MAY NOT will be established at 0800 H' Coy. Signalling Officer will arrange all necessary communications.

The word RETIRE must on no account be used.

PRISONERS OF WAR will be brought back to original front line by waiting wounded and attacking troops, where they will be taken over by "C" Coy. and handed over to 1st Coy. and thence to Brigade H' Coy.

Plan synchronization of watches will be carried out by 0800 - 2 hours.

- 1st Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 2nd Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 3rd Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 4th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 5th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 6th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 7th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 8th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 9th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 10th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 11th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 12th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 13th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 14th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 15th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 16th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 17th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 18th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 19th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 20th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 21st Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 22nd Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 23rd Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 24th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 25th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 26th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 27th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 28th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 29th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.
- 30th Battalion H' Coy. - 0.30.0.0.0.

16. A.I. BATTALION

DISTRIBUTION

Overland. Lieutenant. 1st Battalion.

Addendum to Operation Order No. 123

Liaison Lieut T. E. LOWE will act
as Liaison officer with 31st Bn. on
LEFT, and Lieut J. E. SMITH with
25th Bn. on RIGHT.

W. E. Dwyer
Lieut
Adjutant 33rd Bn.

2nd July 1918.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.
-----REPORT ON OPERATIONS 4TH JULY, 1918, IN CONJUNCTION
WITH 4TH DIV. ATTACK ON VAIRE WOOD AND HAMEL1.- PRELIMINARY
PREPARATIONS.

The Battalion relieved portions of the 17th and 18th A.I. Battalions in the Line on the night of 2nd/3rd July, 1918. Coys. were disposed in the Line in front of their ^{respective} Objectives. Battalion Operation Order No. 123 was issued on July 3rd, 1918. Forward Dumps, consisting of Concertina Wire, S.A.A., Bombs, Water and Tools, were established near the Front Line prior to the Attack. An R.A.P. was established in YORK STREET at P.25.b.35.80. about 100 yards in rear of our Front Line. Battalion H'Qrs. were established at O.30.b.3.8. Troops' Fighting Order consisted of:-

Waterproof Sheet.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
One extra Water Bottle per man.
4 Grenades - Nos. 23 and 34 including proportion of Rifle Grenades (No. 36).
4 Sandbags per man.
48 hours Rations in addition to Iron Rations.
50% of Troops carried Picks or Shovels.
20 Magazines per Gun were carried forward for Lewis Guns.
Proportion of Ground Flares, S.O.S. Signals, and Message Rockets were also carried forward.

Active Artillery counter preparation was carried out some nights prior to attack.

6th Field Coy. Engineers by 1.30 a.m. reported that J.O.T. was laid parallel to our Objective, with Direction Tapes on Flanks of Coys. laid forward 50 yards. to

The movement of troops on/the J.O.T. was carried out without incident. All troops were in position on J.O.T. $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour before ZERO.

2.- TANKS.

A J.O.T. was laid from O.30.b.3.7. to Front Line Trench, a distance of 1,200 yards, to direct the section of Tanks allotted to us.

3.- THE ATTACK.

Three Coys. were formed up in the order (RIGHT to LEFT) "D", "B" and "A" Coys., "A" Coy. being in REAR with CENTRE of formation in REAR of junction of "B" Coy. and RIGHT Coy. of 21st Battn., A.I.F., on our LEFT.

Each Coy. in one Wave - 1st line being in Extended Order, 2nd line in line of Sections in file at 20 yards distance.

"C" Coy. supplied a CARRYING Platoon formed up in REAR of each Coy. with Supplies, of S.A.A., Bombs, Tools and Water.

8 minutes prior to ZERO (3.10 a.m.) our Artillery put down harassing fire. Enemy took no notice of this evidently presuming it was the usual counter-preparation.

Our Barrage came down punctually and was classified by all ranks as the best they have been with.

P.T.O.

3.- THE ATTACK.- (Contd).

The use of SMOKE slightly in front of enemy Objective was a feature and according to a GERMAN Officer's statement deceived the Enemy as to movement of the Attacking Troops.

A slight opening up occurred between "D" and "B" Coys. in reaching Objective, "D" Coy. bearing to the RIGHT in order to keep in touch with the 25th Battalion, A.I.F.

The movement by "A" Coy. was intricate but went through without a hitch.

As 21st Battalion, A.I.F., and "B" Coy. (23rd Bn.) opened up, leaving a Gap, RIGHT Platoon of "A" Coy. kept touch with "B" Coy. LEFT Platoon with 21st Battalion, the Platoons in second line moving into the opening between these Platoons on Objective.

Enemy opposed to "A" Coy. put up very little fighting, but enemy resistance in front of "B" and "D" Coys. was more spirited necessitating Bombing S. down Trench to "D" Coy. by "B" Coy., and by "D" Coy. to 7th A.I. Brigade, before final resistance was overcome.

"D" Coy. linked up with 25th Battalion, A.I.F., about 150 yards S. of RIGHT Point of their Objective. The active use of Lewis Guns by HOSING FIRE and pursuit by fire from Objective, was productive of good results, though the crops greatly facilitated the escape of the Enemy.

4.- TANKS.-

Two Tanks passed through our CENTRE Coy. on Objective and were extremely useful in rounding up Enemy in small Posts forward of Objective.

Upon request one Tank moved down to our RIGHT Coy. and cleared up nest of Enemy about 50 yards from their RIGHT Front.

5.- CONSOLIDATION.-

A good Enemy Trench was found by "B" and "D" Coys. and consolidation quickly proceeded by the making of fire steps in Parados of Enemy Trench.

"A" Coy. consolidated by a series of half-platoon Posts on a line running E. and W. between 21st Battalion, A.I.F., and "B" Coy.

Troops during Consolidation were unmolested and one Coy. was able to proceed with the placing of GERMAN Wire in front of their Trench.

Forward Lewis Gun Posts were established about 50 yards in front of Objective.

CARRYING Parties were successful in dumping their supplies with their Coys.

Two boxes of S.A.A. were dropped within a few yards of our Trench by our Aeroplanes.

No Counter-Attack was delivered and during the night consolidation was proceeded with and Concertina Wire was put out by Coys.

The Communication Trench was well dug by the 24th Bttn., A.I.F., to a depth of 3 feet, connecting up our new line with the original Trench.

On the morning of 5th July, it was decided, in view of slight Crest about 200 yards in front of our line, to push forward Posts and this was successfully carried out.

The Battalion Frontage was extended S. and an old Enemy System occupied during daylight on our RIGHT Flank where 25th Bn., A.I.F., were to move forward and link up. This was done by 12 Mid-night.

On the LEFT Flank we also occupied portion of Enemy System in conjunction with 21st Battalion, A.I.F.

6.- BATTALION'S FINAL DIS+ POSITIONS.-

Our final Dispositions were three Coys. in Front Line occupying a series of half-platoon Posts with fourth Coy. in SUPPORT at original line and to act as Counter-Attack Coy.

7.- ACTION OF
STOKES MORTARS
AND ARTILLERY.-

Although 8 3" Stokes Mortars were engaged on portion of Enemy Trench not covered by Artillery Fire and on Special Posts, they did not get on to Target.

It was also noticed that our Artillery Fire had in no way damaged Enemy Trench. Stokes Mortars were, owing to impossible view of Target, unable to register and had to work by Map Reference solely.

8.- COMMUNICATIONS.-

SIGNAL.-

Good work was put in in taking forward Telephone Wire and connecting the various Coys. on their Objectives and communication with all Coys. on Objective and to H'qrs. of the SUPPORT Coy. in original line held. Unfortunately the Sector of the area between SUPPORT Coy. and Battalion H'qrs. was constantly shelled and communication by wire broke down at ZERO plus 13.

SIGNAL ROCKETS.-

4 were dispatched but owing to noise, smoke and dust they were not picked up and proved a failure.

The use of SUCCESS SIGNALS would have been of great value in our operation.

9.- TROPHIES.-

3 Heavy GERMAN Machine Guns)
11 Light " " " } were captured.
1 Machine Gun Belt Loader)

10.- PRISONERS.-

80 to 90 Prisoners were captured. Owing to lack of escort, troops being engaged on more important work, some considerable number of Prisoners drifted into other Brigade Areas.

11.- CASUALTIES.-

<u>OFFICERS.-</u>	Killed	1.
	Wounded	4.
<u>C. RANKS.-</u>	Killed	9.
	Wounded	61.

.....000.....

6th July, 1918.

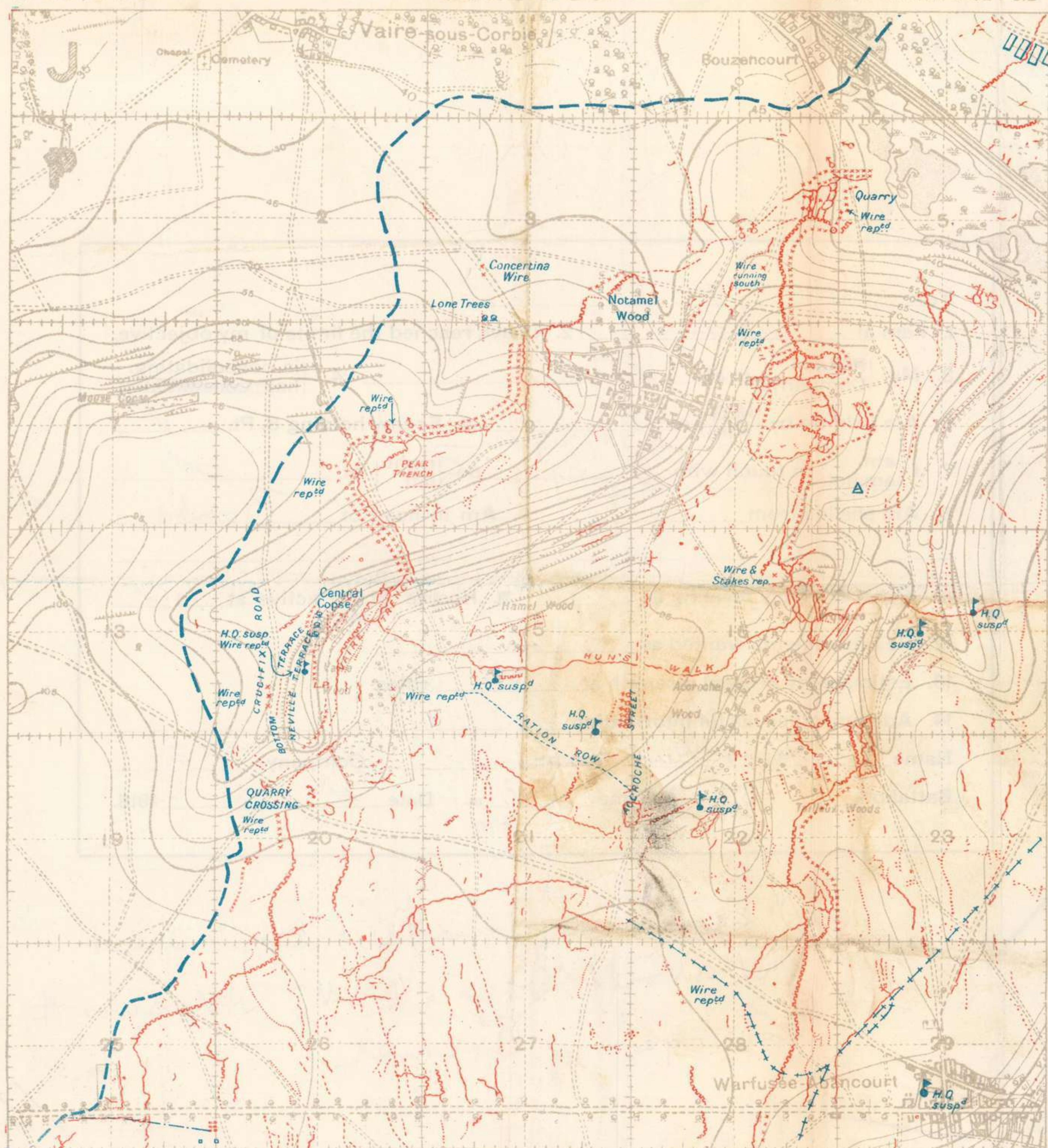
W. Brazenor Lt.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

93 20,000

VAIRE WOOD.

Parts of 62° N.E. & 62° S.E.

19



FIELD SURVEY CO., R.E. (1914) 22-6-18

YARDS 1000

Scale: 1:20,000

1000 YARDS

Approximate British Front Line — — — — 22-6-18

TRENCHES CORRECTED FROM INFORMATION
RECEIVED UP TO 24-6-18.

To F.O.P.A.

1. I am at Objective 2. I have reached the limits of my objective.

3. My ~~Platoon~~ Company is at O.G.I. 4. ~~is consolidating.~~ has consolidated.

5. Am held up by ~~(M.G.)~~ Wire at 7 Brigade 6. Enemy holding S. Pt. ✓

7. I ~~am~~ am not in touch with B Coy on ~~right~~ left at ✓

8. Am shelled from ✓ 9. Am in need of Bombs

10. Counter-attack forming at ✓ 11. Hostile ~~(Baty.)~~ (M.G.) active at ✓

12. Reinforcements wanted at ✓

13. Estimate my present strength at 80 rifles.

14. Add any other useful information ✓

Name S. Hodgson Platoon ✓ Company D.Z.

Battalion 23rd Time 4.10 m. Date 14th July 1918.

I am wounded + cannot
get about Trench M^o Holdsworth
is organizing Trench

5.25 am

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

6th Infantry Brigade.

app
NOTES ON OPERATION MORNING 4th JULY, 1918.

- 1.- FLANK LIAISON.- Was quite satisfactory. Both Battalion H'Qrs. were handy and Telephone with Left Battalion held throughout.
- 2.- MOVEMENT ON J.O.T.- Night was dark and allowance of one hour before ZERO was satisfactory. A few casualties occurred on the J.O.T. Reports of Companies being on J.O.T. were received by 2.52 a.m.
- 3.- COMMUNICATIONS.- Telephone Wires were run out in rear of Companies and connection established to original Front Line Coy. H'Qrs. This was most satisfactory; but line to Battalion H'Qrs. and Front Line was continuously and badly disconnected. 3 Message Rockets were fired, but owing to noise of Guns and density of Smoke they were not noticed.
- 4.- MOPPING UP.- Enemy Objective Line was close; rather stubborn resistance was met at southern portion of Trench; this was cleared by Officer's party bombing forward until touch was obtained with 7th A.I. Brigade. TANKS did excellent service in rounding up GERMANS in Enemy System P.26.a.4.6. to P.26.a.6.7.
- 5.- ARTILLERY ACTION.- Entirely satisfactory. Men could move very close to Barrage. 3 complaints were received of "Short firing" - chiefly 4.5's; this was during Consolidation. Smoke included with the Barrage was entirely satisfactory and is recommended. From Officer Prisoner's statement Barrage did not touch their line, and as regards the entry of our men into the trench, nothing was known as the Smoke effectively screened our advance.
- 6.- LIGHT TRENCH MORTARS.- Were under great difficulties owing to obscure targets caused by crops. No portion of Trench on which they were firing showed hits.
- 7.- COUNTER-ATTACK.- No close Counter-Attack developed, nor was any movement noticed in this direction by number of men who pushed well out from Objective, capturing Prisoners. Prisoner stated that his Counter-Attack Coy. was 800 yards in rear.
- 8.- MOVEMENT AFTER ATTACK.- Immediately after attack a great number of BOSCHES escaped through the crops. A great deal of Lewis Gun and Rifle Fire was directed against these and our men pushed out 3 or 4 hundred yards and secured Prisoners.
- 9.- CONSOLIDATION.- On two-thirds of our Front this was simple by the building of fire steps to Parados on original enemy Trench. Left Flank Coy. established series of half-platoon Posts linking up with 21st A.I. Battn. P.26.a.60.85. and Enemy System at P.26.b.40.85. Forward Posts (Lewis Gun) were established at various points along line from 50 to 100 yards in front.

- 2 -

NOTES ON OPERATION MORNING 4th JULY, 1918 (Contd).

- 10.- CAPTURES.- Prisoners estimated at 80 to 90.
Killed estimated at 60 to 80.
Majority were killed in Crops.
- 11.- MISCELLANEOUS.- All weapons, during the action, were effectively used, special feature being the firing of the Lewis Gun from the hip.
Evacuation of Wounded - Most Satisfactory.
~~Organisation of Prisoners at R.A.P. and A.D.S. to repeat their trips was good.~~
- 12.- FLANK ACTION.- See para. 4 re Mopping-up.

-----000-----

4th July, 1918.

H. B. G. G. G.
Lt.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

SECRET.-

Appendix 5

Copy No 2

23

93

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 124. - 23rd Bn.

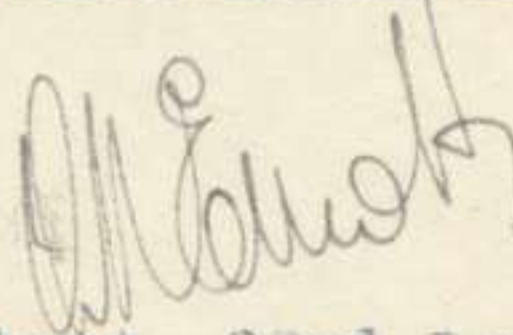
Ref. Mpas.- SHEETS 62.D. S.W. & S.E. 1/20,000.

6th JULY, 1918.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will be relieved by the 5th A.I. Brigade between 6th and 8th July, 1918.
- 2.- The 23rd A.I. Battalion will be relieved by the 18th A.I. Battalion in the Front Line on the night 6th/7th July, 1918., and on Relief will move into positions vacated by the Battalion in the BLANGY SYSTEM on the 2nd July, 1918.
- 3.- DISPOSITIONS.-
Coys. will be relieved by corresponding Coys. of the 18th Battn.
- 4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order.
Iron Rations.
- 5.- GUIDES for Companies will be supplied by Battn. H'Qrs. to guide Incoming Companies to Coy. H'Qrs., where Coys. will have 2 Guides per Post to guide to Forward Posts.
- 6.- Lewis Guns will be dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. as each Company moves out on relief.
Sergt. HEATH will be in charge of the Dump.
- 7.- ADVANCE PARTIES.-
Each Company will send out Advance Party of 2 N.C.O's. to report to Lieut. L.G. SHORT at Battalion H'Qrs. at 1.00 p.m. to-day.
- 8.- All Trench Stores, Maps, etc. will be handed over and receipts forwarded to Battalion H'Qrs. within 12 hours of Relief.
- 9.- Any details not covered by this order will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders.
- 10.- On completion of Relief the word "SPAD" will be wired to Battalion H'Qrs.
- 11.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- "Q.M." and T.O.
- 14.- 18th A.I. Battn.
- 15/16.- Spares.


A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Lieut.

10.-
.- MISC

1.- DISPOSITIONS
and
BOUNDARIES.-

- (a) The Dispositions of the Reserve Brigade are given in Appendix "A" attached.
- (b) The Southern Divisional Boundary is an E.W. Line through U.1.central.
The Northern Divisional Boundary is an E.W. Line through O.19.central.

2.- PROBABLE
ACTION OF
RESERVE BDE.-

- (a) "A" Battalion is to be ready to move forward at short notice to reinforce or counter-attack in any part of the Divisional Front.
- (b) The two Companies of "D" Bn. in the AUBIGNY SYSTEM are a nucleus garrison for the System within the Divisional Boundaries, and will not be moved from it.
- (c) The role of "B" and "C" Bns. and "D" Bn. (less 2 Coys.) is to carry out a deliberate counter-attack, with Artillery support, should the Reserves of the Line Bdes. and "A" Bn. be unequal to the task of re-establishing the whole of the Divisional Front by immediate counter-attack. It is possible that "A" Bn. will be held back to take part in the deliberate counter-attack rather than carry out the role laid down for it above.

3.- PROBABLE
FORMS OF
COUNTER-ATTACK.

Should VILLERS BRETONNEUX fall into the hands of the enemy and the Flanks hold, the counter-attack of the Reserve Brigade would be carried out in one of these ways.-

- (a) In a South Easterly direction both sides of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.
Assembly Positions "B" Bn. (and possibly "A" Bn.) O.21., O.27.
"C" Bn. & "D" Bn. (less 2 Coys.) O.16., O.17.
- (b) In an Easterly direction.
Assembly Position - CACHY FOUILLOY Road.
- (c) Attacks from the North West and South West converging East of the Village.
Assembly Positions "B" Bn. (and possibly "C" Bn.) O.32., U.2.
"C" Bn. (or "A" Bn.) and "D" Bn. (less two Coys.) O.16., O.17.

4.- COY.. ALARM
POSTS.-

Coy. Alarm Posts will be selected and their locations notified to Battalion H'qrs.

5.- DRESS.-

Dress.- Battle Order.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Water Bottles filled.
Iron Rations and 24 hours Rations.

6.- "STAND TO"
ORDER.-

On receipt of order "STAND TO", Coys. will immediately man Trench Systems now occupied by them, compliance being wired to Battalion H'qrs.

7.- L.T.M.BTY.-

The L.T.M.Bty. would move with Bde. H'qrs. and would be sent forward to take part in any counter-attack or to cover consolidation after a counter-attack as soon as transport for guns and ammunition could be provided.

8.- A C K N O W L E D G E.DISTRIBUTION.-

Overleaf.

[Signature]
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION

1. - DISPOSITIONS

2. - BOUNDARIES

3. - PROGRAM

4. - ACTION

5. - RESERVE

6. - ATTACH

7. - TRANSPORT

8. - OFFICER

9. - RESERVE

10. - ATTACH

11. - TRANSPORT

12. - OFFICER

13. - RESERVE

14. - ATTACH

15. - TRANSPORT

16. - OFFICER

17. - RESERVE

18. - ATTACH

19. - TRANSPORT

20. - OFFICER

21. - RESERVE

22. - ATTACH

23. - TRANSPORT

24. - OFFICER

25. - RESERVE

26. - ATTACH

27. - TRANSPORT

28. - OFFICER

29. - RESERVE

30. - ATTACH

31. - TRANSPORT

32. - OFFICER

33. - RESERVE

34. - ATTACH

35. - TRANSPORT

36. - OFFICER

37. - RESERVE

38. - ATTACH

39. - TRANSPORT

40. - OFFICER

41. - RESERVE

42. - ATTACH

43. - TRANSPORT

(a) The dispositions of the Reserve Brigade are given in Appendix "A" attached.

(b) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(c) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(d) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(e) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(f) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(g) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(h) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(i) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(j) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(k) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(l) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(m) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

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(p) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(q) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(r) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(s) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(t) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(u) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(v) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(w) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(x) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(y) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(z) The 3rd A.I. Brigade is an A.I. line.

(a) In a South West direction both sides of the village of BROWNIE.

(b) In a North West direction.

(c) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(d) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(e) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(f) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(g) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(h) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(i) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(j) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(k) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(l) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(m) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(n) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(o) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(p) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(q) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(r) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(s) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(t) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(u) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(v) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(w) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(x) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(y) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

(z) Attached from the North West and South West are the following positions:

Co. Alarm House will be selected and their locations notified to Battalion HQ's.

Battle Order.

300 rounds 3.4.4. per man.

3 bombs per man.

Water bottles filled.

Iron Rations and 24 hours Rations.

On receipt of order "STAND BY" Coy. will immediately man French positions now occupied by them, commencing being wired to Battalion HQ's.

The 3rd A.I. Coy. would move with Bn. HQ's and would be sent forward to take part in any counter-attack as soon as communication after a counter-attack as soon as transport for guns and ammunition could be provided.

Handwritten signature

Adjutant, 33rd Battalion.

Overleaf.

SECRET.Copy No *2*APPENDIX "A"DISPOSITIONS OF RESERVE BRIGADE

Brigade H'Qrs.- GLISY. N.20.d.2.8.

6th L.T.M.Bty.- N.14.d.4.7.

Battalion	Location of H'Qrs.	Location of Troops.	Location of Transport Lines.
"A"	O.28.a.1.8.	AUBIGNY SYSTEM. O.27.a. and O.20.	N.13.b.9.5.
"B"	N.34.d.8.5.	BLANGY SYSTEM. N.34., N.35.	N.18.d.5.5.
"C"	N.28.b.3.5.	Two Coys. N.29. One Coy. N.27.a. One Coy. N.26.b.	N.14.e.3.2.
"D"	N.22.a.9.0.	One Coy. N.23. One Coy. N.25. Two Coys. AUBIGNY SYSTEM O.26. & O.32.	N.13.c.3.5.

SECRET.

96 BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 125.

Appendix

Copy No 127

Ref. Maps. - SHEETS 62.D.S.W. and S.E. 1/20,000.

18th JULY, 1918.

1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will relieve the 7th A.I. Brigade in the RIGHT Brigade Sector on the night 19th/20th July, 1918.

2.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 26th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Front Line running from U.5.d.8.7. to V.1.b.4.5. approx. on the RIGHT Battalion Sector.

3.- DISPOSITIONS.

RIGHT Flank.- "A" Coy. - U.5.d.8.6. to U.6.c.95.80.
CENTRE.- "D" " - U.6.c.95.80 to V.1.a.15.60.
LEFT Flank.- "C" " - V.1.a.15.60 to S. of RAILWAY LINE
V.1.b.4.5.
SUPPORT.- "B" Coy. - Support in Wood U.6.c.

4.- STARTING POINT. - BRICK HOUSE, N.35.b.2.2.

Coys. will pass Starting Point in the following order at 9.00 p.m.-

"C", "D", "A", "B" and "H'Qrs" Coys.

and will proceed via Track passing through N.36. to O.25.c.8.4., QUARRY in O.28.c. to Battn. H'Qrs. O.35.d.1.4.

5.- DRESS.

Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof Sheet
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
24 hours Rations.
Water Bottles filled.

6.- BLANKETS will be rolled in Bundles of 10 and clearly labelled and dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. by 2.00 p.m.

Officers' VALISES will be dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. by 2.00 p.m.

7.- Lewis Guns and Panniers will be at Battn. H'Qrs. by 12 NOON, and will be dumped on road O.35.c.2.9.

8.- GUIDES. - One Guide per Post and one Guide from each Platoon and Coy. H'Qrs. will meet at Battn. H'Qrs.

9.- Trench Stores, Aeroplane Photos., Maps, etc. will be taken over and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Bn. H'Qrs. by 8.00 a.m. on 20th ins

10.- Any details not covered by this Order will be mutually arranged by Coy. Commanders concerned.

11.- On completion of Relief the word "CAMEL" will be wired to Bn. H'Qrs.

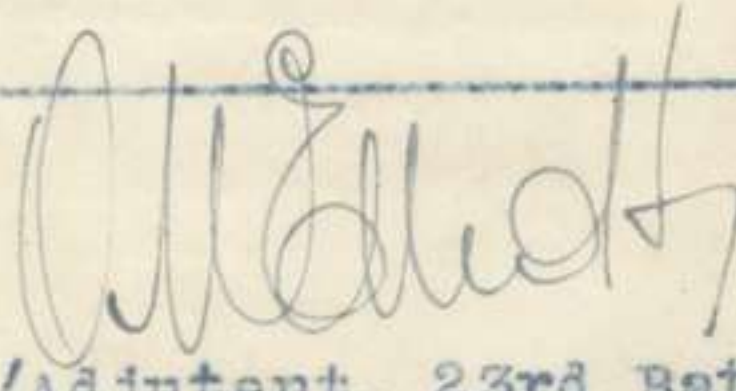
12.- Battalion H'Qrs.- O.35.d.1.4.
R.A.P.- O.35.d.2.4.

13.- BATTLE STRAGGLER POST.- O.28.d.3.5.

14.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.

1.- File.
2/4.- War Diary.
5.- C.O.
6.- Adjutant.
7.- 6th A.I. Brigade.
8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
13.- Q.M.
14.- Transport Officer.
15.- 26th Battn., A.I.F.
16.- Spare.


Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Report on Tour of Duty performed S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX
19/20th July to 30th/31st July, giving Minor Operations
carried out.

1.- PRELIMINARIES AND RELIEF.-

On the morning of the 18th July, the C.O., Adjutant, Intelligence Officer and Coy. Commanders went forward to Battn. H'Qrs. of the 26th Battn., A.I.F., where a general idea of the Front to be taken over was obtained.

Preliminary Reconnaissance was rendered difficult by the open character of the Country, absence of Communication Trenches and the alertness of Enemy Snipers.

These difficulties were successfully overcome by sending into the line on the night 18th/19th July an advance party consisting of 1 Officer and 9 O.Ranks per Coy. - Each Officer rendering to Battn. H'Qrs. on the morning of the 19th a full report of his Coy's. Front, which enabled his Coy. Commander to organise his Coy. before morning in.- Battalion Boundaries as taken over were.-

RIGHT - U.5.d.7.7.

LEFT - RAILWAY, V.1.b.5.4.

Roughly 2,200 yards.

This wide Frontage necessitated the placing in the Front Line of three Coys. disposed as follows.-

RIGHT LINE - "A" Coy. (Capt. R.G. MOSS O.C.)
Boundaries.- U.5.d.7.7. and U.6.d.1.8.

CENTRE LINE - "D" Coy. (Capt. W.J. GALBRAITH)
Boundaries.- U.6.d.1.8. to V.1.a.6.1.

LEFT LINE - "C" Coy. (Lieut. W.A. MARTIN)
Boundaries.- V.1.a.6.1. to V.1.b.5.4.

Flank Coys. retaining a Local Support in STAMBOUL Trench and Trench V.1.a.6.3. respectively.
SUPPORT Coy., "B" Coy., (Capt. J. PASCOE) was placed in Posts on the line U.6.b.2.1. to U.6.b.7.9.

A proportion of Runners and Guides were included in the Advance Parties which doubly ensured against confusion during the move in, which took place on the night 19th/20th July - Battalion leaving TRONVILLE WOOD Area at 9.00 p.m.
Enemy shelling resulted in three Casualties.
The relief was completed by 1.45 a.m. without further incident.

2.- DESCRIPTION OF SECTOR.-

Unit relieved had advanced to this Line on the night of 17th/18th July. This, combined with the fact that the enemy had attempted a Counter-Attack on the night of 19th/20th July, had prevented the Garrison from consolidating the position to any great extent.

Trenches were badly battered - Posts were marked out only, and Shelters were practically non-existent.

Communication by 'phone to Forward Coys. was good.
An Observation Post - O.34.b.9.8. - in VILLERS BRETONNEUX gave good tactical command over Front.

P.T.O.

3.- FLANKS.-

The RIGHT Boundary marked the junction of the BRITISH and FRENCH Armies.
3rd TIRAILLEURS Regiment was the Unit on immediate Flank.

LIAISON with them was provided for by.-

- (a) Interpreter at B.H.Q. working between Battalion Commanders.
- (b) Liaison Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 30 O.Ranks to French Post - U.5.d.5.8.
- (c) The retaining of FRENCH Runners at this Bn's. H'Qrs. and AUSTRALIAN Runners at the French.
- (d) The attaching to FRENCH Patrols of 2 O.Ranks to answer Challenges.

LEFT FLANK.- The 22nd Battalion, A.I.F., were communicated with by LEFT Coy. during the night 19th/20th July, and on the following night, by the establishment of a Post 70 yards North of Bridge - V.1.b.6.5., - Liaison was established on a definite basis.

4.- BLOCKS.-

A feature of the Front was the number of BLOCKS, on Battalion Front, in Trenches which ran into Enemy Territory.

The locations of these were.-

- 1.- 40 yards South of Junction SYRIA and STAMBOUL Trenches, in CRAFT Trench.
- 2.- 40 yards South of Junction in Switch Trench - U.6.c.25.80.
- 3.- SYRIA Trench - U.6.d.25.80.
- 4.- V.1.a.6.1.

5.- ENEMY
OBSERVATION.-

Approaches to Front Line were exposed to Enemy Observation EAST of line N.E. through U.6.central, with exception of RIGHT Coy. Communication Trench - U.5.b.3.4. - [to which] enabled Runners and small parties to be despatched in Daylight.

6.- ENEMY.-

As usual on an Active Front, information regarding the Enemy was scanty and indefinite.
Standing Patrols were placed out on each Coy. Frontage on Relief Night and they established the general line of Enemy Defences from.-

U.5.d.7.3., U.6.c.1.2., U.6.c.40.25., U.6.d.3.3., V.1.c.5.9. and V.1.b.8.4.

SYRIA Trench East of Block appeared to be in a bad condition and probably only lightly held.
Switch Trench running S.W. from U.6.d.0.8. also badly battered.

7.- DAYLIGHT
RECONNAISSANCE.-

On the morning following Relief, a reconnaissance was made by the C.O. personally.
From Western edge of Mound - V.1.a.6.8. - practically the only Observation Point in the Forward Area, a good view of Enemy Defences was obtained.
An appreciation of these, particularly of Trench V.1.c.3.6, as a nucleus for new Enemy Line decided the policy to be adopted regarding both this Trench and SYRIA Trench.
Later in the same ^{day}, the necessity of depriving Enemy of Observation over U.5.a., from U.5.d.7.6., was discussed with RIGHT Coy. Commander, and course of action was laid down.

8.- OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-

INTENTIONS - 21.7.18.

- (a) To secure control of Trench down to Road U.5.d.6.3., thus securing more Defence Room for TRENCH JUNCTION, STAMBOUL and SYRIA, and denying Enemy observation of area U.5.a.

P T O

8.- OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS.-
(Contd)

INTENTIONS - 21.7.18. (Contd).-

(b) To occupy SYRIA TRENCH East of BLOCK down to V.l.c.3.6., thence North to BLOCK, V.l.c.6.1.

(a).-

1.- TASK AND PARTY.-

To Bomb down CRAFT TRENCH to Road U.5.d.6.3. - and establish Block at furthest point achieved.
RIGHT COY. - Lieut. J.A.E. FINDLAY and Bombing Squad of 12 O.Ranks.

2.- PREPARATION.-

Medium Trench Mortars, at 7 p.m., fired 20 rounds into Enemy Post U.5.d.65.30.
Light Trench Mortars fired on same Target at 10 p.m.

3.- ACTION.-

Under cover of Light Trench Mortars, party proceeded along Trench to within 15 yards of Enemy Post U.5.d.65.30. Strong opposition was encountered at this point.
Party was bombed from both Flanks and from CRAFT TRENCH.
Our Party withdrew about 15 yards, BLOCK being established at U.5.d.65.40 - a gain of approx. 150 yards.

4.- MISCELLANEOUS.-

During Bombing Operation, nine men were seen to leave CRAFT Trench at U.5.d.6.3. and to run Eastwards.
Lewis Gun Fire and Rifle Grenades accounted for four, who were seen to fall.
Estimated strength of enemy garrison - at least 20 men and 1 Machine Gun.

(b).-

1.- This operation was an extensive one considering the forces available.
A policy of penetration by Sections was decided upon.
The scheme as laid down on the 20th July was.-

To make good SYRIA Trench to U.6.d.3.7., then to U.6.d.6.7., and when within striking distance of JUNCTION V.l.c.3.6. - LEFT Coy. to co-operate by working South from V.l.a.6.1.

This scheme was subsequently modified to enable LEFT Coy., on the night 21st July, to clear up section of Trench V.l.a.6.0.; at least where Enemy on 21.7.18 displayed aggressive tendency, approaching our Block and throwing Bombs - our garrison ~~retaliating~~ *retaliating*.

2.- Sequence of events was.-

Night 20th/21st July.- Lieut. T.E. LOWE and 10 O.Ranks proceeded EAST along SYRIA Trench for approx. 150 yards, Block being re-established at that point, and RIGHT Platoon, CENTRE Coy., immediately occupying Section of Trench thus made good.
No enemy were encountered.

Night 21st/22nd July.-

Lieut. Lowe and 10 O.Ranks proceeded East to U.6.d.6.7. - Block being re-established and further Posts of CENTRE Coy. moved forward and occupied.
Simultaneously a main attack down Trench was

P.T.O.

8.- OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-
(Contd).

(b).- (Contd).

organised from Trench V.l.a.6.1.
Details of Organisation and Action of this Party
were as follows.-

- 1.- At 1 a.m. party of 1 N.C.O. and 2 O.Ranks as Bombing Squad, and Blocking Party of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O.Rs. - both under command of Lieut. A. BAKER - left our trench at V.l.a.6.2.
 - 2.- Crossing of Road South of Block was difficult owing to bright moonlight and close observation of this section by Enemy from hostile trench, but this was successfully accomplished by 12.50 a.m.
 - 3.- Telephone connected up with Supporting Trench Mortars was carried by Assaulting Party.
 - 4.- 2 Stokes Mortars each fired 10 rounds on to to Targets V.l.c.50.95. (Enemy Block and M.G. position) and V.l.c.7.7. - M.G. Position at V.l.c.50.95 was also engaged.
Fire on these Targets was controlled by Lt. A. BAKER and shooting was accurate and most satisfactory.
 - 5.- Party penetrated to V.l.c.4.7. - M.G. Fire was very active both from trench attacked and from JAFFA Trench. Their shooting was high. BLOCK was established at V.l.c.4.7. and manned by Lewis Gun and supporting Bombing Party. Trench 70 yards forward of this was also blocked.
 - 6.- Enemy resistance was slight because of speed at which our party worked, and the extreme accuracy of Mortar shooting.
No. 36 Grenades as well as Hand Grenades were used.
 - 7.- Lewis Gun Team co-operated with Bombing Squad keeping up a steady fire in advance of part of trench being bombed, and until a minor stoppage placed it out of action, must have inflicted considerable casualties on Enemy who fell back towards JAFFA TRENCH.
 - 8.- ENEMY FLARES.- RED Flares were sent up by enemy almost immediately our Stokes opened up - These were followed later by ORANGE.
 - 9.- Machine Gun activity commenced about 5 minutes after RED Flare.
Artillery commenced fire the next 5 minutes, becoming most intense at ZERO plus 20.
Areas shelled were.-
U.6.b., V.l.a., Old Trench System U.6.a.,
RAILWAY LINE V.l.a. and Western Section of Mound.
- At ZERO plus 30 Artillery switched on to EAST of VILLERS BRETONNEUX and about 3 a.m. crept back.
Fire came mainly from MARCELAVE Area.
10. Captures. 2 Prisoners - 2nd and 4th Coy.,
148th I.R.
Prisoners stated that they had only come into the Line on night 20th/21st July.
They were to wire Trench they were captured in, last night.
 11. Booty.- 3 Machine Guns.

After Dawn, success of night was further exploited, our Parties pushing down to Junction at V.l.c.3.6.

A further Machine Gun was captured and also 1 additional Prisoner.

Trench is in good condition - Communication Trench running East from Junction towards JAFFA is also in good order.

8.- OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-
(Contd).

An estimate of enemy Casualties is.-

Killed.- 1 Officer.

25 O.Ranks.

Prisoners.- 3 O.Ranks.

Badly wounded - still in Trench - 2 O.Rs.

Further reconnaissance of Area V.l.c.8.8. to be made with a view to occupation and establishment of Line from V.l.c.3.6. through V.l.c.7.7. - V.l.central. thence to V.l.b.7.4.

22nd/23rd July.-

After Daylight Reconnaissance of SYRIA Trench between U.6.d.6.7. and V.l.a.3.6., CENTRE Coy. moved forward at night and occupied it without a Casualty.

Simultaneously, with a view to advancing our line Left through V.l.central, a Patrol consisting of Lieut. LOWE and 8 O.Ranks proceeded from V.l.a.6.1. S.E. towards V.l.c.7.8.

Patrol proceeded 100 yards along South of Road, then 50 yards South from V.l.c.7.9. along Trench 18" deep. Patrol moved to V.l.c.9.8. to cover establishment of Posts.

A large Enemy Party was observed moving at V.l.c.9.8. Estimated strength 50. They had 3 Machine Guns pushed forward from their main party.

Flares were fired from an unlocated position in rear. These fell near our Patrol who were evidently sighted. Machine Guns opened very accurate fire and 2 of the Patrol were wounded. Both were carried back. - one died of wounds almost immediately.

After consulting with Patrol Leader, Coy. Commander decided not to persevere in advancement of line, in view of the good visibility.

Trench Mortars had only sufficient ammunition for S.O.S. and could not engage target.

Patrol leader considered that Enemy were a strong working party establishing a line across Road at V.l.c.9.8.

Machine Gun Fire was also active from JAFFA Trench in rear.

Night 23rd/24th July.-

Bright moonlight as on previous night, rendered Patrolling difficult and hazardous. Notwithstanding the LEFT Coy. established 2 Posts at V.l.a.7.0. and V.l.a.7.1.

Night 24th/25th July.-

Policy of advancing was further pursued and three additional Posts were dug at V.l.a.95.10., V.l.b.05.20. and V.l.b.15.20.

Post at V.l.a.7.0. was pushed out to V.l.c.65.95. to procure a better field of fire.

STANDING PATROLS were used to cover the general consolidation between the Nights 24th/25th and 27th/28th July.

These amassed useful information regarding the Enemy's Positions and Movements.

His greatest activity at this period was displayed on Defensive Work on the Line U.6.c.1.2., U.6.d.0.4., V.l.c.0.3., V.l.d.2.8., thence to JAFFA Trench.

Night 27th/28th July.-

Active Patrolling was again undertaken. The object was to reconnoitre South of SYRIA Trench with a view to the advancing of the Line, thus giving more manoeuvring room for Right Flank and enabling Support Action to be made ~~from~~ SYRIA if necessary. Lieut. GRIBBIN and 5 O.Rs. proceeded along Switch to Road U.6.c.4.5., no Enemy being encountered.

An Enemy Post was located in continuation of Trench across Road, about 40 yards distant.

P.T.O.

8.- OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-
(Contd).

Lieut. W.A.E. BRAGG and 5 O.Rs. proceeded to U.6.d.5.5. No opposition encountered.
Lieut. A. BURKE and 5 O.Rs. moved to V.1.c.0.4. meeting no enemy.
Night 29th/30th July.- (Night previous to Relief).
Patrol Action of previous night was continued by Lieuts. GRIFFIN and BRAGG, a more detailed reconnaissance being made. Details as follows.-
Lieut. GRIFFIN and 5 O.Rs., with L.M.Gun., moved out at 11 p.m. and moved ~~7~~ down Sap to Road U.6.c.4.5. No movement could be observed in continuation of Trench on further side of Road. - Possibly evacuated on account of short shooting of his Artillery on this Point, which is of daily occurrence.
Patrol moved further South, locating Enemy Posts at approx. U.6.b.9.5.
Lewis Machine Gun was placed to cover further approach to within 40 yards. Patrol was then evidently sighted by the Enemy, Machine Gun Fire opening on them, and being taken up by others East of it.
Patrol moved N.E. returning to our Lines U.6.d.4.8. at 2 a.m. Casualties - Nil.
Lieut. BRAGG and 6 O.Rs. proceeded from U.6.d.6.4. at 11 p.m. along Sap running S.W. from U.6.d.6.4. for a distance of about 30 yards, thence South for 150 yards.
Ground is level and not very much broken by shell fire. Grass is long.
Machine Guns and Flares were active from approx. U.6.d.50.25. and U.6.d.90.35.
Individual movement between these points was also noticed, and on return of Patrol at 1.15 a.m., Lewis Gun from V.1.c.0.6. sent bursts in their direction. Casualties - Nil.
STANDING Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O.Rs. proceeded to position 70 yards in advance of our Line V.1.c.0.6. Enemy were observed digging and wiring about 220 yards in front.
Machine Gun Fire was active from advanced position covering this Party. Casualties - Nil.
Lieut. BURKE and 5 O.Rs. proceeded from Trench Junction V.1.c.3.6. at 11 p.m. moving towards V.1.c.9.8. for about 250 yards.
Trench is in very bad condition, being damaged by shell fire.
No enemy were encountered, and Trench shows no signs of recent occupation.
Enemy Party 6 strong observed digging at approx. V.1.c.9.5. from where Flares were also observed.
Patrol returned at 1 a.m. Casualties - Nil.
Relief on Night 30th/31st prevented this Battalion from carrying out original intention of advancing Posts from SYRIA Trench on this reconnoitred line.

9.- DEFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-

Enemy aggressiveness came under three heading.-

- (a) Artillery.
- (b) Sniping.
- (c) Infantry Action - Raids.

(a) ENEMY ARTILLERY.-

With the exception of the night 29th/30th July, was ~~not~~ active throughout the whole period. His shelling for the first 2 days was scattered and showed no method, but thereafter resolved itself into a fairly well defined plan both as regards time and place, and Barrage placed down nightly was no doubt in nature of a Counter Preparation Shoot. The period for this was regularly 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., shelling being in depth working East from O.34.a and c East to U.6.a. and U.5.d.

P.T.O.

9.- DEFENSIVE 95
OPERATIONS.-
(Contd.).

Area Shooting at half hourly intervals of 0.36.c.3.2.
RAILWAY 0.36. and RUINED HOUSE U.6.a.3.2.

The defence consisted of.-

- 1.- Counter-Battery Action which became operative on reports being sent in by Artillery Liaison Officer of Calibre of Battery in action. During the last 4 days this was further elaborated by the action of Medium Trench Mortars and Light Trench Mortars on to known enemy Posts, at the same time as the Artillery Retaliation. This method of retaliation was particularly efficacious, inasmuch as the Enemy Front Line was harassed effectively without disclosing our S.O.S. Line. Front Line Coys. reported that this combined action was effective in diminishing hostile shelling.
- 2.- The timing of Ration Parties, etc., to avoid periods of shelling. No Ration Parties reported to B.H.Q. before 10.30 p.m. Shelled Areas were avoided as far as possible and safe trenches were reconnoitred. SUPPORT Coy. was disposed, first of all, in advance of old Enemy Front Line in U.6.b. The Line which they were holding was practically on Enemy Barrage Line, LEFT Posts near RAILWAY suffering. This Coy. was moved forward on the night 23rd/24th July to Posts vacated by CENTRE Coy. who had moved forward to SYRIA Trench. An organised Gas Shelling of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT Battery Areas on night of 29th/30th July resulted in a notable decrease of hostile artillery on that night. The construction of a Communication trench through MONUMENT WOOD to Coy. H'Qrs., U.6.b.4.2., and Communication Trench to ALLENDALE SAP, V.1.a.6.4., and the improvement of Posts and Trenches, helped materially to lessen Casualties from shell fire.

SNIPING.-

After the 20th July, Enemy showed a noticeable decrease. Thereafter Night Sniping only was experienced. The decrease was undoubtedly due to the efforts of the Brigade Snipers, and to the increasing vigilance of Lewis Gunners. Enemy System of Night Sniping was that of having a Sniper and a Flare Firer in adjoining Posts in advance of his line. Moonlight greatly ~~improved~~ and favoured these tactics, which were combated most successfully by pushing out Lewis Guns and using them boldly from different places.

INFANTRY ACTION.-

21st July, 1918.-

At 4 a.m. a party of five of the Enemy approached our BLOCK V.1.a.6.2. and threw a few Bombs from about 40 yards distance.

No Casualties were suffered by our Garrison who retaliated with Hand Grenades and 36 (Rifle) Grenades. Brigade Snipers who were near by also assisted, and they claim 2 hits.

Report on RAID by Enemy on our Post CRAFT TRENCH, U.5.d.6.4. - 24th July, 1918.

- 1.- Strength of Garrison.- 1 N.C.O. and 5 men in Bomb Post at Block.
 - 2.- Distance of Support.- 150 yards in SYRIA Trench.
- Note.- In addition Lewis Gun Posts were established.-

P.T.O.

93
9.- DEFENSIVE
OPERATIONS.-
(Contd.).

INFANTRY ACTION (Contd.).-

- (a) 70 yards in rear of Block sweeping East of CRAFT Trench.
- (b) Junction of SYRIA and STAMBOUL Trenches sweeping West of it.
- 3.- Strength of Support.- 1 Platoon Less Lewis Gun Team (see 2a.)
- 4.- Strength of Raiding Party.- Estimated at 20.
- 5.- Method of attack.- Bombing Party bombed down to Block. Under cover of this Bombing, party of approx. 15 men moved overland about 20 yards, Western side of Trench.
- 6.- Time of Attack.- 8.00 p.m.
- 7.- Enemy Artillery preparation.- Area round Junction SYRIA, STAMBOUL and CRAFT Trenches was shelled by 10.5 and 77 mms. shells, consistently from 2 p.m. until 5 minutes before attack, when shelling became intense.
- 8.- Action of Garrison of Post.- Opened fire with Bombs on Bombing Party in Trench and continued until they observed Party of enemy coming overland. They then dropped back to Lewis Machine Gun Post 70 yards in rear, where they held the enemy for a few minutes, but being outnumbered were ~~xxxx~~ forced to withdraw to near SYRIA-CRAFT-STAMBOUL Junction.
- 9.- Action of Supports.- Supports went forward. They were organised into a Bombing Squad with a main party 30 yards in their rear carrying supplies of Bombs.
10. Action of Auxiliary Weapons.- 2 Guns, Light Trench Mortar Battery, placed Barrage on CRAFT Trench at U.5.5.6.5. Vickers Machine Guns protected Flank East of CRAFT Trench and fired when enemy were retiring. *ad*
11. Result.- Light Trench Mortars effectively prevented enemy from Reinforcing if such were his intentions. Machine Guns claim 2 hits.
12. Enemy Casualties. One Wounded Man captured. (Since died of wounds). 8 of the Enemy observed to be hit.
13. What happened to the enemy.- He was driven back to his original position.
14. Identification.- Shoulder Strap. No Pay Book carried. 2nd Gren. Regt., 109th Division.

NOTES ON RAID - 24.7.18.

Careful registration of STAMBOUL TRENCH during afternoon.
77 mm. Battery that had not previously been used on this Area fired for the first time.
Unusual activity was noticed during the afternoon, No movement was seen near Enemy Post during the Day. This was contrary to custom.
There was a marked absence of sniping from this post in comparison with previous day.
Also new work on Mound was observed yesterday from our Block. This mound is in CRAFT Trench approx. 70 yards from our Post.

10.- HOSTILE
SHELLING.-

HOSTILE SHELLING. (See also Para. 9 Defensive Action)
Batteries most active on this Front were on bearing 138°, 127° and 118° TRUE from O.35.d.14.

P.T.O.

11.- GAS SHELLING.-

Scattered Gas Shelling occasioned no inconvenience until night 22nd/23rd July, when at 10 p.m. Enemy commenced shelling Valley O.34.b. with 77 m.ms., mainly from direction of MARCELCAVE. GAS was identified as YELLOW CROSS.

Bombardment continued for one hour and a quarter and was extended to VILLERS BRETONNEUX in the last half hour.

Rate of fire was uniform intensity, shells falling in O.35.c. about 8 per minute.

At 12.10 a.m. Shelling was renewed, this time with H.E. interposed, and a proportion of the shelling came from BAYONVILLERS direction.

Wind was roughly from South to North.

Ground was slightly damp.

Shelling was confined to a line West of Grid O.35.central, but Forward Coys. were effected by drift about 1 a.m.

All precautions were taken by this Unit to obviate Casualties. It was not necessary to move any troops from their locations, as the wind springing up at 2.30 a.m. effectively dispersed the concentration. Troops wore Small Box Respirators for over an hour in Forward Areas.

Gas Proof Curtains were let down immediately and Fatigue Parties who were at B.H.Q. were detained there under shelter.

Chloride of Lime was used here to neutralise Gas in Shell Holes.

Casualties numbered 90 and comprised, exclusively, RUNNERS and RATION CARRIERS.

12.- ENEMY MACHINE GUNS.-

Were very active every night.

Lewis Guns were the most effective neutraliser.

13.- MINENWERFERS.-

Inactive on this Front.

The only group observed firing were Trench Mortars located at U.12.a.9.9.

14.- ENEMY ATTITUDE.-

Quiet and Defensive.

15.- MISCELLANEOUS.-COMMUNICATIONS.-

About 1½ miles of additional Overland Wires were laid.

These additions were the duplicating of the CENTRE Coy's. wire to Test Centre, the linking up of RIGHT Coy. by lateral wire, RIGHT Coy. extension to Platoon Post at Junction of STAMBOUL and SYRIA Trenches, LEFT Coy. extension of line to Forward Post in Outpost Line V.1.b., and extension to Platoon Post V.1.c.3.6.

All Wires through Trenches were stapled up by Battalion Signallers. This obviated considerable inconvenience to the Fatigue Parties, etc., and contributed to the security of the Lines.

Communications throughout were most satisfactory. The Test Point where lines converged, facilitated the location of breaks, thus enabling the Linesmen to repair the lines quickly.

In the minor operations the Telephone was found to be most efficient for the control and the direction of fire.

Communication with Artillery was satisfactory, and on the 27th July was still further improved by the elimination of two intermediate stations, and the substitution of a direct buried line.

LIAISON.- Liaison with Medium and Light Trench Mortars could not have been improved upon.

P.T.O.

15.- MISCELLANEOUS.- WORKS.-
(Contd)

The Sector was difficult for one Battalion. The ground was badly shell-torn, and the renovating of old Trenches was rather profitless for the labour employed. Trench Garrisons worked assiduously at their Posts, and by a liberal use of Sandbags, these were soon put into a satisfactory condition. On the RIGHT, the clearing of STAMBOUL Trench was almost hopeless on account of the Heavy fire directed on this Area. SYRIA Trench was deepened between Posts throughout its whole length. ALLENDALE SUPPORT was in good ~~handicraft~~ ground and yielded better results. The Trench Line was deepened and Traversed and good shelters provided. LEFT Coy's. Posts were subject to constant change hence a certain amount of labour was expended without advantage. When Line became stationary, however, connecting up of Posts was rapidly pushed on with and at the time of relief six Posts on extreme Left had been connected up. 2 Night's WIRING at front of Trench Junction V.I.C.3.6. resulted in a 100 yards of the Front being wired. CRAFT Trench BLOCK demanded a special protection. Sap to broaden Front - 12 yards of this was dug. Concertina Wire was placed in CRAFT Trench forward of Block. New Coy. H'Qrs. was dugout by Flank Coys.

RATIONING.-

The rationing of the Forward Coys. was made a feature of the tour. Cookers were stationed at C.28.c. and Limber Transport carried to B.H.Q. Each night Rations were carried forward. Hot meals were invariably provided, Food Containers being used for this purpose; as well as a liberal supply of Tea and Water. Owing to the extreme shortage of men due to Casualties, the Band were brought up from the Nucleus and performed excellent work carrying Forward.

AMERICANS - "I" Coy., 3rd Battn., 129th Regiment. 6 Officers and 194 O.Ranks were attached to this Battalion on the night 27th/28th July. Their arrival was most opportune. They were distributed by Sections throughout the Line and Support Coys. They were most willing and energetic in all branches of Front Line life. Platoon Commanders were most enthusiastic over the men who were attached to them.

SALVAGE.-

Limbers were back-loaded with Salvaged Rifles, Equipment, Ammunition, etc., from the Forward Area. The value of this for the 11 days is estimated at approx. £1,500. War Museum contributions were made from material captured on the night 21st/22nd July.

WEATHER.-

Rain on the 27th inst. made the Trenches into a Quagmire, but fortunately the Weather cleared on the following day.

P.F.O.

- 11 -

15.- MISCELLANEOUS.-
(Contd.).

CONCLUSION.-

The period of 11 days was a trying one in view of the heavy shell fire to which our Garrisons were subjected.

extended The influx of the Americans helped greatly to combat the depression which the *general conditions* to engender.

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2nd August, 1918.

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 126.

Ref. Maps.- SHEETS 62.D. S.E. and S.W. 1/20,000.

29th JULY, 1918.

- 1.- The 23rd Battalion, A.I.F., will be relieved by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Front Line on the night 30th/31st July, 1918.
- 2.- DISPOSITIONS.-
 - LEFT.- "C" Coy., 23rd Bn., will be relieved by "A" Coy., 24th Bn.- 3 platoons in Line, and 1 Platoon in V.l.a.
 - CENTRE.- "D" Coy., 23rd Bn., will be relieved by "D" Coy., 24th Bn.- 3 platoons in Line, and 1 Platoon in Support, 2 Posts U.6.b.
 - RIGHT.- "A" Coy., 23rd Bn., will be relieved by "C" Coy., 24th Bn.- as per our present dispositions.
 - SUPPORT. "B" Coy., 23rd Bn., will be relieved by "B" Coy. 24th Bn.- 2 platoons in AUSSIE TRENCH and 2 platoons in Post as at present.
- 3.- GUIDES.- One Guide per Platoon from "B", "C" and "D" Coys., will report to Battn. H'Qrs. by 9.30 p.m., 30th inst., and one (1) Guide per Post from each Company will be at Company H'Qrs. to take over on arrival of Platoons.
Where necessary, these Guides will be sent to Battn. H'Qrs. to-night (29th inst.) and will report to R.S.M.
- 4.- DRESS.- Fighting Order - Greatcoat rolled in Waterproof sheet and carried on Back.
220 rounds S.A.A. per man.
2 Bombs per man.
Iron Rations.
- 5.- ADVANCE PARTIES of one Officer and approx. 8 O.Ranks from 24th Bn. will proceed to the Line to-night (29th inst).
Similar Advance Party will proceed from each Coy. on their arrival, and will move to the positions now occupied by the 24th Battn. The Party will, as far as possible, be the Advance Party of this Unit to the Line, and will carry out Billeting for their respective Coys., and will be responsible for Guides to-morrow night (30th).
- 6.- On Relief, the 23rd Battalion will move to the positions vacated by the 24th Battalion, and will be disposed as follows.-
 - "A" COY.- Will move to position vacated by "B" Coy, 24th Bn., in SUNKEN ROAD O.33.c.
 - "B" COY.- Will move to position vacated by "A" Coy., 24th Bn., in CACHY TRENCH U.3.b., TORLOTTING TRENCH in U.4.b., and 1 International Post in U.4.a.9.6. (approx. strength 1 Officer and 10 O.Ranks.)
 - "C" COY.- Will move to position vacated by "C" Coy., 24th Bn., 4 platoons in SUNKEN ROAD V.4.a., O.34.c., and TRENCHES in the vicinity thereof.
 - "D" COY.- Will move to position vacated by "D" Coy., 24th Bn., in Trench System in O.34.b.2.5. to O.34.b.1.9.

Company H'Qrs. are located as under.-

"A" Coy.	-	O.33.c.5.6.
"B" "	-	U.3.b.9.6.
"C" "	-	O.34.c.50.05.
"D" "	-	O.34.b.1.4.
- 7.- Lewis Guns will be dumped at Battn. H'Qrs. as each Company passes. Sgt. HEATH will be in charge of the Dump
- 8.- Field Cookers will accompany each Coy.
- 9.- AMERICAN Troops now attached to Companies, will move with platoons as at present disposed.

P.T.O.

SECRET.-

- 2 -

Copy No 3

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 126 (Contd).

- 10.- Trench Stores, S.A.A., Grenades, Maps, Aeroplane Photographs, Anti-Gas Oil-Suits, etc., will be handed over on relief and receipts in Duplicate will be forwarded to Battn. H'Qrs. by 10.00 a.m. on the 31st inst.
Map. Reference of Dumps handed over to be shown.
- 11.- Any Details not covered by this order will be mutually arranged between Coy. Commanders concerned.
- 12.- On completion of Relief the word "ROSE" will be wired to Bn. H'Qrs.
- 13.- Battalion H'Qrs in QUARRY 0.28.c.
R.A.P.- In QUARRY 0.28.c.
- 14.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

DISTRIBUTION.-

- 1.- File.
- 2/4.- War Diary.
- 5.- C.O.
- 6.- Adjutant.
- 7.- 6th Brigade.
- 8/12.- O.C's., Coys.
- 13.- "Q.M."
- 14.- Transport Officer.
- 15.- 24th Battn., A.I.F.,
- 16.- 21st " "

[Signature] Lient.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

Appendix

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

att 10
 23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

TRANSPORT OFFICER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING JULY, 1918.

The Transport were kept busy during the Month carting Rations Forward, which were delivered at the Cookers at 5 p.m., being cooked there and carted forward at 10.30 p.m. Also hot tea and Bacon at 1.30 a.m.

Engineers' Stores and Ammunition were also carted forward in large quantities, Pack Horses also being used for the latter.

Casualties.- One Light Draught Horse was wounded on 1.7.18 and evacuated.

Transport Sergeant and two Drivers and four Horses were Gassed on 23.7.18.

Remounts.- 2 Light Draughts were drawn from Remount Depot on 1.7.18. These were of poor quality.

One Heavy Draught of fair quality was also drawn on 11.7.18 and one Heavy Draught of good quality showing a decided improvement on Remounts drawn during the month, on 15.7.18.

not done.

31st July, 1918.

Lieut.
 Transport Officer, 23rd Battn.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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 23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

QUARTERMASTER'S SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918.

At the beginning of the Month the Battalion was in RESERVE in the CABARET SYSTEM near BLANGY-TRONVILLE. Transport Lines and Q.M. Stores being at M.18 near LAMOTTE.

Battalion moved to line on the night of 2nd/3rd July and relieved the 17th Battalion, A.I.F. and took part in the operations of the 4th July, 1918, in front of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

During this Tour in the Line, the Cooking was done in the Support Line with Dixies, Field Kitchens being left at Transport Lines.

The Brigade being relieved again on the night of 7th July, the Battalion came back to its former position in the CABARET SYSTEM. Field Kitchens were sent forward and the Battalion remained in this position until the 19th inst.

On the night 19th/20th July, Battalion moved forward and relieved the 26th Battalion on the Right of the Divisional Sector. Field Kitchens were moved up to QUARRY on the VILLERS BRETONNEUX-AMIENS Road and Rations were sent forward to there during the day, and at Night hot meals were taken up at 10.30 p.m. and 1.30 a.m.

During the Tour in the Line the Rationing was good and the men expressed themselves as well satisfied with the food.

On the 27th July, the Battalion was reinforced by "I" Coy. 3rd Battalion, 129th Regiment, U.S. Army. This Company, about 200 strong, was attached for experience, and Rations for them were drawn from the 3rd American Battalion Supply Officer, and were pooled with our own Rations and sent forward.

On the night 30th/31st July, the Battalion was relieved by the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., and moved back to Support.

ORDNANCE.

Supplies of Australian Clothing have not yet been made available, and the clothing of the Battalion is rather ragged, but as Supplies are coming to hand slowly this should be remedied in the near future.

All other Ordnance Supplies have been promptly available.

RATIONS.

Rations, throughout the month, have been EXCELLENT.

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31st July, 1918.

H. L. Jones Hon. Capt.
 Quartermaster, 23rd Battalion.

REPORT - 2nd DIVISIONAL SERGT. COOK INSPECTOR.23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

Reported B.O.R., 23rd A.I. Battalion, 8.30 a.m., 14.7.18.

Inspected "A", "B" and "C" Coy. Cookers.

The preparation of meals is performed by capable men and arranged by the several C.Q.M.S's. and the Master Cook.

Every assistance is given the Coy. Cooks, and wherever possible commodities are purchased to augment ordinary supplies.

Concentrated Cooking seems to be the order and the absence of small Messes enables the Cooks to deal advantageously with the issue of Rations.

The Cookers and environs are well kept and food well protected. I recommend the conversion of the Limber Cart into a Cutting Table and Meat Safe. A little hessian and a few boards will provide the Cooks with an excellent Table and Meat Store without adding to the Equipment already carried.

All the Charge Cooks thoroughly understand their duties. Most of them have had a course of instruction at one of the Corps Schools.

15.7.18.

Visited "D" Coy. in adjacent wood. Mid-day meal was in course of preparation. The Cooking utensils were clean and every effort had been made to abate the "Fly" nuisance.

Journeyed to Quarter-Master's Store. There was a good issue of Rations and these were well distributed.

Visited Quarter-Master's Staff Cookhouse. Considering that 2 men are employed cooking for about 20 men, their utensils and environs may be greatly improved. In fact, the abolition of this Cookhouse would not greatly affect this staff. They are usually near the Transport Cookhouse and could draw the cooked portion of their Rations from Transport Cooks.

There are no complaints of shortage of food. Meals prepared and served during ~~my~~ my stay consisted of Porridge and Milk, ~~fixed~~ fried Bacon, Curry and Rice, Boiled Joints, Irish Stew, Rice Custard, Boiled Potatoes; Biscuit Puddings are made every alternate day and the preserved Rations are made up into good nourishing meals from time to time.

Parties working in Forward Areas are usually accompanied with one of the Cookers to provide meals and hot drinks while so employed.

Every facility is given to the Cooks by the Officials and anything suggested is obtained regardless of distance and expense, the C.O. taking a very personal interest in the rationing of the Troops.

Fat Returns and Diet Sheets are kept by the Master Cook and a variety of Cookery obtains.

(Sgd) H.W. ACKERLEY. Sgt.
A.Q., D.H.Q.

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23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

GENERAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918.

1.- OPERATIONS.-

The Month was a most active one. The first six days were devoted to the preparation for and the execution of the HAMEL Attack. In addition to the usual preliminaries, i.e., establishing of Dumps and R.A.P., providing of additional Rations, Water, Flares and S.A.A. for Attacking Parties; the co-operation of TANKS was a feature that necessitated great precision in detail. The Staff Work for the Attack was most comprehensive, and the whole operation was the most highly organised that this Battalion has yet participated in. As the Unit formed one of the Attack Pivots, movements of Coys. were necessarily involved and intricate - but all difficulties were successfully overcome. This was due primarily to the intelligent appreciation by each Soldier of the task that had to be accomplished. Immediately prior to the attack, Officers made known to their Subordinates the plan of attack in every detail - action of the Tanks, times of the Barrage, and co-operation of Aeroplanes were notified and explained to each individual. In addition, the issue of Maps and Aeroplane Photographs was on a most liberal scale. The attack on the 4th JULY was entirely successful, ALL Objectives being gained with only slight opposition. On the succeeding days, this success was exploited in the most enterprising manner and, at the conclusion of operations, command over Enemy Territory East of WARFUSEE Passed to us (See Special Report).

The period in RESERVE near TRONVILLE WOOD which followed, was a pleasant one. The weather was dry and warm practically through the whole period. A certain number of Working Parties were provided, but each man was thoroughly rested.

The move to the LINE SECTOR S.E. of VILLERS BRETONNEUX took place on the night 19th/20th July, and while the object of the tour was primarily to hold the line, the role the Battalion played was anything but passive - (See Special Report).

On relief from this Sector, the men were naturally very fatigued, but Morale as through the whole SOMME Period, remains at a very high level.

2.- BATHS.-

Baths, at which Clothing was exchanged, were fully availed of at BLANGY-TRONVILLE.

3.- RECREATION.-

Was a matter of some difficulty since the whole period was spent in the Forward Area. Nevertheless, River Bathing and Cricket were indulged in by all ranks, and provided the necessary relaxation.

4.- REGIMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.-

Canteen Stocks were kept up as usual by Chaplain CLEVERDON. Regimental Papers appeared on the 15th and 31st July. (Copies attached).

P.T.O.

GENERAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918 (Contd.)

- 5.- GIFTS.- Y.M.C.A. (Mr. CARTER) made the usual acceptable Gifts of Cigarettes, Writing Material, etc.
- 6.- STRENGTH.- 93 During the Month Marchings in were.-
10 Officers. 133 O.Ranks.
Casualties, Evacuations, etc.-
10 Officers. 348 O.Ranks.
- 7.- DISCIPLINE.- Cases disposed of were.-
F.G.C.M's.- 5.
Orderly Room.- 4.
- 8.- HEALTH.- R.M.O's. Report for Month.-
"The Sick Evacuations for JULY number thirty-three (33) and are made up as follows.-
P.U.O. (Influenza).- 19.
Local Infections.- 4.
Acc. Sprained Ankles.- 3.
Tonsillitis, Synovitis, Orchitis, Balanitis, Scabies, Diarrhoea and Gonorrhoea.- 1 each.
The number of P.U.O. (Influenza) cases seems high, but the epidemic now appears to be dying out.
The remainder of the cases, as may be seen above, are of a very varied nature.
Some of the cases needed only a few days treatment. Cases could not be retained for treatment with any prospect of satisfaction owing to the nature of the accommodation."
- 9.- DECORATIONS.- Lt.-Col. W. BRAZENOR D.S.O. awarded Bar to D.S.O. (notified 26.7.18.) for distinguished services in connection with the attack on HAMEL - 4.7.18. - when in command of this Battalion which formed one of the Attack Units on Right Flank on that day.
The specific act for which the award was made was a daring Daylight Reconnaissance on the morning 5.7.18, as a direct result of which the line was pushed forward some 300 yards with a minimum of Casualties. This advance had far reaching results.
Col. BRAZENOR first assumed command of this Battalion in July, 1916, during the 1st POZIERES Action in succession to Lt.-Col. W.K. FETHERS D.S.O.
Since that time, with the exception of a brief period at the beginning of 1917 when in England, Sick, he has been continuously in command of this Unit.
His engagements include the Battles of the Ridges at YPRES, September and October, 1917; the periods at PLOEGSTEERT and WARNETON to March, 1918; and the local actions of VILLE-SUR-ANCRE and HAMEL, May and July, 1918.
Prior to the war, Col. BRAZENOR was closely identified with military pursuits, being a 2nd Lieutenant in the Commonwealth Military Forces as far back as May, 1909. He was Adjutant of the 71st Infantry Regiment for 14 months, then Area Officer for 18 months, until time of enlistment in the A.I.F.
He left AUSTRALIA as a Coy. Commander with the original embarkation, 8th May, 1915.
Mentioned in Sir. Douglas Haig's Despatch 1.1.17. and 1.1.18.
D.S.O. gazetted 1.1.18.

P.T.O.

GENERAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918. (Contd).-

9.- DECORATIONS.-
(Contd)

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Captain R.G. MOSS awarded the Military Cross.
(Notified 26.7.18.).

Joined this Battalion with Commissioned Rank on the 14th July, 1916. He went through POZIERES, where he was slightly wounded.

He returned to the Unit towards the end of 1916, and was present during the GERMAN Retreat, and participated in the various actions fought at that time.

His abilities as a Coy. Commander in these were recognised, and his Captaincy appeared 25.5.17.

Since then, with the exception of 6 months spent at the Training Battalion, ENGLAND, he has commanded "A" Coy. in the field.

The award was made in connection with the HAMEL Attack on the 4th July, 1918.

Captain MOSS had previously been mentioned in Sir. Douglas Haig's Despatch 1.1.18.

Lieut. S.J. HODGSON awarded Military Cross (notified 26.7.18.) for gallantry in the HAMEL Attack on 4.7.18. Though severely wounded, Lieut. HODGSON, who was in charge of "A" Coy., remained on duty until the Objective was captured.

His reports, even after his being wounded, conveyed most useful information.

He was an original Sergeant of this Battalion, embarking on the 8th May, 1915.

He was commissioned after the 1st POZIERES Attack.

He was present at FLERS, November 1917, and was mentioned in 1st Anzac Corps Orders for services there.

He returned from the Training Battalion, ENGLAND, in time to command "D" Coy., in the attack on the 4th July, 1918, and was wounded early in the action.

Lieut. W.O. SUMMERS awarded the Military Cross.
(notified 26.7.18.)

He is an original member of the Battalion.

He has been through every big engagement with the Unit.

He was promoted Sergeant on 15.8.16, and received his Commission on 31.3.17.

The award was made in connection with the HAMEL Operations, 4.7.18.

In addition, the following N.C.O's. and men received the undermentioned awards for services on the 4th July, 1918, in the HAMEL Attack.-

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 5833 Cpl. A.D. HUTCHINSON.
" 1939 Sgt. F.B. HEINZE.
" 5363 " A. HARRIS.

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 294 Sgt. C. BOOTH.
" 2130 L/c. J.H. CUBBINS.
" 5416 Pte. A.J. McLARTY.
" 5913 L/c. P. MARTINDALE.
" 6099 Pte. J.J. O'MEARA.
" 4679 " T.W. DYNES.
" 4407 L/c. R.E. HAMPSTEAD.
" 6171 Pte. F. QUINN.
" 778 " S. MATTHEWS.
" 2404 Cpl. F. MILLER.
" 5940 Pte. A.V. THOMSON.
" 6792a T/Cpl. A.P. BURKE.

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23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

MOVEMENTS OF OFFICERS FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918.

1.- CASUALTIES.-

The following Officers became Casualties on 4th July.-
 Lieut. G. BREEN - Killed in Action. Was a Sergt. in "A" Coy. He returned from the Officers' Cadet Battalion with Commissioned Rank only a few days prior to the attack in which he commanded a Platoon of "D" Coy. He was killed whilst courageously leading a Bombing Party down an Enemy Sap.

Lieut. G.L. NIGHTINGALE - Wounded. Joined the Battalion on 9.9.17, after which he proceeded to the Officers' Cadet Battalion, ENGLAND. Receiving his commission, he rejoined on 26.4.18. The Regimental Paper Cover design was drawn by him.

Lieut. G.W. HAYWARD - Wounded. Associated originally with the Battalion as one of attached A.A.M.C. Personnel. He was commissioned in May, 1917.

Lieut. S.J. HODGSON.- Wounded. Was an original Sergt. of the Battalion, embarking on 8.5.18. Commissioned after the 1st POZIERES Attack. Returned from Training Battalion, ENGLAND, just to attack on 4.7.18. (See also Decorations in General Report re award of Military Cross).

Lieut. E.J. O'REILLY - Wounded. Left AUSTRALIA with the Battalion on 8.5.15. For a period he was transferred to the 66th Battalion (England) rejoining this Battalion on the disbandment of that Unit, on the 29th October, 1917.

2.- ARRIVALS.-

		Dated.
Lieut. W.R.F. Love.	From 5th T.Bn.	25.6.18.
2/Lt. P.J. Smith D.S.O.	" Hospital.	29.6.18.
Capt. J. Pascoe M.C.	" 5th T.Bn.	5.7.18.
" W.J. Galbraith.	" Hospital.	13.7.18.
Major. L.T.O. Pedler M.C.	" "	17.7.18.
Lieut. G.W. Griffin	" "	9.7.18.
2/Lt. P.L.J. Foley.	On Appointment.	19.7.18.
" A.P. Burke. M.M.	" "	"
Lieut. A. Bastow	From Supy.List.	24.7.18.
" H. Long.	" Hospital.	25.7.18.
" F.J. Jenkins M.C. M.M.	" "	28.7.18.
" J.A. Wiltshire M.C.	" "	30.7.18.

Lt.-Col. W.K.S. MCKENZIE D.S.O. General List.
 Attached - 23.7.18.

3.- MARCHED OUT.-

Lieut. J.V. Roxburgh.	To 2nd Trg. Bgde.	1.7.18.
" J.A. Wiltshire M.C.	To Hospital.	26.6.18.
	(While in England)	
Lieut. H. Long.	To Hospital, Sick.	9.7.18.
2/Lt. P.J. Smith D.S.O.	" " "	13.7.18.
Capt. G.L. Hinchliffe M.C.	To Overseas Trg. Bgde.	30.7.18.

31st July, 1918.

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J. Brayton Lt.-Col.
 Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

23rd Battalion - 6th Infantry Brigade.

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HONORS AND AWARDS - 23rd BATTALION, A.I.F. for period ending 31.7.18.

D.S.O.-	4.
Bar to D.S.O.-	1.
M.C.-	21.
Bar to M.C.-	1.
D.C.M.-	14.
M.M.-	101.
Bar to M.M.-	3.
M.S.M.-	2.
Croix de Guerre (Belgian).-	1.
Medaille Militaire.-	1.
Mentioned.-	50.

Total.	199.
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1st August, 1918.

W. B. Ennor Lt.-Col.
Commanding, 23rd Battalion.

6th A.I. BRIGADE NUCLEUS BATTALION.

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TRAINING OF NUCLEUS OF BATTALIONS WHILE BATTALIONS ARE IN THE LINE.1.- ORGANISATION.-

In accordance with S.S.135, a Nucleus Personnel from each Battalion is to be left out when Battalions go into the Forward Area. In our case, the minimum number per Battalion left at Nucleus is 100 O.Ranks - exclusive of men employed on Camp Administrative Staff.

For Administration, the Nucleus is organised as a Battalion, the Nucleus of each Line Battalion forming one Company.

For Training, the Camp is organised as a School. Men marching to and from Schools, leave, or from Hospitals, are also passed through Nucleus Camp.

2.- TRAINING.-

Each Battalion's Nucleus consists of representatives of the following.-

Lewis Gun Sections.

Bombing Sections.

Rifle Sections.

Signallers.

Scouts, Observers and Snipers.

These men are put through a course of training in accordance with their various duties in their Battalions.

Classes at the Nucleus School are divided as follows.-

CLASS 1.A. - 14 DAYS COURSE.-

To give Lewis Gunners sufficient tactical and mechanical training to become Nos. 1 on Lewis Gun.

CLASS 1.B. - 7 DAYS COURSE.-

To give sufficient instruction to Riflemen to enable them to take places in Lewis Gun Section.

CLASS 1.C. - FOR PLATOON OFFICERS.-CLASS 11.A. - 7 DAYS COURSE.-

to give N.C.O's. and men knowledge of theory and practice in use of Hand and Rifle Grenades.

Live throwing is carried out.

Each Afternoon this Class goes through Bayonet Fighting and Physical Training Course.

CLASS 111.A. - 14 DAYS COURSE.- (When possible).

To give sufficient additional instruction in Musketry to N.C.O's. and likely men to make them competent Instructors.

CLASS 111.B. - 7 DAYS COURSE.-

To improve Musketry of N.C.O's. and men.

Firing on 30 yard Range is carried out. This Class does some Bayonet Fighting and Physical Training during morning.

CLASS 1V.A. - 14 DAYS COURSE.-

To increase efficiency of Battalion Signallers.

CLASS 1V.B. - 14 DAYS COURSE.-

To give a fair general knowledge of Signalling to men likely to be selected as Signallers.

Those who do well in this Course may be left for further Course to give them thorough grounding.

CLASS 1V.C. - COURSE ABOUT ONE MONTH.-

To prepare Officer and N.C.O. Candidates for Corps and Army Signalling Schools. At the conclusion of this Class Candidates are attached to Divisional Sig. Coy. for about three weeks for final brush up.

P T O

2.- TRAINING.-
(Contd).

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S.O.S. CLASS - 14 DAYS COURSE.-

For training Battalion Scouts, Observers and Snipers in their various duties and Intelligence generally.

ANTI-GAS TRAINING.- 7 DAYS COURSE.-

Each of the above Classes is visited in turn during the day and is lectured and drilled by special Gas Instructors.

At completion of Course, ALL men are put through Lac. Gas Chamber to test Helmets.

3.- CHANGING OF PERSONNEL.-

Generally speaking, the changing over of Personnel is only carried out at the completion of the various Courses as advised from Nucleus Battalion, but to meet exigencies of the Campaign, changes have had to be arranged at other than recognised periods in order to rest men from the Line who are incapable of carrying on, but who are not sufficiently ill to be evacuated in the ordinary way. Particularly has this been the case lately in regard to men who have been through a Gas Bombardment by the Enemy.

4.- HEALTH OF TROOPS.-

With the exception of men who are under observation as Gas Casualties, the health of the Troops at Nucleus Camp is Good and Sick Parades are small. A Rest Hospital in the Camp has been established for the purpose of isolating slight P.U.O. Cases which the visiting M.O. does not consider necessary to evacuate in the ordinary way.

5.- RECREATION.-

Cricket & Swimming are the principal forms of Sport. The Camp is at present excellently situated on high ground alongside the SOMME in whose waters some of the men take an almost daily dip. Cricket Matches have been played against almost every Unit camped alongside us, with varying success to the Nucleus Battalion. Cricket Material was furnished by the Y.M.C.A. attached to Brigade.

6.- CHURCH PARADES.-

Church Parades have been held each Sunday and have been conducted by Chaplains - Majors SMITH and CLEVERDON. We now have Chaplain Captain BUCKLEY in the Camp.

7.- CANTEEN.-

The Camp has its own Canteen which caters well for the requirements of the men.

8.- CAMP STAFF.-

The Camp has its staff of Hairdressers, Bootmakers, Tailors, Sailmaker (whose principal job is to cover Steel Helmets), Carpenters and Painters, who, each in his own way, are attending to the requirements of the men of the Camp.

9.- BAND.-

The Band of the 24th Battalion, A.I.F., was allotted for duty to the Camp until 20.7.18. Its place was then taken by the 23rd A.I. Battalion Band. During absence of latter on duty in the Forward Area, the Band of the 22nd A.I. Battalion assisted at Church Parade and played one or two programmes of Music.

-----000-----

3rd August, 1918.

L. Beckett Major.
O.C., 6th A.I. Bde. Nucleus Battn.

VAIRE WOOD SECTOR.

Grid Lines Approximate.

93

Scale 1:20,000.



Aero 31. B 527. S. VILERS BRETONNEUX. CÔTE 98-260. 520-10-5-18-16^H30-Alt 2500. Fo 50



B 527

Appendix

52

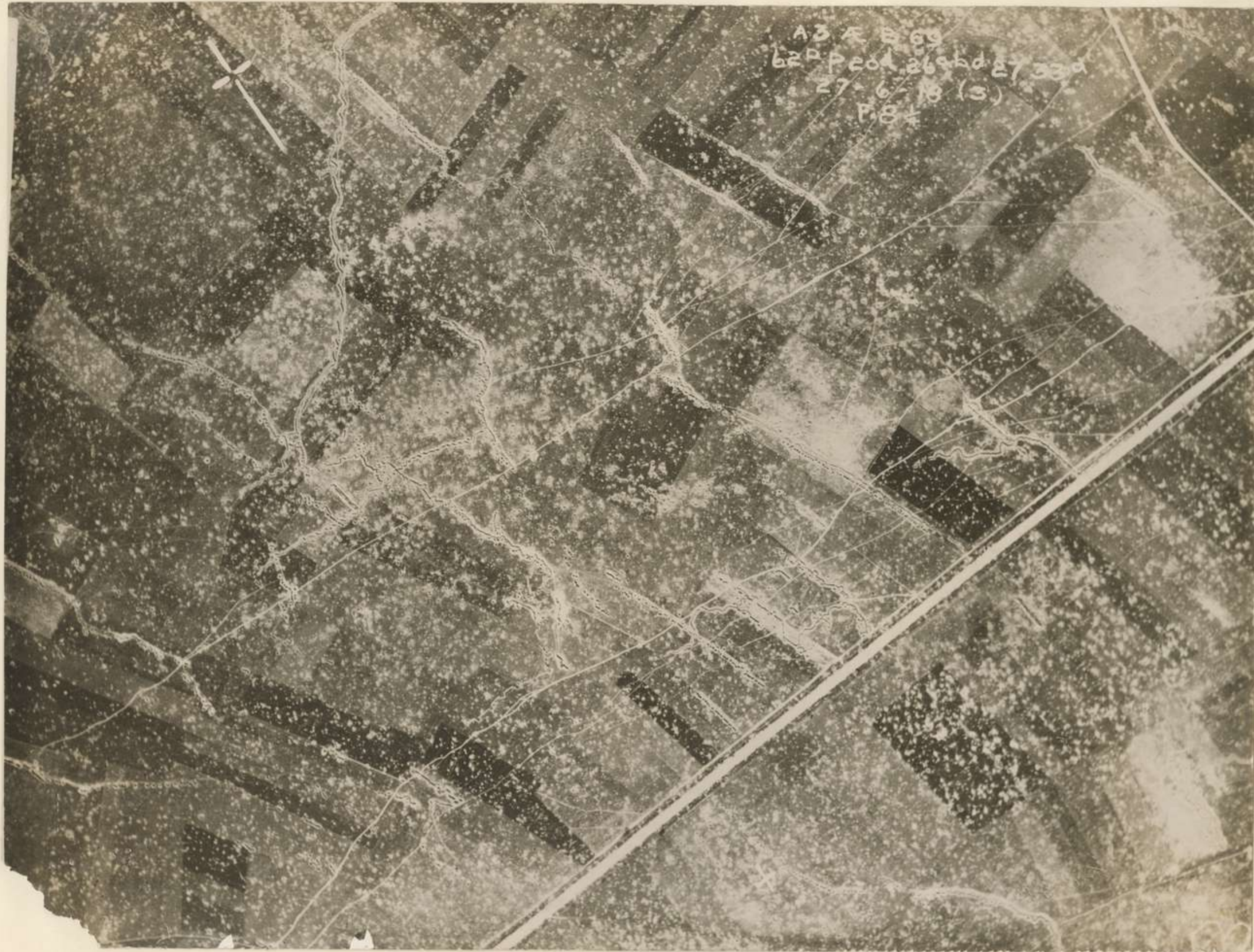




Appendix

53

23

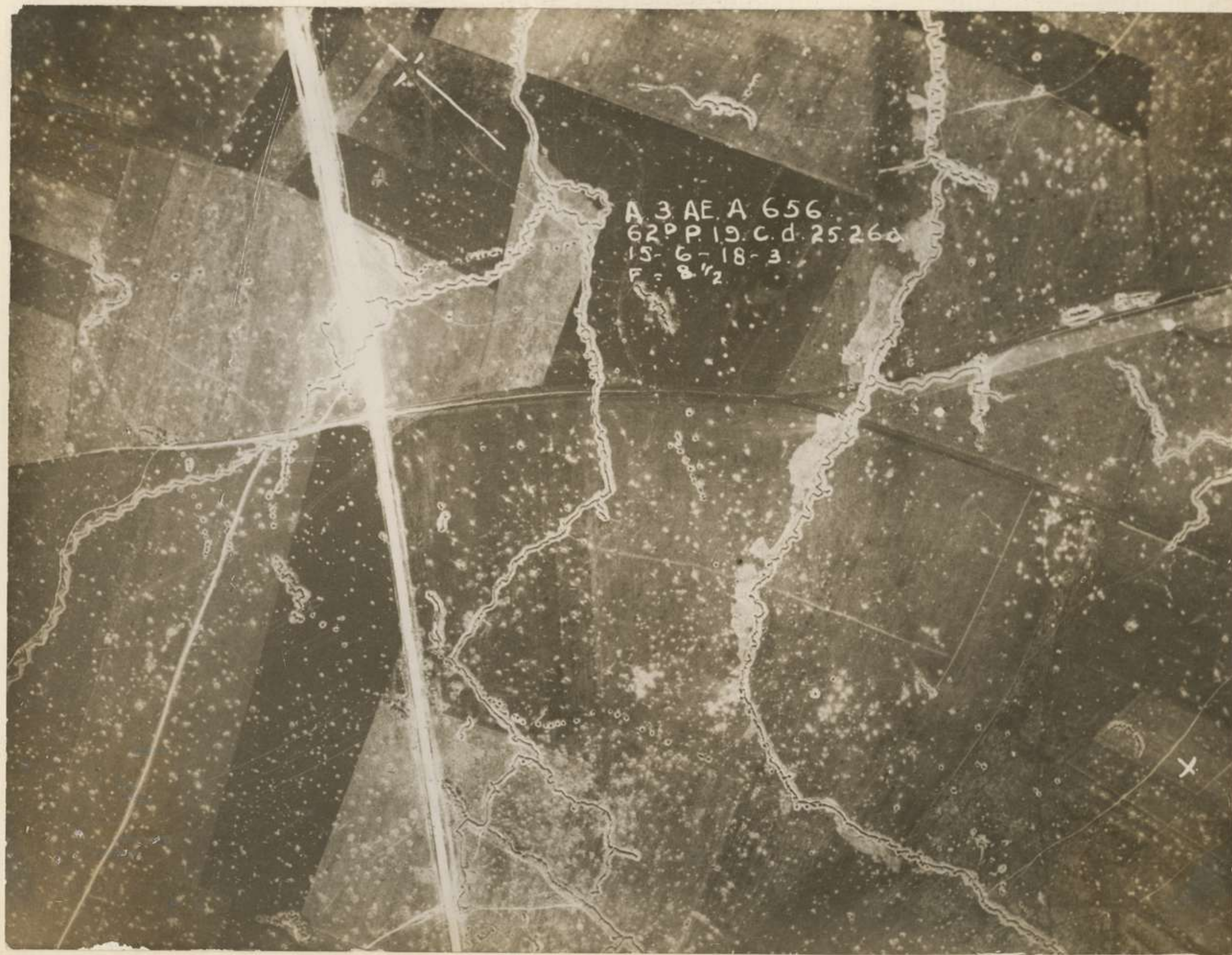


A3 A B 69
62P 204 26hd 27 33d
27-6-18 (S)
P.84

53

Appendix

54



93

Appendix

55

63



Appendix

56

10 21

10 23

23



A. 3. AE. A. 678.
62 P. U. 5. b. d. 6. a. c. 11. b. 12. a.
16. 6. 18. 8
F. 8 1/4

Appendix

57

38 B



Appendix

38 B

86



A. 3 AE A 676
62nd 0.36 d.P. 31. C U.G. b.d. V.100
16-6-18-8
F-84

Appendix 1

59

53

273



93



Appendix

60



63



Appendix

62



Appendix

23



Appendix

64



93

Appendix

65

23/24

S = minus 2

20/21. Passover French

21/22.

22/23



Handwritten signature in black ink.

Handwritten signature in blue ink.

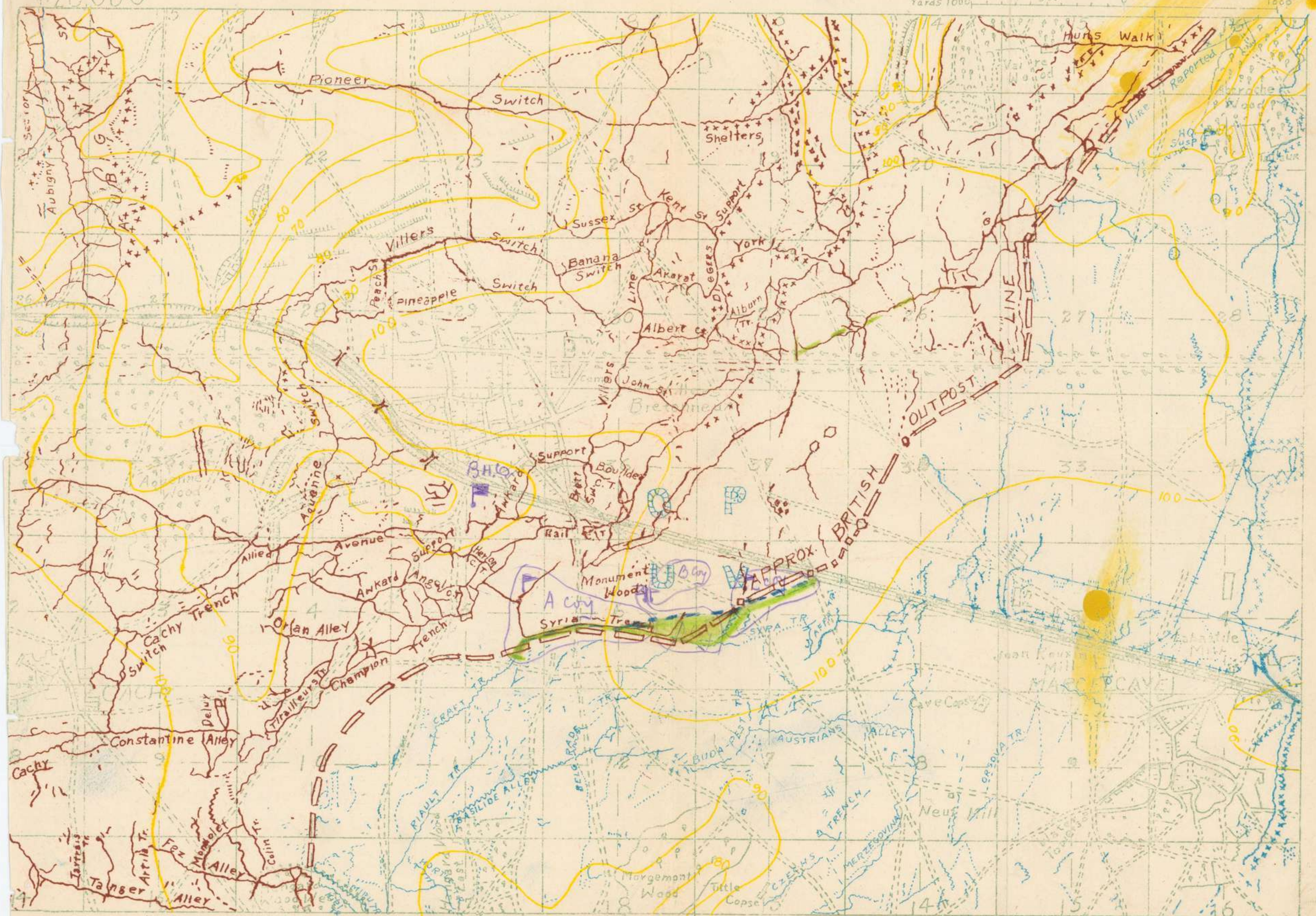
Coy Dispositions
shown 30.7

23rd Battalion MORTEMONT WOOD

GROUND WON 20-31 JULY 66
old line shown - - - APPENDIX

93
1:20,000

SCALE OF YARDS
Yards 1000 500 0 1000



Enemy Trenches - Blue
British " Red

TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 19-7-18

CORPS Topo Sect.

The Voice of THE The Battalion

"FORWARD" "UNDETERRED"

15th July, 1918.

PRICE 10 Cents

LINE-AIR

GALLIPOLI · LONE PINE · ARMENTIERES
POZIERES · BAPAUME · BULLECOURT
YPRES · BROODSEINDE · PLOEGSTEERT

"Be pattern unto
grosser men and
teach them how
to war."

25-5-18 G-11

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

GREETINGS.

The following extracts from a letter written to the Colonel by Capt. Dawson, now with the Indian Army, will no doubt prove interesting:—He says—“We arrived safely at Bombay, and after lingering there for 24 hours started on a journey of 1500 miles to the frontier station, Kohat. This occupied three days and four nights. Travelling in this country is different to anything I had yet seen. The train compartments are huge, and usually have four beds in them. There are electric fans and bath-rooms, one each of the latter for ladies and gentlemen. The four of us from the old Brigade all came out together, but were split up on arrival at Bombay. Lloyd went to Lahore, Bunning to Quetta, Cawthorn to Bannu, and he is the nearest of the two to me, some 80 miles away. I was very fortunate indeed to be posted to a splendid regiment of the Frontier Force.

The regiment has been twice on service abroad during the war, once to France, and once to East Africa, and we expect to go out again in the near future. The station is a very pretty one indeed, and has the reputation of being one of the best in India. It is situated at the foot of the ranges, which form part of the north-west frontier of India, between us and Afghanistan. There are three Infantry regiments and one of Cavalry in the Brigade.

I was delighted to find that the Brigade-Major was Major Wyllly, V.C., who used to be on the Corps Staff, so I am not altogether friendless. Strange to relate this station was at one time under the command of General Birdwood, and the foundation stone at the entrance porch

of the church was laid by him. There are two Australians here, one named Barclay, in the 109th Infantry, and another, Boileau, in the 37th Lancers.

I note in the cables that the Besche is keeping you busy, and I read with pride that the Australians' work and valor was “magnificent,” to quote the cables own words. I sincerely trust that you and the dear old 23rd are quite O.K. It seems incredible to read of the fall of Bailleul as it is not so very long since I was in hospital there.

Best wishes and good luck to the regiment.”

TANK AND AEROPLANE.

Just as King Sol was rising from his couch in the Orient, and after the “orrible ‘Och” had been routed from a certain portion of “le bon Dieu's” fair domain in the recent “over the bags” exploit, the “caterpillary” female tank, “Mabel,” came in her long, rolling, nautical stride (not exactly a lady-like deportment) along our advanced line, looking for a bit of excitement, she being at the time well primed up, but there was “naught doin’” so jauntily swinging round, the modern Amazon arrogantly pratted her huge frame toward the other heavy stuff, including the “bull” tanks ‘way back, and it was an exceedingly pretty sight to see one of our airmen gracefully glide his ‘plane down alongside, evidently to convey felicitations for elephantine work accomplished, and continued to be her light fantastic partner for some considerable distance. It was a significant sight to see these wonders of the “blue ethereal” and “terra firma” promenading in what was before the sun sank in the Occident, the previous evening, “No Man's Land.”—C.P.



YPRES — BROODSEINDE.

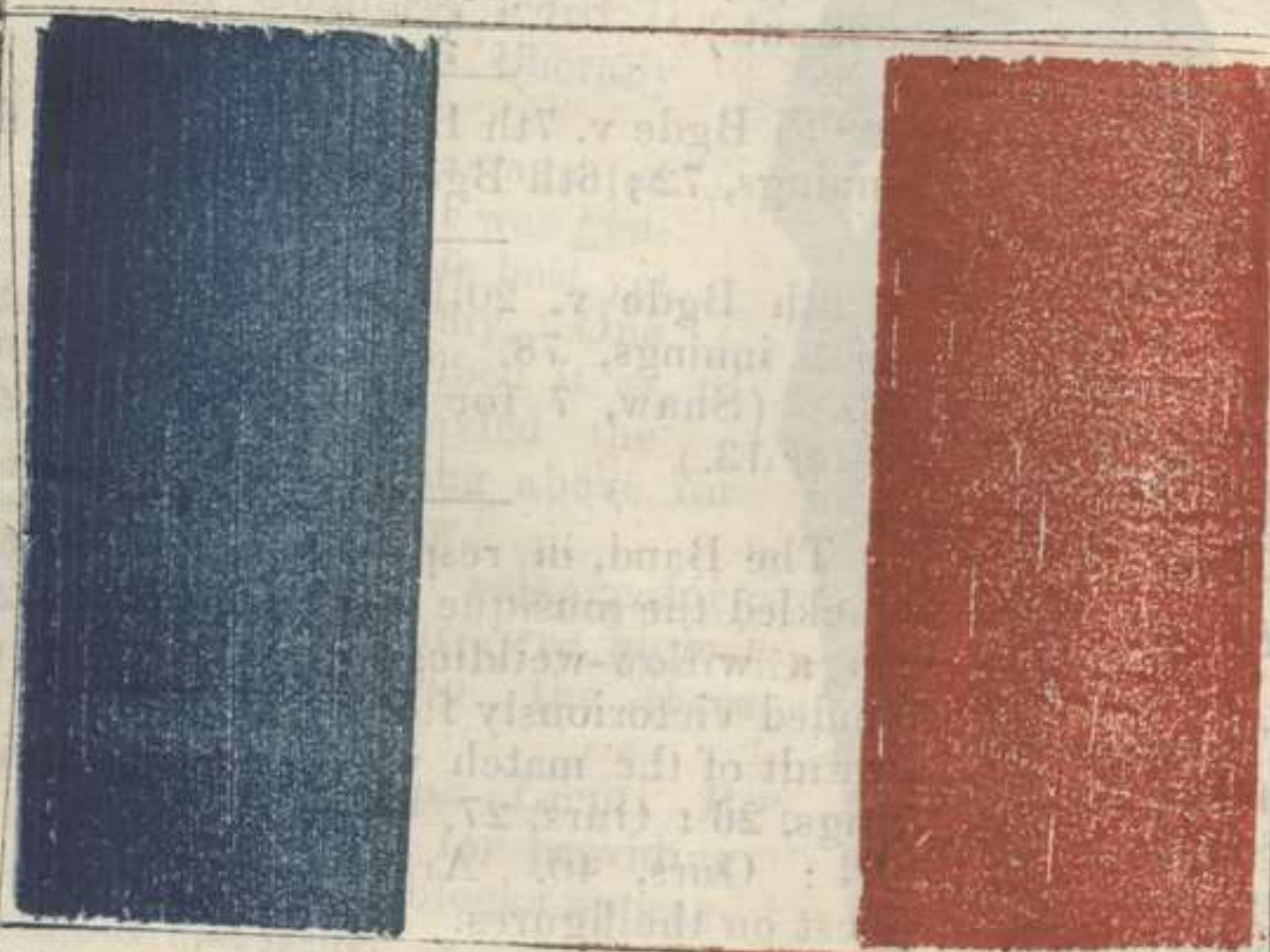
No. 19.

15th JULY, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

TO OUR ALLY.

--:0:--



"Vive la France!"
 Nation of gallant men
 and noble women.
 We Australians greet
 you on your annual
 fete day, and join the
 other nations fighting
 with you and with us
 in a fervent hope that
 by the help of the
 Omnipotent your
 next great national
 day will be celebrated
 with the flags of vic-
 tory flying from every
 flagstaff, as the sym-
 bols of a promise
 fulfilled, viz., to fight
 on until the end for
 freedom, peace and
 honor. As united

have we been in our travail for Humanity's sake, so should we remain
 in staunch friendship thro' happier times—welded closely by the suffer-
 ings of a long four years of warfare.

THE FUTURE.

During the last week Australians out of the line were addressed by Messrs. W. M. Hughes and Joseph Cook, who are representing Australia at the Imperial War Conference. Both our statesmen received a splendid and attentive hearing. Particularly were their utterances appreciated when they gave the assurance that Australia had at heart the true and best interests of the fighting men when they returned to their Homeland. This note struck deeper than the expressions of pride in our achievements which were also conveyed by our representatives on behalf of Australia,

The fighting man, who has come away and is paying the price of liberty, realises more than ever the great heritage which is his to enjoy when he returns to take up his duties as a citizen. Let us one and all keep in mind our duties and responsibilities to our Sunny Land, and realise the power we may wield as citizens in shaping the future destiny of Australia.—W. B.

IN MEMORY.

The unveiling of Murel Tablet, erected by the Employees' Guild of the Ballarat Co-operative Distribution Society to perpetuate the memory of the late Lieut. Neil MacDonald of this battalion, who died of wounds at Poziers, has taken place. The official unveiling was carried out by Lieut.-Colonel Morton, and the Mayor of Ballarat (Hon. Alex. Bell, M.L.C.) presided. The ceremony was a most impressive one, and included an address by Chaplain-Capt. John Walker.

SPORTING.**CRICKET.**

Inter-Battalion and Brigade matches have been played in the nucleus area with the following results :

21st—1st innings, 92 ; second innings, 89 ; total, 181. 23rd—First innings, 79 ; second innings, 93 ; total, 172.

Won by 9 runs.

23rd—First innings, 62. 24th—First innings, 19. (Horton, 7 for 4 ; Lieut. Milligan, 3 for 12.)

22nd—First innings, 47. 23rd—First innings, 42. (Adcock, 12 ; Carter, 13 not out.)

6th Bgde v. 7th Bgde.—7th Bgde, first innings, 72 ; 6th Bgde, 53.

6th Bgde v. 20th A.S.C.—6th Bgde, first innings, 78. A.S.C., first innings, 30. (Shaw, 7 for 14 ; Lieut. Milligan, 3 for 13.)

The Band, in response to a challenge, tackled the musique dispensers of the 21st in a willow-weilding competition, which ended victoriously for our musicians. The result of the match was :—21st, first innings, 26 ; Ours, 27. Second innings, 21st, 24 ; Ours, 40. Arthur Green was our best on the figures.

FOOTBALL.

An Association game was played last week between the 6th Brigade and 74th Brigade (French Zouaves.) The result was—6th Bgde, 5gls ; 74th Bgde, 2gls.

July 15.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

5

GENERALITIES.

Lieut. Torode and Lieut. Geo. Hayward occupy neighboring cots in a London War Hospital. Both doing well.

We have heard from our late M.O., Dr. Orr. The "little Doc." is O.K. and wishes us well.

Lieut. Val. Roxburgh is now on a Training Brigade in the "Old Dart."

S.M. Foley has been given a Commission in the field. So has Cpl. Burke. General opinion—well-earned.

Lieut. F. Holdsworth is at a Corps School. So is Sgt. "Robbie," D.C.M.

The 6th Brigade magazine, the organ of the Melbourne branch Australian Comforts Fund is to hand. It quotes liberally from our columns.

The preliminary barrage put up in the recent stunt was generally voted one of the best yet presented to the enemy. One of our officers described it as "beautiful," and envied the daring airmen hovering above for "having a better view."

In the valuation of salvage for the weekly period ours was highest with a dip into the three figures.

We have to thank Lieut. P. Harris, of "Aussie," for providing us with a number of blocks appearing in our last issue.

Much surprise was evinced when planes were seen dropping ammunition to our advancing men, the other day. A greater surprise was that of a party of A Coy.'s warriors. They had captured an outpost, and after a time an

enemy plane came along and kindly left with the newcomers the previous occupants' rations.

After the football match, Brigade officers (three per battalion) dined with the officers of the 74th Zouaves, and an interesting and enjoyable evening was spent, notwithstanding the difficulties of conversation.

The C.O. is again Acting Brigadier. Premier place in the battalion is "Pip" being filled by Colonel McKenzie.

The G.O.C., on his recent visit, was perfectly frank in his remarks in reference to relief, etc. His candour was appreciated too.

Capt. Clues, whose interest in the battalion is undoubted, has been instrumental in securing quite a quantity of useful material. Thanks.

Major McIntyre, M.O., who for a long time helped to alleviate our bodily ills and aches, is in charge of an adjacent C.C.S., so we are told.

The boys much appreciate the "tanks" on their Hun-routing excursions. Their ugly appearance and ungainly movement are in themselves sufficient to put the "wind up," but when their "for'ard" belches into a flame of spitting slaughter, our sympathies should be with the enemy.



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FISH--AND FISHERMEN.

Still the craze increases, and finny specimens, large and small, continue to be caught.

The usual number of "whoppers" have been missed during the period.

The honor of capturing the champion has been rudely wrested from us by an ardent angler of another unit.

Still in aggregate weight of fish, we are well in the running.

The palm for anglership has been willingly given to the interpreter of a sister Brigade. He is recognised as a past-master of the art.

Our Padre has had one or two tries with the rod and line. But his patience is not of the kind that endureth.

"Mull," of the transport, has created a new departure by securing a couple of elusive eels. Guess "Dad" had some job in preparing same "a la somor."

Exchange of fish stories are now of nightly occurrence, and, of course, the Murray cod tales predominate. It is an old recognised fact that great fishers are accomplished deviators from the narrow path of truth, and, listening to the various experiences of these latter day swingers of the line, one sadly arrives at the conclusion that they are no better than elder fishers when the world was younger.

There is great secrecy and deceit about bait, forcing writer, who seldom mounts Pegasus, to blossom into verse, thus:
If you lie about bait, remember thy lips are sealed,

And the brand of a fish is upon him by whom is the secret revealed.

If there be trouble to fishers, and truth of the brightest can clear,

Lie, while you have the bait, or a fisherman is alive to hear.

BATTALION SPORTS.

Following are the results of the recent battalion sports, held over from last issue:---

Musical Chairs--Northby, 1; Jarvis, 2
Band Race--Green, 1; Dawson, 2.

Siamese Race--Engel and Higgins.

Wrestling on Horseback--Sgt. Wright's team.

Obstacle Race--Yeoman, 1; Robinson, 2
550 yds Race--McMillan, 1; Brakey,

2; Lt. Dodgshun, 3.

Long Jump--Green 1; Higgins. 2.

Potato Race--Wilson, 1; Yeoman, 2,

Mile Walk--Sgt. Lloyd, 1; Stanley, 2;

Welsh and Carter tied for third place.

Officers' Mule Race--L. Newcomen.

Mile Foot Race--L.-Cpl. McMillan, 1;

Lt. Hayward, 2; Sgt. Wallace, 3.

HONORS AND AWARDS.

The following have been awarded Military Medals:--Sgt. Booth, Cpls. Miller and Burke, L.-Cpls. Cubbins Martindale, and R. E. Hamstead, Ptes. McLarty, J, Quinn, Matthews, Thomson, O'Meara, and Dynes.

PROMOTIONS.

To be 2nd Lieuts.--C.S.M. Foley and Cpl. Burke.

To be Sgt.--T.-Sgt. Robertson.

To be T.-Sgts. -- Cpls. Hynes

Prothero.

To be Cpls.--L.-Cpls. Clark, Findlay,

Ellem, and Collins.

To be T.-Cpls.--L.-Cpls. Dellar, Low and Lemmer.

To be L.-Cpls.--Ptes. Leopold, Thorpe, Plunkett, Taylor, O'Rourke, and W. Meyer.

July 15.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

7

AMONGST THE BOYS.

A Government Grant.—The R.Q.M.S.

Pat's got the "Pip!" Are we pleased. What?

Jerreo-the-did" is some cable layer. So is his pard, "Toby." The "anti-air-draft" isn't picked.

Sgt. Mounier's job—a big picture production he played a partin was to hold a bridge up on his back while eight men did combat for it. Just suit Alf. we should imagine.

Incidentally he was offered the management of the Aussies' Concert Party, and during furlough did a few days' cinema acting for a big picture production. He played the strong man hero in "The Wrestler of the Rajah," and did it well.

The Yanks refer to a prospective hop-over as "a big march." Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet?

An anxious question as a 'plane approaches.—"What time does the balloon go up?"

Lance-Cpl. Sermon is in the War Hospital at Bath, undergoing an operation for a wounded leg.

It is the opinion of a well-known Sgt that Bishop's Knoll, Bristol, is the greatest Hospital in England. Perhaps—and there are others.

Military Terms.

No 4



A number of the boys are being sent to the seaside for a spell.

Picture a soldier—ex-fourth estate—in an awkward predicament between a tea container and shells in legion. It wasn't a case of "splashes" weekly, but every second—and sparks. Did he like it? Not on your life, "Jim."

We are indebted to Pte. Hellyer for the drawing of sketches and silhouettes which will appear in due course. Also for numerous mechanical jobs. Previous silhoutte studies have been by Pte. J. M. Harkins, of "the staff."

Tears welled in his dark blue eyes, Thoughts flew to childhood's past; Was it of remorse that never dies? No, lad, he was merely slightly gassed.

CONGRATULATORY.

The following messages have been received by the Battalion in reference to its successful action early this month:—

From Commander-in-Chief British Armies in France and G.O.C. Fourth Army:—

"Will you please convey to Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash and all ranks under his command, including the tanks and the detachment of 1st American Division, my warm congratulations on the success which attended the operation carried out this morning, and on the skill and gallantry with which it was conducted."

"In forwarding this message, the Army Commander desires most heartily to congratulate the Australian Corps, and especially on the way in which the scheme was drawn up, and the gallantry with which the operation was carried out. The part played by the tanks and the artillery was a prominent factor in bringing about success, and reflects great credit on them."

The following letter was sent to the Brigade Commander by General Sir W. Birdwood:—

"Just a line of heartiest congratulations on the good work carried out by your brigade in the completely successful operation yesterday morning. Evidently things could not possibly have gone better, and the greatest credit is due to you and every man concerned in it. I shall be so grateful if you will pass on my very hearty congratulations both to battalion commanders and all their men."

From O.C., 1st Australian Div. Signal Company, to the Colonel:—

"I have written to the 1st Inf. Brigade in the endeavour to express the appre-

ciation of the Signal Service for the work performed by the officers and men of your battalion upon cable burying whilst in the present area.

The standard of work performed, and the rapidity with which the tasks were effected, has yet to be excelled."

From Major-General C. Rosenthal, commanding 1st Australian Division:—

"My heartiest congratulations to yourself and your brigade."

THE BAND VISITS.

On an invite from American comrades, the band "hiked" to co-operate in the celebration of France's Day recently. A short pleasant trip brought the purveyors of crochets and quavers to the scene of festivities—a neighboring camp. After an exchange of greetings, and a cup or two of cheering fluid, everybody was in festive mood.

The band played a march for a pipe opener, and then proceeded to dispense that rag-time melody so dear to Yankee hearts. They joined in the chorus songs in a most appreciative and wholehearted way. Gounod's "Faust" was then rendered for those of the French Army present, who seemed to prefer the sentimental, but after that "rag" held sway for the balance of the afternoon, the program being brought to a close by the rendition of America's own "National Emblem" march and the French National Anthem. A few words of thanks were expressed by a French soldier, unfortunately not understood, except by elaborate gestures and gesticulations, which evidently meant to convey to all present that it had been a most enjoyable day, and that Allied unity was at last very real.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

BILL!

Bill joined the battalion during the recent touring duty in the line; not quite in the front trench, for I am not sure he has that courage. But while one of the companies was in reserve.

He walked into the dug-out while a couple were playing a game of poker (I hope the Censor passes this!), and was immediately invited to make a third. Two at the game is very dull. As he did not reply, his silence was understood to mean consent. He was dealt a hand. "What are you doing, Bill?" Still an unperturbed silence. "Damn it, man, can't you speak?" "Well, never mind," remarked the other players, "we'll judge his hand for him." They did so, and he didn't win the round. You see, drinks were desired, and who better to pay for them than Bill.

And Bill didn't seem to mind. He merely grinned facetiously. And so the game went on. Bill always had his hand, but he never made a call. And invariably he lost. But when all was ready for settling, he suddenly rose and made as though to leave. "Where are you going man," they cried in chorus. It is said he muttered something like ravine. But the word was lost—at all events, it was stated he walked out with a periscope over his shoulder. And most of us know the ravine was in the front line.

And that was Bill's introduction to the battalion.

The next day everyone heard of the mysterious visit. "Have you seen Bill?" became the universal query. In fact his presence remains a mystery to this day.

His poker game remains unconfirmed, except by those two players.

He is still reported to visit a game of bridge or poker. Always in the evenings when the severity of discipline is relaxed. Some assert he swims and plays cricket occasionally. Don't believe it. He hasn't the courage. Perhaps he may be seen making an uneven way to his dug-out at midnight. Who knows. Still, who is Bill? anyway.

HOPE

(A Mother's Prayer).

Hope! sweet as scent of morning air,
And bright as glistening dew-drop fair;

Hope! stay beside my darling boy,
And bring him bliss without alloy.

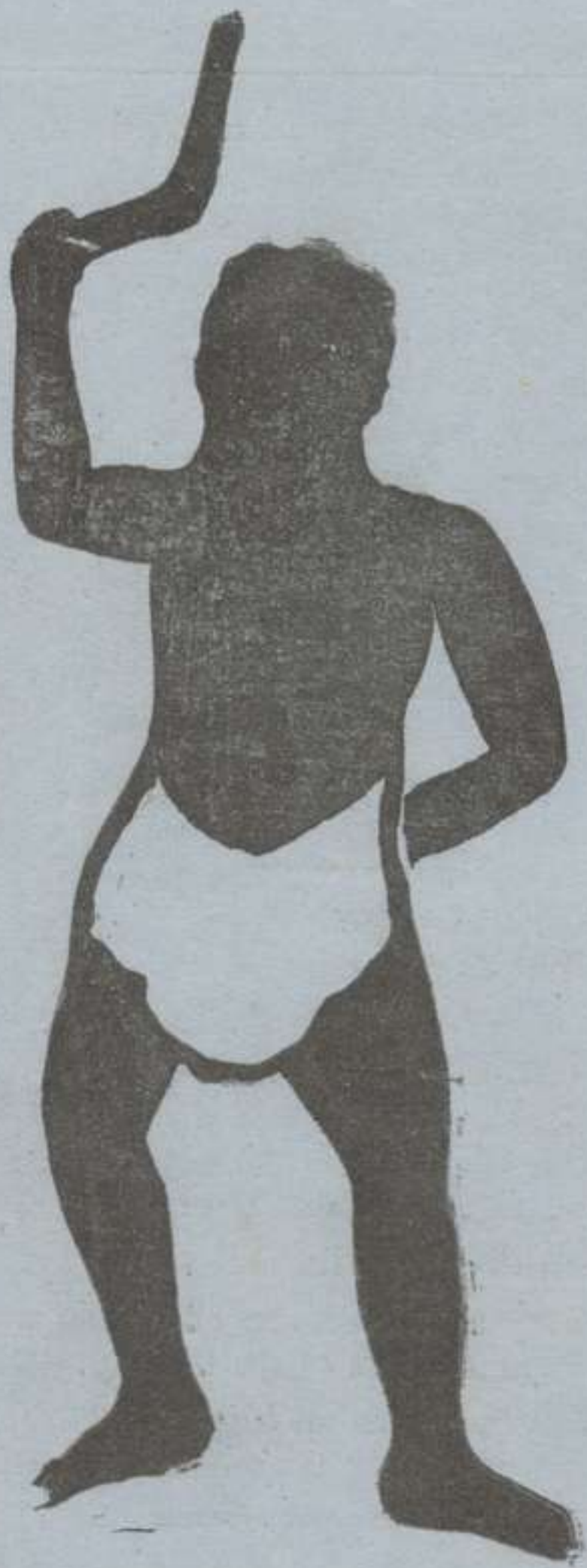
Hope, like a rosebud wet with dew,
Bring him fair dreams which will come true.

Hope! never leave him night or day,
But from thy brightness send a ray.

Hope, may thy Presence cheer his way
Till he comes home again to stay.

Hope, Joy and Peace, blest three abide
With him whatever may betide. M.P.

Lieut.-Colonel W. Brazenor, D.S.O., Commanding Officer, has received the following congratulatory message from Australian Corps Headquarters:—"Dear Sir, The Corps Commander directs me to thank you very much for the copy of your Battalion publication which you were so good as to send him. He read it with great interest. Yours sincerely, C. N. Simonson, A.D.C., Australian Corps."



—
"Australia
will
be
There."
—



Printed and Published by Cpl. H. Ford,
in the Field.



TRAINING.

When out of the line the main principle to be followed is to make fit every man individually and collectively in military knowledge, so that when he is next called upon he will be so trained that no matter what obligation comes his way he will have reached a proficiency sufficient to attain the object in view.

What a change the old soldier must notice in the training of to-day as compared to the time he enlisted. Though the old principles still apply Lewis gunnery, anti-gas measures, bombing, use of rifles, grenades, scouting, and intelligence are only a few of the multiple subjects taught.

The object is to make each subject interesting, and the chief aid to this is a spirit of competition and the avoidance of the constant repetition of the old days. How often has the instructor been seen marching his squad in a small area with no change of movement for 15 minutes, when by 5 minutes drill he could possibly secure a maximum number of movements, which would have been of greater value and interest to the soldier, ensuring keener mental activity. On these lines our commanders hope to secure proficiency. A wise proposal, which has borne fruit, is the introduction of organised games as part of our training. To Australians nothing could have been more encouraging, and every man is induced to become an active participant, in some form of sport. Certainly since its introduction the gallant operations by the A.I.F., prove that this form of training has improved in our fighting force both their mettle and morale, the two greatest essentials to a unit on active service.—W.B.

BATTALION SPORTS.

Our sports took place recently under ideal weather conditions, and with the aid of our own band, and a Scotch pipers' combination, the day was a merry and interesting one. Following are the results of the events:—

100 yds. Handicap.

First heat—Lt. Hayward, 1; Sgt. Morrison, 2; second heat—Cpl. Garden, 1; Pte Northby, 2. Third heat—Cpl. Hutchinson, 1; Pte. Grohs, 2. Final—Hutchinson, 1; Grohs, 2, Hayward, 3.

Tug of War.—D Co. beat H.Q., B beat Transport, C beat A. Semi-final—C beat B, D a bye. Final—C beat D.

220 yds.—First heat—Pte. French, 1; Lt. Hayward, 2. 2nd—Pte Engel, 1; Cpl. Hutchinson, 2. Final. Hutchinson 1; Engel, 2; Hayward, 3.

Sack Race—Pte Dawson, 1; Pte Pierce 2. Hop, Step, and Jump—Pte Appleyard, 1; Pte Nuttall, 2; Lt Dodgshun, 3.

Hurdle Race, 120 yds.—First heat—Dvr. Workman, 1; Sgt. Kew Ming, 2. Second heat—Pte Hoasten, 1; Lt. Madrell, 2. Third—Cpl. Garden. Fourth—Pte Higgins, 1; Pte McKenzie, 2. Final—Higgins, 1; Garden, 2; Houston, 3.

High Jump—Pte Appleyard, 1; Cpl. Holman, 2; Pte Carroll, 3. Height, 5.1.

Wheelbarrow Race—Ptes Richardson and Clark, 1; Dawson and Wilson, 2.

Officers' Race—Lt. Dodgshun, 1; Lt. Clayden, 2; Lt. Lowe, 3.

Relay Race—H.Q. team, 1; C Coy., 2; A Coy, 3.

440 yds Race—Lt Hayward, 1; Pte French, 2; Kew Ming, 3.

Further results will appear next issue. Also Brigade carnival.



No. 18.

1st JULY, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

REMEMISCENT.

The accompanying picture is a reproduction from a photo of the late Major E. T. Brind, taken while on leave in Blighty, which unfortunately had to be left out of the souvenir through it being unprocurable at the time. Major Brind was one of the originals of the Battalion, and left Australia with three star rank. He was this unit's first adjutant, and received his majority in May, 1916. Missing in action at Pozieres on July 27th 1916, while in command of B Coy. In



MAJOR E. T. BRIND.

private life the late officer was prominent in rowing circles, being an oarsman of interstate repute. His record as an officer of the Battalion was one we were all proud of, and his influence over his company was great indeed.

Recently while passing through a park one of America's soldiers was greeted by a young lady, who asked him, "Are you going to France?"

"No," answered the Yank, "I am going to Germany." So much like our own thoughts in the beginning.

WAR IN THE SUMMERTIME.

The tour of the front line work just ended might be called by several names. It was "War" under very novel and interesting conditions. Imagine it an epoch of drab colors, mud and travail. Conditions were novel in that our posts were set in parks and gardens, crops of standing corn, beside a running stream, which reminded us of the good day's swimming we enjoyed when in reserve. To those of us who knew this same countryside in Dec.-Jan., 1916-17, the change was striking. In daytime, the time for a snatch of sleep, our lads in some of the posts crawled out of the narrow trenches into the long grass where they basked and slept. Conditions were more than usually interesting on account of the varied nature of the ground covered by our sector. Within our boundaries lay an important railway, a river, a well-timbered patch with heavy undergrowth and grasses, as well as country bare but for more or less grown crops.

We were not entirely without an issue of excitement either. Our patrols, under Lieuts. Lowe and Smith, with Sgts. Dixon and Robertson, south of the river, kept the wily Hock thinking seriously. Several times did our "big, brave Anzacs" get well and truly into touch with him. Each time the Hock, no doubt, returned to his lair a sadder and wiser man.

Beautiful weather prevailed, and we had an easy time of it as regards shelling, with the exception of the night we came out, when things livened up a bit for an hour or two.

Our late R.S.M. Wilby was particularly unfortunate in receiving the full contents of a whizz-bang while riding a bicycle on his way back to the support area. He was wounded in no less than

fifty places. Back at the dressing station, while the R.M.O. set a badly fractured limb, he smoked a "Woodbine" and preserved the fortitude of a true Anzac. The shock, however, proved too much, even for his iron will and constitution. One of our officers achieved great distinction in a single day by his endeavors to preserve the valuable life of our respected Brigadier from the Billjims. He steered a successful course thro' our front line and wire into No Man's Land, while our unsuspecting boys slept peacefully at ten a.m. There are one or two proverbs which are applicable, e.g., "Fools rush in," etc., "Where ignorance is bliss," etc., "All's well that ends well," and so on. (Cook's have written to say they have no use for the services, as a guide, of an officer with fair hair, a large smile, and who cannot talk in his sleep.)

The Battalion caught some gas shelling on its journey out, but the precautions taken have fortunately cheated the Hun and C.C.S. At the time of writing we are having quite an easy time. Any account of our trip in would be incomplete without a reference to our attempted raid on a Hock trench, recently. Although we were not as successful as might be, we are not disheartened, and we should be sorry to be a Hock when next our raiders get into holts. As was said by one in high command, "the efforts of our raiders and those who organised the affair deserved a better fate." The result goes to show that the Hock is not the fool that we sometimes take him to be.—C.A.F.

What was the Hock thinking while our boys were "in"? Not "who is in the line against me," but "Ven vill doze Gottdam Australians relieved pe. Mein Gott, I haf nod der sleep had for many nights!"

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July 1st.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

5

AMONGST THE BOYS.

Serg. Ramsdale writes a cheery note that he is again smiling in the sunshine of a well-known seaside resort. He expects to be imshied out tout suite back to the battalion.

'Rammy' remarks that they don't see many trips across the silver streak. He plays cricket and tennis too. Gad!

On being reprimanded by a Colonel for not saluting, a recent reinforcement gave as an excuse that he understood the —th Brigade didn't salute in the forward area.

During the Brigade sports Fritz did drop a couple of his small iron foundries, but they didn't get a prize. 'Spouse he thought he ought to be represented.

Definition of an Australian, according to a Tommy:—"A brown lanky bloke, who calls his cobber a cow."

Serg. W. Gamel is now ploughing the deep across the blue that leads to Young and Jacksons. So is Private Armstrong.

A certain private of ours whose birthplace happens to be a Foreign country, while on patrol lately, was challenged with the usual "Halt, who goes there!" The reply -- "Ve vos Australians," sounded rather strange.

Corp. "Jim" Romaine of ours is now almost the oldest "pro" in the Hun-killing business, as far as the A.I.F. is concerned. He is still going strong, and is a good soldier and good fellow.

Serg. Dick Richards of O.R. and 'Bing' the typewriter terror, were recently baptised by immersion, to wit, precipitated into the angry waters of the lake. Neither is amphibious either.

MILITARY TERMS.

NO. 2.



Going over the bags.

American officer's reply to query as to absence of inevitable batman: "Guess fighting's the business in this country, not making a mirror of your God dam shoes."

Pioneer Tom Prentice reports his farlough overdue. After having it he expects to soon be back amongst the thunder and lightning.

Serg. Mounier writes from Sutton Veny that he's O.K., and has met Serpts Stewart, Milne, Vains, Connolly, Thomson, Hamilton, Pobjay, Bowles, Heindrickson, Hurst, Manning, and others.

Sergt. Capp and L.c. Corke have gone to O.T.C.

From Major Pedlar we hear that among the homeward bounders and prospective ditto appear the following names: Ptes. T. Funge, G. Doak, J. E. Fraser, McWhaire, A. G. Adams, H. C. Clark, E. J. Graf-nedge, Taylor, Ingram, and Spall.

OFFICERS' CHAT.

Capt. McGregor and Lieut. Jenkins are both at Sutton Veny. The Captain has a pretty bad limp.

The deepest regret is felt, particularly by A Coy., at the unfortunate circumstances of the loss of Lieut. Gordon Breen, M.M. His soldiering qualities were undoubted, and his popularity as an N.C.O. and during the short time he wore a star, was battalion wide.

Capt. R. L. Poulton has been locum tenens to our M.O., Capt. Barbour, during his absence in Blighty.

It is typical of the comradeship in the battalion that the C.O., the second in command, the Adjutant, and the Q.M., are often seen having a game of cricket, and an officer invariably umpire's the scratch matches played. Incidentally the Major bowls a pretty good ball.

Apropos of cricket, "the doc," Capt. Barbour, who has an Australian interstate reputation, didn't do quite as well as we thought he might in England. Still we are proud of him.

The H.Q. officers' mess in a recent support area was unique in one respect. It had more doors in it than any construction of its size in the world. In fact it was made entirely of doors salvaged from ruined villages near by.

Our adjutant had a "long run," but kept his wind well till the Hun took it with a piece of plonker, which fell in the B.H.Q. Do damage done, however, we are glad to say.

Lieut. Weir has stepped up to Brigade temporarily as S.O. He will there have wider scope for his energies, if he can be persuaded that he is really something more than a glorified clerk.

Major Bateman is on a visit to the land of lovely lakes and charming colleens, shure.

FISHING—AND FABLES.

Angling has claimed the spare time of a number of the Battalion members lately.

As fishing and fables are inseparable some high grade romancers have developed.

Numerous stories are afloat regarding "beauts," ranging from 11lb to 25lb, that have been missed.

Every imaginable kind of bait has been experimented with, from the issue bread to the gaudy dragon-fly that haunts the reeds.

Even ye progeny of ye baleful blowfly has been tried to tempt the provoking piscatoria.

There has been an early rising competition also, some of the Izaak Waltonites endeavoring to wake the bird that catches the proverbial worm.

Not even the most ardent rod manipulator has secured enough of the finny tribe to feed even half the multitude.

Notwithstanding, some very fine catches have been made.

Were it not for the unsportsmanlike blowing up of fish, it might be an angler's Paradise.

The Press were fortunate in hooking quantum sufficit for a fish? supper before the rush set in.

Dafter, Higgins and Co., are credited with the capture of the largest fish up to date, about 2lbs in weight. Since this event the craze has spread to orderly room and other highly important quarters.

By the way, the Americans are about to can whale flesh in view of a possible shortage of food. Gee!

July 1st.

THE TWENTY-THIRD

THE FRENCH PEASANTRY.

MANNERS MAKETH MAN.

It has been all along an accepted axiom among English people that the French have perfect manners. But such generous recognition has been toned down by the suggestion that such perfection is largely superficial. They may be more outwardly polite has been the argument, but when it comes to true courtesy the French cannot compare with us. Such generalisation has been confirmed by the tourist on one of his hasty week-end trips to Paris, when doubtless he was cramped in some scramble on an underground station. His dignity was insulted and he returned to England firmly convinced that despite his expressive gestures the Frenchman has little true politeness. But like most generalising on foreign nations the truth is more apparent than real. To live among the French peasants—who after all represent the only criterion for judgment—is to be vividly impressed with the extreme delicacy of feeling that marks the French people. For what are good manners but the open recognition of the right of other people to consideration, even at the expense of yourself. They are founded in sympathy and expressed in action. And so, when we meet them in whatever circle of life we know that we are face to face with gentlemen and gentlewomen, however lowly may be their lot. And when we apply this to the countryfolk, with whom a soldier on active service spends so much of his leisure time, we find that they meet admirably the conditions.

What finer courtesy could be shown than the reception given to the Battalion when they moved out to rest after a long spell in the line. Though the hour was in the early morning hot coffee and omelettes were ready at many billets. And that was consideration shown to strangers. Under the influence of intimacy the same fine manners were revealed. Did a soldier come in tired and need a chair was not one placed instinctively at his disposal? Up would rise a boy or girl at a sign from their mother and make the offer. If that be superficial manners then it is a very exquisite form. And so in all the small details of daily existence. They never forget "bon jour" or "bon soir"; as the door blows open by a distempered wind, it is immediately shut by an observant peasant girl; is a plate or glass wanted, how quickly and willingly it is fetched. Nor is such refinement kept only for visitors. It is seldom that a child receives a little gift from a soldier without a warning from the mother or elder sister to say "merci beaucoup."

It was in the writer's experience to live with a mother and daughter whose father was at the war. The mother could neither read nor write, yet the upbringing of her young daughter would have been a model for a prince's house. In none of the smaller refinements of social life was there any passing over or neglect. And when you came to the deeper intimacy of sex relations there was the same quick understanding. Tease the girl with the enjoyment of a walk with a soldier and she would reply gravely that her father would be "tres fach" if he thought she indulged in such harmless pleasantries. Though they might earn the paltry sum of a few pence per week as a means of livelihood.

these two women moved about their narrow household, ladies to their fingertips.

And so we learn thro' the medium of daily intimacy that the manners of French folk are not dependant on education, and if they are not dependant on that they must be inherent in the social training of the nation. And allied with the country is an independance of thought that flashes out again and again in conversation. There is no servility in their delightful manners. No bowing to a possibly superior class.

FUN AT THE FRONT.

[By "Tomski"]

It was my good fortune to witness a very amusing and interesting spectacle recently. Camped near here (D.A.D.O.s) is a D.A.C., and all the mules being considered fast, and each supposed to be faster than the other, caused some argument amongst their respective drivers. All this was settled by a race of three heats and a final. Much betting eventuated, and queer the mules looked as they lined up at the starting post. Every color of the rainbow, and other indescribable tints were represented. The jockeys wielded sticks, whips, and branches of trees, some four inches thick, while all wore spurs.

"They're off!" Away they go with much noise, bustling, and ear-wagging,

each rider a trier for position. They go fairly under way with ears back and tail straight out. Coming round the turn some of the "Donks" were not nimble enough on their feet to take the corner cleanly, with the result that they shot off the course and into the wood, while others bumped and struggled with each other until they straightened out enough to continue on their way. The thuds of the varied instruments of torture on the animals' ribs sounded like a bombardment. At last the field thins out, and three are left in the running. Leading is an old rusty black mule, who goes along like a ball, without bending his legs. This "donk" specimen differs from the others, inasmuch that he has enormous ears, which, contrary to the rest, he keeps straight out in front. Struggling with "Rusty," for first place is a mouse colored mule, very fleet of foot, but cannot pass the other. At one period "Moussy" seemed like heading off "Rusty," but the old fellow bounded straight into him and pushed him off the course. (I think "Rusty" had been at the game before.) However, after a close and exciting finish "Rusty" won by his ears, poked straight out, while "Moussy" laid his back, thus losing him the event. The win was very popular, both mule and rider being loudly and deservedly cheered as they proudly walked in the ring.

This space is reserved for you to write in. DO IT NOW.

July 1st.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

A GRIEVANCE.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,—Will you please bring under the notice of the "powers that be" through the medium of our journal, the indiscriminate manner in which the available supplies from our battalion canteen are distributed. Would you kindly inquire why certain of our ranks are able to purchase (through the back door) "the cup that cheers" in an almost unlimited quantity, per petrol tins, buckets, etc., whilst many of we other mortals can hardly get sufficient to wet our whistles. Furthermore, why are the prices charged invariably higher than, for instance, the Y.M.C.A., or other brigade canteens.

Yours, etc.,

THOSE THAT FIGHT.

Lieut W. W. Anderson, the war museum officer, paid us a visit the other day. "Andy" takes a great interest in his job, and came along to see a number of trophies secured by the boys in some of their recent adventures.

DECORATIONS.

Since last issue, the following honors and awards have been granted to officers, N.C.O's. and men in the battalion:—

D.S.O.--2nd Lieut. C. J. Smith.

M.C.--Lieut. J. A. Wiltshire; T. E. Lowe.

D.C.M.--Sergt. V. Dixon, M.M.

M.M.--Lc. J.

Petrie, Private E. Auty.

M.S.M.--R.Q.M.S.

G. Grant, Serg. H. Cockburn.

PROMOTIONS.

The current promotions in the unit are as follows:—

Lieut. (temp. capt.) to Capt.--R. L. Lincker.

Temp. Sergt. to Sergt.--W. Larkin.

Temp. Corp. to Corp.--A. J. McPherson, P. A. Ward, F. L. Prothero.

Lance Corp. to Temp.-Corp.--A. Launder, C. T. Hollingsworth, J. A. Schmidt,

A. Bourke.

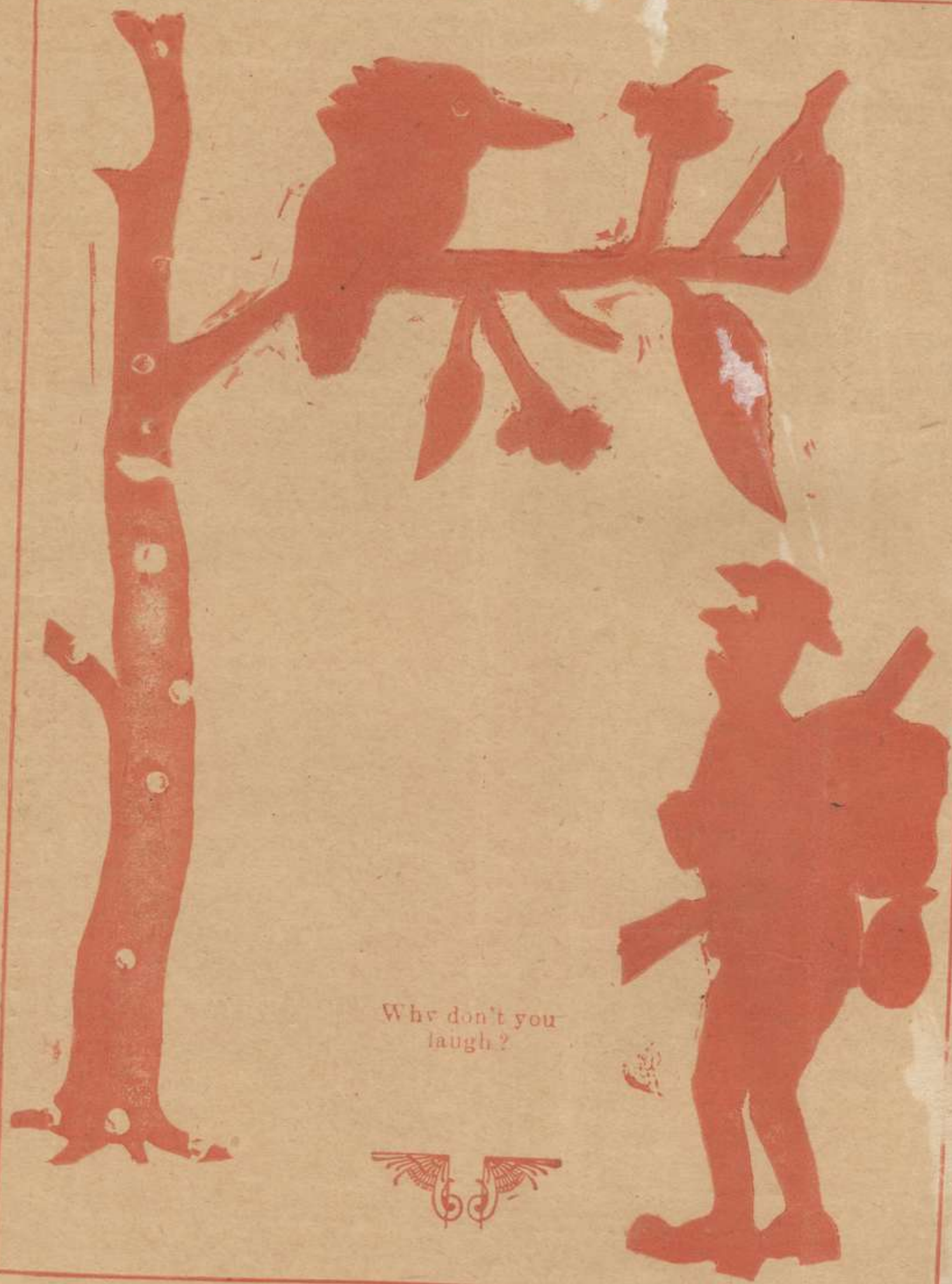
Promoted Lc. Corps.--Ptes. J. Ross, D. R. Gorrie, W. E. Bray, T. Melville, N. Summers, E. S. Yeo, C. Book, C. W. Speed.

Promoted Driver.--G. H. Aitkin.

Weather Report.--Gusty and windy. Not good for Fritz. Bad for pill dropping.

No 3





Printed and Published by Cpl. H. H. Ford, on the Field.

The Voice of THE The Battalion
 "FORWARD" "UNDETERRED"

1st
AUG.,
1918.

PRICE
10
Cents

THE BATTLE

CALLIPOLI · LONE PINE · ARMENTIERES
 POZIERES · BAPAUME · BULLECOURT
 YPRES · BROODSEINDE · PLOEGSTEERT

FOR HOME :—
 Oh, how my heart is
 yearning
 (And oft it's near
 despair)
 For those who're
 fondly waiting
 These earthly trials
 to share.

25-5-18 G.L.N.



THE TWENTY-THIRD.

WHERE WE ARE.

VI.

On guard. Before a great city—the enemy's objective of but a short time ago in a spasmodic rush for the goal so much desired, but never will it be realised. Although metaphorically "on guard," and assisting in acting as a buffer previously between a peaceful populace and hordes of ambitious and merciless invaders, we are not stationary by any means. The tables have turned, and the object of protection recedes gradually to the rear and ominous sound of the guns are less heard by those plying their peaceful vocations. The national motto, "Advance Australia," is maintained valiantly and truly by harrassing, persistent and determined tenacity, shattering the aims of the Bosch, and forcing him slowly and surely from whence he came at tremendous sacrifice. Although gaining ground and inflicting punishment consistently, it is pleasurable to note the remarkable low ebb of casualties, notwithstanding a trip "over the bags" and other strenuous duties.

The weather has been favorable lately, and necessary work is carried on in circumstances much more pleasanter than at certain periods of the year. The numerous woods surrounding are beautifully green and delightful to the eye, despite the ferocious despoilers' daily attempts at destruction from long range. Ridge and valley slumbers under blue skies and snow-white flitting clouds. The deserted villages bear silent testimony that the

dread, ravaging monster—War—cruelly descended in their midst, but effort of complete devastation frustrated. The trenches are dry and easy of perambulation, thereby assisting in the work of consolidation, etc.; roads are more pleasant on the march; bivouacs are comparatively comfortable, and there is water abundance in most parts for ablution of domestic use. The great boon of bathing is indulged in and greatly appreciated by the boys when relieved of spell from trench vigil and fatigue.

Our trans-atlantic cousins having joined in the fray, intermingle occasionally splendid comradeship, and confidence exchanged as only mutual admiration allows. The newcomers have been brave and have already set a standard of courage and efficiency worthy of the world's greatest Republic.

THE BADGE OF "HONOR."

I knew a man of industry,
Who made big bombs for the R.F.C.
And pocketed lots of £ s. d.—
And he (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I knew a woman of pedigree,
Who asked some soldiers out to tea,
And said "Dear me," and "Yes, I see"
And she (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I knew a fellow of twenty-three,
Who got a job with a fat M.P.,
Not caring much for the infantry—
And he (thank God) is an O.B.E.

I had a friend, a friend and he
Just held the line for you and me,
And kept the Germans from the sea,
And died—without the O.B.E.
Thank God he died without the O.B.E.
—London Typo. Journal.



YPRES — BROODSEINDE.

No. 20.

1st AUGUST, 1918.

Price, Ten Centimes.

FRONTISPIECE.

The cover design on the front page of this issue is the work of Lieut. G. L. Nightingale, of B Coy., and embodies all the original ideas, as well as the motto and honors of the Battalion in a new theme. We feel proud that it is altogether the idea of the artist, for we have made a practice of carrying on the little journal on lines entirely our own. Mr. Nightingale, who in private life is an art teacher of high repute, was unfortunately wounded in a recent encounter, but we wish him a speedy and complete recovery, and trust that many more specimens of his talented work will appear in the columns from time to time.

It is four years ago this week since the blare of trumpets resounded throughout the world, calling to arms the defenders of Liberty and Justice against a tyrannical foe. The tide of victory has swayed erratically, but the ultimate predominance of Right is without doubt. The beacon of Hope gleams brightly ahead.

"KAMERAD; KAMERAD!"

I ought to shoot 'im where he stands—
A whinin' 'Un, with lifted 'ands—
For 'e called me "Kamerad!"
Me, wot's fought 'im clean an' fair
Played the game, and played it square;
'E crucified my pal out there—
An' 'e calls ME "Kamerad!"
You low-down, stinkin' 'ound o' 'ell,
I've seen the work you do so well;
Don't you call me "Kamerad!"
You, wot shells a 'elpless crew,
Wot rapes and murders women too;
A blasted blackguard thro' and thro'.
An' you called ME "Kamerad!"
You bloody, bleedin' blinkin' 'Un,
After wot you've been an' done,
Don't call ME "Kamerad!"
I ain't no bloomin' 'ypocrite,
There ain't no 'alo in my kit,
But when you comes to this, I quit;
Don't call ME "Kamerad!"—A.L.

Physically "Billy" Hughes weighs seven stone. An enquirer desires to know the weight of his arguments.

"Joe" Cook, who was here the other day, is not an army cook. His "stu's" are political.



HUNTING IN ONE NINE ONE EIGHT.

"Say, Digger, I hear we're going to relieve the Germans to-night." Thus one of the Anzacs in the old front line the day prior to the "glorious fourth," to our Divisional Commander, who was round "just to have a look at the boys" before the hop-over in the morning. Receiving a glance and smile for his wit, the "live" Anzac quickly saw the opening for the "hard word," and added, "what about a bit of relief for us, General?" This reminds one of another story of which the unconscious author was the well-known and admired senior officer at present attached to us. The C.O. of the "Base" was going the rounds of inspection. Halting before a party fallen in in front of their tidy tent he saw one man whose face he remembered. Like an old soldier he halted and spoke to the "digger." Moving on, these words fell from the mouth of the man next to him spoken to—"Strike me — pink! An' 'e never put the 'ard word on for leave. Out 'e goes outer this — tent." But this is digressing from the story of the stunt.

In the line twenty-four hours before "zero," to get a knowledge of country, the time was spent polishing bayonets, cleaning specks of dust off rifle bolts and Lewis guns, looking carefully at our precious "Mill's," and straightening the pins slightly. Time dragged slowly, especially the last hour or two, until at 1.30 a.m. came the order to file out of the trenches. This we did noiselessly and found the J.O.T. Forming up into our proper positions in the long wheat crop, we were not much troubled with enemy fire, altho' chubby Cpl. Ellis, M.M., of B Coy., met his end "on the tape."

"Say, Bill, that's a 'dinkum' barrage," was heard amidst the roar of harrassing

fire at 3.2 a.m. It was nothing to what was to come, however. At 3.10 the noise was hellish, and over we went. It is at this moment that a man knows no sensation of danger, pain, hunger or thirst. His nerves are strung to the highest pitch of excitement, which carries him on. A short distance to go, a short sharp fight here and there, and the objective trench is ours, except for a small section in the gap between B and D Coys. Our boys are bombing along already, tho, and Fritz gets out and dashes for the crops in rear. Many never reach it, and those that do have a sorry time, for now a noise like a hundred aeroplanes thunders down on us, and over our newly-won trench glides our latest monster tanks. They put the fear of God into Fritz, and give us a feeling of security so that we can proceed to organise the captured trench against a possible counter-attack. "A" Coy., on the left, had further to go, and their duty was to establish a chain of posts between "B" Coy. left flank and the right flank of 21st Battn. This was done, and done well. It remains to be told how, later in the day, our C.O. personally reconnoitred the captured position, and also a "possy" offering a better site some two hundred yards in advance; how we occupied this additional ground, how we found Fritz quite demoralised and forced for want of C.T., and owing to our commanding position, to send rations to his forward men per aeroplane. We shall only add that fourteen more machine guns and other trophies are now labelled "War Museums, Australia," and that many Hunnish Hocks are labelled elsewhere.

Weather Report.—Back to summer, after numerous downfalls of rain for a day or two. "Beaucoup" mud, but drying quickly. Ariel warfare "non est."

1st August.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

5

GENERALITIES.

The paragraph in last issue referring to the C.O. going to Brigade is incorrect. We were misinformed.

We all rejoice in the honor done to our C.O. in gaining a bar to his D.S.O.

No Company will be prouder than "A" Coy. in the knowledge that their popular O.C., Capt. Moss, has been awarded the Military Cross.

Lieut. S. Hodgson is another of the officers whose gallant conduct and useful work has been recognised.

Lieut. W. O. Summers is also a recipient of the hall mark of duty nobly done.

Three D.C.M.'s have been won too. The gallant trio being Sgt. E. G. Harris, Sgt. F. Heinz, and Cpl. Hutchinson.

With the twelve M.M.'s, as published in last issue, this is a fine record of honors secured during the past period in the line.

Lieuts Nightingale and Hodgson are at present in No 8 General Hospital.

Major Bateman, who has just returned from leave, remarks that he met Lieuts Lorimer, Addison, O'Rielly and Kirkwood while in England.

Capt. J. Pascoe and Lieut. Bastow are with us again, both hale and hearty.

Capt. Hinchliffe has gone for a half-year's duty at the Overseas' T.B.

We have heard that Lieut. Addison, of ours, has been declared fit for general service.

Sgt Kew Ming goes to take part in the ceremonial of 2nd T.B. for six months.

The following message, under date of 22nd July, has been received by the C.O., from the Brig-General:—"Dear Colonel,—My heartiest congratulations on the success of your last night's achievements. They were splendid, and the results most important. Will you please tell the officers and men who were responsible for the success how pleased we are at their efforts. Kindest regards. Yours sincerely, J. C. Robertson."

Cpl. Hill has been sent across the silvery sea to the Overseas' T.B. and Sgt Hynes will soon follow.

Crochets and Quavers,

There is missed from our midst the stately white horse and its rider leading the ration limbers. We wish Sgt. Col. Wright speedy recovery.

The Y.M.C.A. tent at the transport lines has been greatly appreciated by those going and returning from leave or schools.

According to a magazine which has gone exhaustively into the man power of the various belligerents, the Huns are still six million strong.

Buck in, boys, and wipe 'em out. We want to get home.

As there are numerous enquiries from officers and men who have returned to the unit after a period of absence, for back numbers of this journal, we beg to state that copies cannot be kept unless a personal notification is received as soon as possible after evacuation. The object is to supply each member of the Battalion with a copy, and circumstances do not permit "hoarding" of paper.

Cricket reports will appear next issue.



CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CANTEEN.

To the Editor "23rd."

Sir,—In your issue of July 1st, under the heading of "A Grievance," two allegations—"Favoritism and Overcharging"—are made against the canteen staff. In justice to them some reply is necessary.

With regard to the first charge we will admit that, at times, petrol tins of beer were taken away from the canteen, but only to the extent of five francs' worth to each Company cookhouse when it was asked for, and on one or two occasions, a limited quantity to the Transport. This concession was made to place the cooks and the men of the Transport—who were all engaged about their duties when the beer was on sale—on an equality with the other members of the Battalion. Apart from these two instances no "favoritism" in the distribution of "the cup that cheers" has been shown.

With reference to the charge that the prices in the canteen are "invariably" higher than those ruling in the other Brigade and Y.M.C.A. canteens, one of the two things is the case; either the writer shows a pitiful ignorance of elementary English, or is purposely maligning the staff. The latter alternative we refuse to believe, and will, therefore, charitably conclude that he is unaware of the real meaning of the word "invariably." Will not the dictionary, Mr. Editor, bear us out in defining it as "without exception?" Such being the case, if it can be proved that any one article is sold at a similar price by any other Brigade or Y.M.C.A. canteen, then his statement is palpably misleading and untrue. For the information of "Those that Fight," however, it may be stated that "the powers

that be" toured the various canteen mentioned and compared prices, with the result that in practically every instance the charges made were identical. The exceptions were in the case of good which had been purchased at French shops, and which had to be sold at higher prices than if we had purchased them at the E.F.C.

We welcome enquiry, but of your kindness, gentlemen, in making charges, do not be so sweeping indefinite, but quote something specific, and if the charge can be proven, "the powers that be" will undertake to have any abuse rectified and cause of complaint removed.

In view of these facts, Mr. Editor, may we be pardoned if we think that those who made such charges would have been acting much more fairly if they had not sheltered under the cloak of anonymity but had let us know to whom we were indebted for the kindly (?) interest and attention.

On behalf of the Canteen Staff.

"One who has also fought,"

Pte. M. A. HEARN, No. 741.

TEAR GAS!

The Right Spirit.—S.R.D.

Got the Spike.—The hedgehog.

Why was "Horrie" Savage? 'Cause "Bairdie" whistled.

Soldiers as a rule sleep well. Because they lie easy.

Never salute with both hands. It disconcerts the officer.

Of a kind that doesn't melt away.—The French Soldat (h).

— AMONGST THE BOYS. —

"Ever Forward!" stoutly maintained.

An 'Orrible 'Eat.—Pork and Beans.

A hint for slow old England.—Hughes it.

It's a long "line" that has no turning.—Soldier's proverb.

A man who sees a lot of the Seamy Side.—The Tailor.

A Hun who was making things hot as a machine gunner, said, when captured, that he had been a drum beater in a London theatre. "That's all right," said one of the "digger" fraternity, "you'll be a dead-beater before long."

Military Terms.

NO 5



A returned leavee says while in England he was teaching some of the girls how to swim. It's about the only thing they don't know.

"Beer" is the subject of contention in another column. Give us more. Not of controversy.—Beer.

Pte. F. Locke, suffering from a shell wound in his hip, writes to say he has passed through a successful operation. He sends his regards to all the boys, specially D Coy.

Cricket.—Our Details met those of the 26th, and were defeated by two runs.

It is whispered that a certain Transport officer was recently seen working under heavy shell fire with a pick and shovel—stars and tunic removed. Hum! good. Doing his bit with the boys.

A cook's "understudy" lately received a parcel from home containing tea, sugar and milk—and after four years of war, too.

Australians only know "retreat" as a bugle call in way back camps.

Angling ought to come easy to those swinging the lead.

The men of the transport have just done well. In the absence of an engineer's fatigue, a

few of them set to work and quickly dug an alternative track to the front line that shortened the route by a quarter of an hour's travel, as well as made the trip safer. Among the best were burly Jim Rayner, and our old friend "Gouge" Clark.

Aug. 1st.

FRANCE'S FETE DAY.

As everyone knows Sunday, 14th July, was France's great national day, and was not only celebrated in her own fair country, but right throughout the far-flung lands of her Allies. How gloriously and bravely she has borne herself in this fierce conflict against the Teutonic aggressor seeking to subjugate all the free people of the earth has been told over and over again. What valor at Verdun! What heroic visions that name calls up. The very trenches there cemented with France's best blood. Yet, after her bleeding and fighting, this wonderful nation is advancing against the despoilers—a veritable Goddess of Vengeance! France, with her glorious history, will again be, as she has in the past, "the gem and wonder of the earth."

The French troops were "en fete" on

that day and entertained a number of our boys with "beaucoup" of everything. On their red issue wine the Australians drank to "la belle France," and the French, in their polished manner, drank to our distant land, and praised us for being jolly good fellows and valiant fighters. One dusky soldier, belonging to the "Legion d'Afrique," spoke English "tres bien," and had quite an audience of the red and brown diamonds around him. He was kept plied with questions and matters of no military importance. It was perfect how he punctuated tales told by our boys about their wonderful, sunny continent, with "Surely now; by the Lord God!" Souvenirs changed hands, and night had drawn on her sable raiment ere the "Aussies" departed to their billets, taking with them pleasant memories of many pleasant hours spent with their famous French comrades, among the tall poplars.

This space is reserved for you to write in. Do it now.

THE TWENTY-THIRD.

"TOMMY."

"Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life," etc. How often can the old Biblical quotation be applied to those who have gallantly fought and faced death—for a pal, for an officer, for King and country—and died as only a soldier can.—His duty done. "Tommy" was a soldier with an accent on the first and last syllable. As good a lad as ever donned a uniform, or carried a pack thro' France and Flanders. A sunny son of a sunny country—a comrade in every possible sense of the word. When "Tommy" wasn't cheerful, well, there wasn't anything left to be cheerful about. In the height of summer or the depth of Europe's snowy winter it was almost a tonic to hear his "tres bien" in reply to the customary "How are you, Tom?"

As "factotum" to a popular platoon commander he appeared to be his pride and joy, and they were more like brothers than officer and man, for in times of stress, the same funk-hole in the trench often accommodated the two, with the remark jocularly passed that it was with them like "the babes in the wood." It seemed that one was as "mascot" to the other.

He was one of the early enlistments, and came away with the Battalion when it set out on its since completed thousand days fighting enterprise. He weathered the stormy times of the Peninsula and the Pine. His anecdotes of those days were told with a truthful simplicity that was pleasing to reinforcements of later dates. Even in France his lucky star was in the ascendant, and altho' taking a proud and prominent part

in almost every stunt of note, he escaped the serious attention of Fritz's artillery again and again.

There came a time, when in action during one of the Battalion's most strenuous northern periods, it happened that a large portion of the trench was blown in, and a number of officers and men buried 'neath the earth. "Tommy" was the first to extricate himself, and it was his diligent work in gallantly digging (altho' badly shaken) that was responsible for the lives of those who were saved, his officer amongst them, but badly wounded.

Recognition came in the shape of a medal militaire from the Belgian government for gallant conduct—a decoration deservedly awarded.

The exigencies of war brought about the officer's evacuation, and caused a change in the routine of Tommy's life. The same manner, but settled into a quiet reserve, and he faced the line with a cheerful resignation to anything that Fate might bring him. And so he passed this life—until—one morning, "sniped," we heard. With that bullet went the life of "Tommy."

Along with thousands of others he lies, the spot marked only by the regulation cross, but if there is room in Heaven for those who have fought, then surely there will be a place reserved in its brightest corner for a soldier known and loved by us all.

A "Bulletin" writer says:—"I was standing in the Strand awaiting a friend when a Queenslander walked up and asked, 'Are you doing anything?' After my explaining, he said, 'Oh, it doesn't matter. I only wanted a witness to my wedding. That's her over there waiting on me.'"



"BEAUTY"

and "THE BEAST."



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