

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/34/32

**Title:** 17th Infantry Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-23/34/32

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*17<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF*

FOR

*March 1918*

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. H. [unclear] Capt  
Adj. 17<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*R. M. [unclear] Lt Col*

①  
**WAR DIARY**

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place    | Date    | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| COULOMBY | 1-3-18. |      | Brigade sports had to be abandoned owing to snow storm.  | B                                    |
|          | 2-3-18. |      | Morning spent at Baths. Pns football team drew with 18 <sup>th</sup> Bn & were runners up for Brigade Competition.   | B                                    |
|          | 3-3-18  |      | Owing to bad weather Church Parade was abandoned   |                                      |
|          | 4-3-18  |      | Left COULOMBY at 6.20 AM & entrained at LUMBRES at 8.20 AM, detrained at STEENWERCK at 1.25 PM & marched to KORTEPYP CAMP. Sheet 28 SW 3. T26 66.5   | appx. B                              |
|          | 5-3-18  |      | L <sup>td</sup> Col. EF. MARTIN proceeded on short leave in FRANCE. Major FUSSELL in command. Left KORTEPYP at 11 AM & marched to Le ROSSIGNOL CAMP. C Coy took over nucleus garrison of Corps Line. 2 off 1100 OR of D Coy attached to 184 <sup>th</sup> Ammunition Coy near PLOEGHEFERT. | B                                    |
|          | 6-3-18  |      | Platoon training carried out during morning Lieuts C. ROBINS & A. F. GILBERT reported back from leave to U.K.  | B                                    |
|          | 7-3-18  |      | 2nd Lieut G. K. RICHMOND detached as Area Commandant WARRINGTON LINES. C Coy was relieved by party of 7 <sup>th</sup> Brig. at 7.30 PM. Remainder of Bn on working parties.  | B                                    |
|          | 8-3-18  |      | Lieut J. H. McCURE rejoined Bn from 5 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bn & Lieut H. J. SMITH rejoined from Hospital. All Bn on working parties.  | B                                    |
|          | 9-3-18  |      | Lt F. G. RAE proceeded to Aust Corps School.   | B                                    |
|          | 10-3-18 |      | A Coy took up a position in LE BIZET to form a defensive flank in case of German attack on our right.  | B                                    |

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

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## WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

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### or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place             | Date    | Hour    | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Le ROSSIG NOY     | 10-3-18 | 10-3-18 | The CO returned from leave. Battalion on working parties   | RB                                   |
|                   | 11-3-18 | 11-3-18 | Battalion on working parties. New MO Capt L. M. PIGOTT joined Bn   | RB                                   |
|                   | 12-3-18 | 4 PM    | Brigade Order for relief of 20th Bn received   | appx 2                               |
|                   |         | 5 PM    | Operation order No 59 issued   |                                      |
|                   |         |         | Lieut B. SMALL rejoined Bn from 5th Inf Bn. Major R. M. McMASTER, D.S.O. RMO reported to 5th Aust Field Amb  | RB                                   |
|                   |         |         | Whole Battalion on working parties.  |                                      |
|                   | 13-3-18 | 9.40 PM | Relief of 20th Bn complete.  |                                      |
| Bull Gps. Ref Map |         |         | Front patrolled during night.  | appx 3 RB                            |
| HOUPLINES C3C8-5  |         |         | Intelligence Summary night 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> attached   | appx 4                               |
|                   | 14-3-18 | 3 AM.   | Situation report: Situation quiet, pineapple Tm active from C11a B 3 at 10 PM. firing on ESTAMINET HOUSE. SURREY Tm shelled with 4.2: from direction of DEULEMONT also few gas shells + 4.2's fired on GUNNER FARM from same direction. Wind SSE 5 mph. raining. |                                      |
|                   |         | 3 PM.   | Situation report. Situation quiet. Enemy 4.2's active on BC3C from DEULEMONT. MG's inactive. MW active from SOAPHOUSE. on C10a. Enemy planes inactive. Wind NNE  |                                      |
|                   |         |         | 4 AM PH. fine. Front patrolled during night  | RB app 5                             |
|                   | 15-3-18 | 3 AM    | Intelligence report. Situation normal. S.G. active on c/c. Wind NNE 5 mph fine.  | appx 6                               |

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## WAR DIARY

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### or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date    | Hour    | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
|       | 15.3.18 | 3 P.M.  | Situation quiet. Enemy M.G's inactive. T.M. active firing from DYE WORKS  |                                      |
|       |         | -       | Front patrolled during night. 1 OR wounded M.G. fire.   | appx 7                               |
|       |         | -       | Intelligence summary  | appx 8 18                            |
|       | 16.3.18 | 3 A.M.  | Situation quiet. T.M's active from TRELINGHIEN CHURCH. S.G's active on SEVEN TREES AVENUE   |                                      |
|       |         | 12 noon | Order for relief of Right Support Post by 28 <sup>th</sup> Bn issued  | appx 9.                              |
|       |         | 3 P.M.  | Situation normal, enemy particularly inactive.  |                                      |
|       |         | -       | Front patrolled during night - patrol programme attached  | appx 10                              |
|       |         |         | Intelligence Summary. Relief on right support Coy relieved by 9.20 P.M.   | appx 11 18                           |
|       | 17.3.18 | 3 A.M.  | Situation quiet. M.W's active from C11a 80.65. M.G's normal, 4 <sup>th</sup> s active from behind TRELINGHIEN into AMEN CORNER. 2 OR's wounded - shell fire   |                                      |
|       |         | 3 P.M.  | Situation normal. C3C + C10C shelled with 77mm's from Tme de la VACHERIE M.W. active on C4b. M.G's inactive. Plane activity much above normal. Eight enemy planes crossed our lines. Wind S.E. 3 mph. fine. |                                      |
|       |         |         | Inter-coy relief completed by 10.20 P.M.  |                                      |
|       |         |         | Front patrolled during night.   | appx 12.                             |
|       |         |         | Intelligence Summary 17/18 attached.  | appx 13 18                           |

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WAR DIARY

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OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date    | Hour     | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|
|       | 18-3-18 | 3 AM     | Situation very quiet. 77mm active on KIWI ST. M W's active from LAUNDRY   |                                      |
|       |         | 5 AM     | Engine Order NO 146 received for our relief by 27 <sup>th</sup> Bn.   |                                      |
|       |         | 3 PM     | Situation quiet. 4.2 active on CECIL SUPPORT. Our planes very active.   |                                      |
|       |         |          | Front patrolled during night. Lieut FA MAILLER slightly wounded.  | app 14.                              |
|       |         |          | Intelligence Summary  | app 15 OB                            |
|       | 19-3-18 | 3 AM     | Situation report 77mm active on C3C from direction of UNKNOWN FM, 4.2's active firing gas + HE in C3C from direction of FARM de la VACHERIE. M W's inactive |                                      |
|       |         |          | Wind SE 3 mph raining.  |                                      |
|       |         | 5:30 AM  | Enemy party of INCO + 6 men came up to near our post at ESTAMINET FM.   |                                      |
|       |         |          | They were beaten off + the N.CO was wounded + taken prisoner. He belonged to 102 regiment Saxon Infy.   |                                      |
|       |         | 3 PM     | Situation quiet. Enemy 4.2's active on C3C from direction of DEULEMONT. M W's fired on KIWI ST from C 11 B 40.95. Planes inactive. fine Wind SW 3 mph       |                                      |
|       |         |          | Front patrolled during night  | app 16                               |
|       |         | 10:30 PM | 700 gas projectors were discharged on FRELINGHIEN + DURIEZ FARM   |                                      |
|       |         |          | First two patrols were unable to go out on account of gas   | OB                                   |

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date    | Hour      | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
|       | 19-3-18 |           | Intelligence Summary for 24 hours attached   | appx 17<br>18                        |
|       | 20-3-18 | 3 AM      | Situation quiet. Enemy 77 mm. active from direction of FARMER de la VALHERIE firing gas shells on LE BIZET at 9.40 PM. MGs + TMs inactive. Wind SW 5 mph. Raining. |                                      |
|       |         | 7 AM      | Operation Order No 60 issued for our relief by 27th Bn.  | appx 18                              |
|       |         | 3 PM      | Situation very quiet. MGs + mws. + artillery inactive. Still raining.  | appx 19                              |
|       |         |           | Patrol programme for night 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Inst attached  | appx 20                              |
|       |         |           | Intelligence Summary 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Inst attached  | 18                                   |
|       | 21-3-18 | 3 AM      | Situation quiet. enemy fired bursts of gas shells on C3C during night. Foggy.  |                                      |
|       |         | 3 PM      | Front patrolled during night to cover relief   | appx 21                              |
|       |         |           | Relief by 27th Bn completed by 10.10 PM  |                                      |
|       |         |           | Capt T. HARNETT proceeded to Lewis Gun School LETOUQUET.   | 18                                   |
|       |         |           | Battalion had PALMER BATHS for the day.  | 18                                   |
|       | 22-3-18 |           | B.O. held an inspection parade of the Bn. Capt C.C. FINLAY proceeded to 2nd Army   |                                      |
|       | 23-3-18 |           | central school, + Lieut S.M. BLACKSHAW to 2nd Army Musketry School   | 18                                   |
|       |         | 5 PM      | all COs sent for to report to Brig Hqs. We were told we had to relieve 8 <sup>th</sup> a. I. Brig in the line near MESSINES.                                       |                                      |
|       | 21-3-18 | 3-4.10 AM | Brigade Order No 148 received for relief of 8 <sup>th</sup> a. I. Brigade.   | appx 22                              |
|       |         | 1 moon    | Bn Operation. No 61 issued for relief of 30th Bn A.I.F.  |                                      |

Sheet 285W  
KORTEPYP  
CAM P  
T26 B.

CT

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WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date    | Hour     | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|----------|---|--------------------------------------|
|       | 24/3/18 | 10 15 pm | Relief of 30 <sup>th</sup> Bn 95 <sup>th</sup> completed. Situation quiet. Minenwäfer slightly active from Kivi Farm  | AB                                   |
|       | 25/3/18 | 2 am     | Situation quite normal.   |                                      |
|       |         | 3 pm     | Intelligence Summary 24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> Inst attached<br>Situation quiet. enemy 5.9 Howitzer shelled in the vicinity of support line from the direction of behind Hamilton Village for about 1/2 an hour at the rate of about 1 shell per minute. No casualties incurred.   | appx 28.                             |
|       | 26.3.18 | 3 am     | Situation quiet. Practically no shelling except for a few T.M.s on front line   | AB                                   |
|       |         | 3 pm     | light northerly breeze<br>Situation very quiet wind ENE. Visibility very good.  |                                      |
|       | 27.3.18 | 3 am     | Intelligence Summary attached<br>Situation quiet on our front but rather severe shelling on both flanks a few shells only falling on our front. Enemy M.W. firing registering shots from Kivi Farm + Chateau Oheoquies.   | appx 24                              |
|       |         | 3 pm     | Situation quiet, light shelling on New Cross Street during morning  |                                      |
|       | 27.3.18 | 12 pm    | Intelligence summary attached. Gas bombardment with 48 4" Stokes mortars which resulted in rather lively retaliation from the enemy with M.W. + artillery + Machine gun fire. No 2 Special Company R.E. suffered 2 casualties. This Battalion escaped without any. (Lt Col Martin C.M.G. D.S.O. detached to command 9 <sup>th</sup> 98 <sup>th</sup> )                  | appx 25                              |
|       | 28.3.18 | 3 am     | Situation quiet. wind SW cloudy.  |                                      |
|       |         | 4 30 am  | Destructive fire directed on New Cross Street from 4 30 am to 7 am  |                                      |
|       |         | 3 pm     | Situation quiet wind SW Visibility bad.<br>Inter Company relief carried out order for same attached   |                                      |
|       | 29.3.18 | 3 am     | Intelligence Summary 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> inst attached. (Major R. Baker M.C. attached to Command)  | appx 26                              |
|       |         | 3 pm     | Situation quiet. At 2 am. enemy fired about 30 rounds of 4.2" Howitzers in the vicinity of Bn HQ<br>Preliminary orders for relief issued. Having been warned to be ready for a hurried relief at any moment. Copy of order attached.<br>Situation quiet wind WSW. 7 miles per hour Visibility good.<br>Intelligence Summary 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> attached | appx.                                |



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WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

|       |         |                   | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Place | Date    | Hour              |   |                                      |
|       | 29/3/18 | 9pm               | A patrol of 1 off + 9 ORs left our trenches in vicinity of Ferme de la Courne to inspect a ditch running north & south in front of our line about 100 yards. Also to inspect enemy lines. Patrol programmed attacked.   | appx 29a                             |
|       | 30/3/18 | 3am<br>3pm<br>9pm | Situation quiet in vicinity of Battalion HQ (along Brasserie Street) with gas shell. No casualties. Enemy shelled in vicinity of Battalion HQ. inflicted no damage done.<br>A patrol under Lieut Hood (8000) left our trenches in vicinity of Ferme de la Courne to try and locate an enemy post if possible obtain an identification. The post was found to be unoccupied but a party of the enemy (number unknown) was observed coming towards it. Bombs were thrown by both sides. Casualties were believed to have been inflicted on the enemy & Lt Hood & 9 ORs were wounded (slightly).<br>Patrol programmed attacked.<br>Intelligence summary 29/3/18 just attached. | appx 30<br>appx 31                   |
|       | 31/3/18 | 3am<br>10am       | Situation quiet. Notification received from Brigade that we will be relieved tonight by 10th Gloucesters.<br>CO & Company officers arrived to gain information regarding the front before taking over.<br>Relief commenced at 7.30pm. Relief complete at 12 midnight.<br>Intelligence Summary attached  | appx 32                              |

# WAR DIARY

APPENDIX

OF

*17th Battalion DTF*

FOR

*March* 191*8*

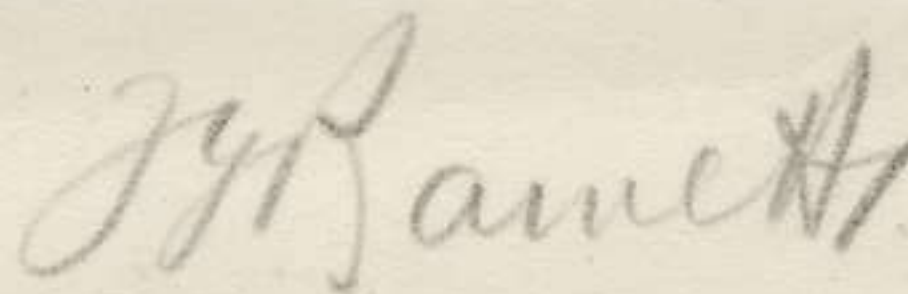
## LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Bn. Operation Order No. 58, re move LUMBRES to STEENWERCK.    |
| 2   | Bn. Operation Order No. 59, re relief of 20th Bn. in line.    |
| 3   | Patrol Programme for night 13/14th March 1918.                |
| 4   | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7 am 14/3/18.        |
| 5   | Patrol Programme for night 14/15th March 1918.                |
| 6   | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7.15 am 15/3/18.     |
| 7   | Patrol Programme for night 15/16th March 1918.                |
| 8   | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7 am 16/3/18.        |
| 9   | Re Relief of small garrisons by 28th Bn. &c.                  |
| 10  | Patrol Programme for night 16/17th March 1918.                |
| 11  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7 am 17/3/18.        |
| 12  | Patrol Programme for night 17/18th March 1918.                |
| 13  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7.15 am 18/3/18.     |
| 14  | Patrol Programme for night 18/19th March 1918.                |
| 15  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7.15 am 19/3/18.     |
| 16  | Patrol Programme for night 19/20th March 1918.                |
| 17  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 6 am 20/3/18.        |
| 18  | Bn. Operation Order No. 60, re relief by 27th Bn. in line.    |
| 19  | Patrol Programme for night 20/21 March 1918.                  |
| 20  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 7.15 am 21/3/18.     |
| 21  | Patrol Programme for <del>night</del> night 21/22 March 1918. |
| 22  | Bn. Operation Order No. 60, re relief of 30th Bn. in line.    |
| 23  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 25/3/18.        |
| 24  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 26/3/18.        |
| 25  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 27/3/18.        |
| 26  | Bn. Operation Order No. 62, re inter-Company relief.          |
| 27  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 28/3/18.        |
| 28  | Bn. Order No. 63, re relief in line.                          |
| 29  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 29/3/18.        |
| 29a | Patrol Programme for night 29/30th March 1918.                |
| 30  | Patrol Programme for night 30/31 March 1918.                  |
| 31  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 30/3/18.        |
| 32  | Bn. Intelligence Report, 24 hours ending 5 am 31/3/18.        |
| XX  |   |

17TH BATTALION A.I.F.2/3/18.Reference Map:-

HAZEBROUCK Sa., 1/100,000.

1. The FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE is moving to Australian Corps Area, between the 2nd and 5th instant.
2. (a) The 17TH BATTALION, less Transport, will entrain at LUMBRES, and detrain at STEENWERCK on the 4th instant.  
(b) The Battalion will fall in ready to move off at 6.15 a.m., and will arrive at LUMBRES Station at 8.20 a.m.  
(c) Transport, less 4 cookers, 1 G.S.Wagon (Supply), 1 Water Cart, 1 Mess Cart, and 1 Maltese Cart, will move to New Area Under Brigade Transport Officer.  
(d) Cookers, water cart, bicycles, etc. and baggage with accompanying personnel, will move by Omnibus Train from WIZERNES, arriving at Station at 7.50 a.m. on the 4th instant, and detraining at BAILLEUL.
3. Lieut. F. G. RAE will be Entraining Officer for the 17th Battalion, and will report to Major FUSSELL, M.C., Brigade Entraining Officer, at LUMBRES Station at 7.50 a.m. on the 4th instant.
4. Billeting Party of 1 N.C.O. per company, will report to Lieut. C. BLACKFORD, Billeting Officer, at Battalion Headquarters, at 5 am. on the 3rd instant, with 3 days' rations. They will then report to Brigade Headquarters, and be conveyed to KORTEPYP Area by Motor Lorry, and will arrange for guides to meet the Battalion at STEENWERCK Station at 11.50 a.m. and the Transport at DE SEULE Cross Roads from 3 p.m. onwards, on the 4th instant.
5. Two Motor Lorries are allotted to the Battalion for transport of Baggage, Rations, and Blankets to the trains. The R.Q.M. will arrange for a guide to meet the lorries at Brigade Headquarters at 3 p.m. on the 3rd instant.
6. All Area stores taken over by the Battalion, will be collected and dumped at No. 12 Billet by 11 a.m. on the 3rd instant, and R.Q.M. will obtain a receipt for these from Billet Warden. This receipt will be handed in to Battalion Orderly Room by noon on that day.
7. (a) Dress - Full Marching Order. Personnel will carry one blanket.  
(b) The second blanket will be carried on two baggage wagons on personnel train, Officers' Kits proceeding on 1 G.S.Wagon, on the Omnibus Train.
8. Men will carry the unexpired portion of the days' rations; 24 hours rations in bulk will be carried on the personnel train, and will be cleared from detraining Station by lorry.
9. Supplies - 3rd March, as usual. Train supply wagons remain with Units.  
4th March, Drawn from STEENWERCK ~~RAILHEAD~~ RAILHEAD by D.S.C. drawn by first line from Refilling Point, E. 4. c. 4. 1 on 5th March.  
5th March, Train Supply Wagons draw from Railhead and deliver to Units.  
6th March, Normal.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.


Captain.

Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. File.        | 8. "D" Company.        |
| 2/4. War Diary. | 9. Quarter Master.     |
| 5. "A" Company. | 10. Transport Officer. |
| 6. "B" Company. | 11. C. O.              |
| 7. "C" Company. | 12. Spare.             |

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OPERATION ORDER NO 59

12/3/18

17th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Reference Maps:-  
sheet 28, 1/40,000  
" 36 1/40,000

1. The 17th. Battalion, A.I.F. will relieve the 20th. Battalion, A.I.F. in the Front and Support Lines on 13th. inst. and night of 13/14th. inst.  

|          |           |              |          |           |              |
|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| "A" Coy. | 17th. Bn. | will relieve | "C" Coy. | 20th. Bn. | Rt. Front.   |
| "B"      | "         | "            | "D"      | "         | L. Front.    |
| "C"      | "         | "            | "A"      | "         | Rt. Support. |
| "D"      | "         | "            | "B"      | "         | L. Support.  |
2. "B", "C" and "D" Companies will be formed up ready to move off at 5.45 p.m.  
"A" Coy. will move off as soon as visibility allows.  
Guides for Posts will meet Companies at Company headquarters.
3. (a) One Officer per Company will report to the Company of the 20th. Battalion they are relieving, at 2 p.m. on 13th. inst.  
(b) No's 1 of Lewis Gun Teams will leave present Camp at 10 a.m. and report to Company of the 20th. Battalion which their Companies are relieving.
4. All packs will be carried to R.Q.M.'s Store and stacked by Companies by 2 p.m., 13th. inst., the Officers' baggage will be ready for Transport at same time.
5. Sand-bags will be worn by all ranks instead of puttees, which will be left in packs.
6. Rations for 14th. inst. will be taken forward in bulk.  
"A" & "C" Coys' rations will be dumped at SURREY FARM.  
"B" & "D" " " " " " " RESERVE FARM.  
Companies in support will arrange to carry forward rations to Front-line Companies.
7. Transport Officer will arrange for limbers to take forward Lewis Guns and Orderly Room equipment.
8. Receipts for all Maps, Aeroplane Photos, Trench stores etc. will be given and the duplicates forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 11 p.m. 13th. inst.
9. Completion of relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters. Code word will be the Company Commander's name.
10. A C K N O W L E D G E.

*J.B. Barrett*

Captain.

Adjutant, 17th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by Runners at 5 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |                 |                        |                       |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. File.        | 7. "B" Coy.            | 11. Q.M.              |
| 2. C.O.         | 8. "C" "               | 12. T.O.              |
| 3/5. War Diary. | 9. "D" "               | 13. 20th. Bn., A.I.F. |
| 6. "A" Coy.     | 10. 5th. A.I. Brigade. |                       |

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

Copy No. 2

PROGRAMME OF PATROLS FOR NIGHT 13/14th MARCH 1918.

| No | Strength                             | Time and<br>Place of<br>Departure  | Time and<br>place of<br>Return  | Instructions  | Password |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1  | 1 Off. 15<br>with L. Gun<br>"C" Coy. | at Midnight<br>Post No. 1, C. 16   | 3 a.m.<br>CROWN PR-<br>INCE FRM | Patrol as close as possible<br>to River Bank, & endeavour to<br>examine any bridges across the<br>River LYS.      | LION     |
| 2  | 1 Off. 15<br>with L. Gun<br>"D" Coy. | at 12.30 a.m.<br>Post No. 1, C. 4. | 2.30 a.m.<br>Post No. 8, C. 4.  | Patrol North along River Bank:<br>Ascertain if enemy has<br>placed any bridges across<br>river. Visit WHITE FARM. | do       |
| 3  | 1 Off. 15<br>from<br>"C" Coy.        | at 3 a.m.<br>ESTAMINET<br>HOUSE    | 5 a.m.<br>Post No. 1, C. 10     | Patrol South along river bank:  | do       |
| 4  | 1 Off. 15<br>from<br>"D" Coy.        | at 2.30 a.m.<br>Post No. 1, C. 4   | 5 a.m.<br>WHITE<br>FARM.        | Patrol North along river bank:  | do       |

Pass Word Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.  
 When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "FAIR".  
 Patrol Report will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- 1/ File 7 "C" Coy. 11 5th A.M.G. Coy.
  - 2/4 War Diary 8 "D" " 12 Spare
  - 5 "A" Coy. 9 Left Bn.
  - 6 "B" " 10 5th A.I. Bde.
- J. B. Bouché* Captain,  
Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

## 17TH BATTALION, A. I. F.

For 24 hours ending 7 a. m. on the 14th March 1918.

OWN INF. OPERATIONS. Relief of 20th Battalion A.I.F. in FRONT and SUPPORT Lines successfully completed at Reference Map, PONT ROUGE, 1/10,000.

PATROLS (20th) Pers. 1 Off. 15 o/r and L.G. 20th Bn. P C.10.b.85.55. T 7.30 pm  
P C.4.b.65.60 P To patrol No-Man's Land, between Posts C.10.5 and C.4.8 and to cover relief. T 9.30 pm  
c Nil/  
I Nothing of unusual occurrence to report. Patrol left Post C.10.6 and reconnoitred ground between C.10.6 and C.4.8

P 1 Off. 15 o/r & L.G. 20th: P) C.16.a/8.5 at 7.30 p.m.  
P To Patrol No Man's Land: P) C.10.b.8.9 at 9.30 p.m.  
& Cover relief of Battn: C) Nil  
I Very few flares observed. M.G. Fire very slight. Wire close to C.10.5 has been broken by shell fire.

PATROLS IM PONT ROUGE 1/10,000. P 1 Off. 15 o/r & L.G. P. C.16.a.8.5  
T 12 Mid. P Patrol as close to river bank as possible examine any bridges across River LYS. P C.10.b.85.55  
T. 3 a.m. C Nil.  
Heavy fog on river breaking; visibility bad. Wire in front of l.c.10 needs repairing.

No. 2 PATROL M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 Off. 15 o/r & L.G. P C.4.d.8.3  
T 12.30 a.m. P Patrol North along river bank & ascertain if enemy has placed any bridges across river. Visit WHITE FARM.  
C.4.b.65.60 T 2.35 a.m. C Nil.  
Nothing heard of enemy except opposite the LAUNDRY where coughing and talking could be heard. No sign of any new bridges being attempted across river. River is now of average width of 25 to 30 yards.

M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 off. 15 o/r & L.G. P C.10.b.7.3  
T 3 a.m. P Patrol South along river bank.  
P C.10.d.12.42 T 5 a.m. C Nil

Report not yet to hand

M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 Off. 15 o/r P C.4.d.8.3.  
T 2.30 a.m. P Patrol South along river bank  
P C.5.a.20.55 T 5 a.m. C Nil.  
Everything quiet along the front. Traffic heard beyond FRELINGHIEN.

ENEMY TM 9.35 a.m. Heavy T.M. active from C.11.b.40.95 firing on to Left Battn. front.  
9.30 a.m. Minen. active from C.5.d.3.3. fired 12 shells in vicinity of KIWI STREET.

ENEMY MGs 5.10 p.m. 8 heavy Minenwerfers in vicinity of CARELESS AVE.  
9.2 a.m. Enemy M.G. located at C.17.a.4.8.  
9.15 a.m. Active on our parapets in front line from C.11.c.85.35  
4.13 p.m. M.G. active at C.11.a.55.15 & A.A. Machine Gun from C.17.a.4.8.

PLANES Enemy planes crossed our lines in following numbers and times  
8.5 (1) 8 planes at 8 a.m. 11.40 a.m. 12.40 p.m. 1.30 p.m.  
at 1.45 p.m. one at 2.30 p.m. & one at 2.35 p.m. One at 3.30 p.m. one at 3.35 p.m.

INFANTRY ACTIVITY 3 p.m. 2 men appeared from corner of UNKNOWN FARM. Head and shoulders observed. Vicinity of farm camouflaged.  
8.30 a.m. Hammering of wood & iron heard distinctly from several places just in rear of village of FRELINGHIEN.

MISCELLANEOUS 650 p.m. 8 Balloonettes passed from behind FRELINGHIEN over HOURLINES.

To I.O. (Sgd) C. J. SAMS, Lieut.  
5th A.I. Brigade A/I.O., 17th Bn.  
By Runner 7.15 a.m.  
14/3/18

SECRET

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

5 Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 14/15th MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength        | :Time and :<br>:place of :<br>:Departure: | :Time and :<br>:place of :<br>:Return : | Instructions.   | :<br>:Password |
|-----|-----------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | 9 p.m.                                    | :Midnight                               | : Patrol along Breastwork towards River, and turn south along River Bank.                   | : TIGER        |
|     | : with L. Gun   | : Post No. 5.c.10                         | : Post No. 1.c.16                       |   |                |
|     | : from "C" Coy. |   |   |   |                |
| 2   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | 9.15 p.m.                                 | :Midnight                               | : Visit WHITE FARM and Post at C.5.a.2.2. Examine Driftwood Bridge.                         | : TIGER        |
|     | : with L. Gun   | : Post No. 8.c.4                          | : Post No. 1.c.4                        |   |                |
|     | : from "D" Coy. |   |   |   |                |
| 3   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | 1 a.m.                                    | :4.30 a.m.                              | : Patrol North as close as possible to River Bank, Endeavour to examine FRELINGHIEN Bridge. | : TIGER        |
|     | : from "C" Coy. | : Post No. 1.c.16                         | : Post No. 5.c.10                       |   |                |
| 4   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | 2 a.m.                                    | :5.30 a.m.                              | : Patrol North along River Bank, Visit WHITE FARM.  | : TIGER        |
|     | : from "D" Coy. | : Post No. 7.c.10                         | : Post No. 6.c.4                        |   |                |

Password and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

When patrol returns, the following password will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "CLOUDY".

Patrol reports will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- 1. File
- 2/4. War Diary
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" "
- 8. "D" Coy.
- 9. Left Bn.
- 10. 5th A.I. Bde.
- 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 12. Spare.

*J. J. Laurent*  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.  
 Captain.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

For 24 hours ending 7.15 a.m. on 15/3/18.

PATROLS M Map Sheet PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 : P 1 Off. 15 o/r & L.G.  
 P Patrol along breastwork towards: T 9 p.m.  
 river & turn South along : P C.16.a.8.5.  
 river bank. : T 12 Mid.  
 C Nil  
 I Nothing of unusual interest to report. M.G's. active at intervals.

PATROLS M Map Sheet DEULEMONT 1/10,000 : P 1 Off. 15 o/r & L.G.  
 No. 2. C.4.b.65.80. : T 9.15 p.m.  
 P Visit WHITE FARM & Post at :  
 C.5.a.2.2. Examine Drift- : P C.4.d.8.3.  
 wood bridge. : T 12 Mid. C Nil.  
 I Patrol visited WHITE FARM and listening post at C.5.a.2.2. finding everything quiet. Examined DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE. Bridge is the same except that all floating timbers have been washed away. Enemy flares were seen near DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE & 100 yards South. Patrol went Southward, returning by Post l.c.4. as above.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 : P 1 Off. 15 o/r  
 No. 3. P C.16.a.8.5. : T 1 a.m.  
 P Patrol North as close to river: P C.10.b.7.3.  
 bank as possible. Endeavour: T 4.30 a.m. C Nil.  
 to examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE:  
 Nothing to report. M.G. fire very slight.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 : P 1 Off. 15 o/rs.  
 No. 4. P C.10.b.8.9. : T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol North along River Bank: P C.4.b.7.5.  
 Visit WHITE FARM. : T 5.30 a.m. C Nil.  
 River normal, but approach is very marshy. Visited WHITE FARM. All quiet and no sign of enemy movement.

ENEMY T.M's. More active than usual. 9.30 a.m. T.M's. shelled Left Sector Front Line from right of LAUNDRY (C.5.c.7.4). 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 enemy T.M. shelled vicinity of BARKENHAM AVE., BUTCHER'S SHOP & FRONT LINE in C10.c. from the VATS. At same time a heavy T.M. was active on same places from behind FRELINGHIEN CHURCH, C.15.c.75.70. At 6 p.m. enemy T.M. active on left of C.4.b.65.80, firing from SCREENED FARM. At same time one firing from DURIEZ FARM was silenced by our 18 pdrs. & T.M's. Vicinity of C.10.l Post was fired on by T.M. from 9 to 11 pm about 40 rds. This one could not be located accurately.

ENEMY Unusually active during night from BRIDGE HOUSE and midway  
 M.G's. between BRIDGE HOUSE & ARCHES.

ENEMY 10.30 a.m. 2 men seen on roof of large house between SCREENED  
 MOVEMENT FARM & DURIEZ FARM. The roof of this building has been recently camouflaged.

NEW WORKS At C.16.a.25.30 there is a square concrete structure - a suspected Observation Post.

To I.O.  
 5th A.I. Brigade  
 By Runner 7.15 a.m.  
 15/3/18.

(Sgd). C. J. SAMS, Lieut.  
 A/I.O. 17th Bn.



SECRET.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

7

Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 15/16th MARCH 1918.

| No. | Strength                                 | Time and place of departure | Time and place of return    | Instructions  | Password |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| 1   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. with L. Gun from "D" Coy. | 9 p.m. Post No. 1.c.4.      | Midnight Post No. 8.c.4.    | Patrol North along River Bank. Visit Post at C.5.a.2.2. and WHITE FARM. | WOLF     |
| 2   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. with L. Gun from "C" Coy. | 9.15 p.m. Post No. 1.c.16.  | 12.30 a.m. Post No. 6.c.10. | Examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE and patrol North.                            | WOLF     |
| 3   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. from "D" Coy.             | 1 a.m. Post No. 6.c.4.      | 4 a.m. Post No. 7.c.10.     | Visit WHITE FARM, and patrol South as close as possible to River Bank.  | WOLF     |
| 4   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. from "C" Coy.             | 2 a.m. Post No. 5.c.10.     | 5.30 a.m. Post No. 1.c.16.  | Patrol along Breastwork to River, and then patrol south.                | WOLF     |

Pass Word and Programme is to be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.  
 Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.  
 When Patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "FINE".  
 Patrol Report will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- 1. File.
- 2/4/ War Diary.
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" "
- 8. "D" Coy.
- 9. Left Bn.
- 10. 5th A.I. Bde.
- 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 12. Spare.

*J. Davet*  
 Captain,  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

For 24 hours ending 7 a.m. 16th March 1918.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs "D" Coy.  
 No. 1. P C.4.d.8.3. T 9 p.m.  
 P Patrol North along river bank. Visit posts at C.5.a.2.2 &  
 WHITE FARM.  
 P C.4.b.65.80 T 12 Midnight C Nil  
 I No sign of enemy was seen. Opposite the LAUNDRY sounds as if an enemy party were working among the ruins, could be heard. DRIFTWOOD Bridge was examined & found same as usual

PATROL M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs & L.G.  
 No. 2. P C.16.a.8.5. T 9.15 p.m.  
 P Examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE and patrol North.  
 P C.10.b.7.3. T 12.30 a.m. C Nil  
 I Leaving at Post 1.c.16 patrol moved to river bank at C.11.c.2 the ground here being very marshy. No movement could be heard on enemy side of river. Then moved round in front of Post C.10.1 and again struck the river near C.11.c.2.4 following the bank as closely as possible north. Patrol returned via CROWN PRINCE FARM.

PATROL M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs "D" Coy.  
 No. 3. P C.4.b.7.5. T 1 a.m.  
 P Visit WHITE FARM & patrol South as close as possible to river bank.  
 P C.10.b.8.9. T 4 a.m. C Nil  
 I At no time during the patrol was the enemy seen but occasionally coughing from his side of the river was heard. There was no sign of any attempt to make the DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE passable. Listening Post at C.5.a.2.2. was alert. Between 11 p.m. and 4 p.m. wheeled traffic could be heard on enemy roads. River is of normal width. Fair visibility. During patrol an average distance of 50 yds from bank was kept.

PATROL M PONT ROUGE 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs "C" Coy.  
 No. 4. P C.10.b.7.3. T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol along BREASTWORK to river & then patrol South.  
 P C.16.a.8.5. T 5.30 a.m. C Nil  
 Fired 8 rounds on to vicinity of FRELINGHIEN CHURCH and DYE WORKS.

ENEMY 10 a.m. Enemy T.M. active from ARCHES on C.10.c. Silenced by our  
 T.M.'s. 4.5 Hows. 8.30 a.m. T.M. firing on C.4.d. Position could be located at C.11.c.75.70. At 11 a.m. 2 enemy T.M.'s active from C.5.d.4.8 and one from C.5.d.35.00 firing on Left Battalion Sector. 8.30 a.m. T.M. active on C.10.c. from C.11.c.75.70. 10.45 a.m. enemy T.M. active on vicinity of KIWI STREET. Could not be located. 3.30 p.m. T.M. again active on C.10.c & in front of BUTCHER'S SHOP until 4 p.m.

ENEMY Active throughout the night from ARCHES & BRIDGE RD. Silenced  
 M.G's. occasionally by our batteries.

ENEMY Men seen working on top of SCREENED FARM at following times:-  
 ACTIVITY 8.45 a.m. 9.30 & 3.30 a.m. They were twice forced to cease work on being fired on by our artillery. Evidently some important work is going on here as the roof was recently camouflaged. 8.30 a.m. one man was also seen working on roof of UNKNOWN FM. U.29.d. Working party was also seen about 4 a.m. from C.11.a.55.45 to C.11.a.3.2. Artillery were notified.

ENEMY 7 a.m. Balloon arose on a T.B. of 61 1/2° from C.9.d.90.67.  
 BALLOONS 10 a.m. Balloon seen rising from 84 1/2° T.B. from C.9.d.90.67, this one being taken down at 11.30 a.m.

FLARES Artillery on right of our front opened up a barrage at 10.7 p.m. numerous flares being immediately sent up from enemy lines. Some were:- green, red, golden showers, and green bursting into two reds.

(P.T.O.)

APPENDIX

8

(2).

**RAID** Immediately on opening fire from our side (for raid on Sector on our right) the enemy fired 2 red rockets from all along the sector. Later he fired 2 greens, but only from front not being raided. He also fired 3 golden clusters in quick succession.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** About 8.30 p.m. 5 bombs were dropped by one of planes on FRELINGHIEN. These caused a great uproar in the village, apparently getting some target.

To I.O., (Sgd). C. J. SAMS, Lieut.  
5th A. Brigade A/I.O. 17th Bn.  
By Runner 7.15 a.m.  
16/3/18

Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "D" Coy. ...  
Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "C" Coy. ...  
Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "B" Coy. ...

Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "A" Coy. ...  
Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "D" Coy. ...

Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "C" Coy. ...  
Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "B" Coy. ...

Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "A" Coy. ...  
Patrol M. P. 1. Officer is over "D" Coy. ...

(P. I. O.)

Copy No. 2

S E C R E T.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

Battalion Headquarters,  
16th March 1918.

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Australian Division, the following action will be taken:-

- (a) The garrison of One platoon in LYS FARM, at present formed by the 17th Battalion, will be replaced by nucleus garrisons of two platoons from the 28th Battalion, occupying LYS FARM and RAILWAY SWITCH. This move will take place on the 16th instant; time will be notified later.
- (b) One platoon of the Right Support Company will be moved into HORE KAU AVENUE, and One platoon will be quartered in LONG AVENUE, between Right Support Company Headquarters and R. A. P. Material for any additional shelters will be at once requisitioned for.
- (c) The O. C. Right Front Company will arrange for the garrison in Post No. 1, c. 16 to be housed during daylight in the vicinity of CARTER'S SWITCH.
- (d) The O. C. Right Support Company will be responsible that LYS FARM is handed over in a clean and sanitary condition.
- (e) Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by Code Wire.

COPIES TO -

- 1. File.
- 2/4/ War Diary.
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" Coy.
- 8. "D" "
- 9. 28th Bn. AIF.
- 10. Spare.

*J. Barrett*  
 Captain,  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

*By runner 12 noon*

SECRET.

17TH BATALION, A.I.F.

10 Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 16/17th MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength                      | :Time and :place of:Departure: | :Time and :place of:Return : | Instructions   | :Password |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. with L. Gun   | 9 p.m. : 1.c.4.                | :Midnight : 8.c.4.           | :Patrol North along River Bank. Visit Post at C.5.a.2.2. and WHITE FARM. | : BEAR    |
| 2   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. with L. Gun   | 9.15 p.m. : 1.c.16.            | :12.30 a.m. : 6.c.10.        | :Examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE and patrol North.                            | : BEAR    |
| 3   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. from "D" Coy. | 1 a.m. : 6.c.4.                | : 4 a.m. : 7.c.10.           | :Visit WHITE FARM and patrol South as close as possible to River Bank.   | : BEAR    |
| 4   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. from "C" Coy. | 2 a.m. : 5.c.10.               | :5.30 a.m. : 10.16.          | :Patrol along Breastwork to River, and then patrol South.                | : BEAR    |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.

When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "MISTY".

Patrol Reports will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- 1. File.
- 2/4. War Diary.
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" "
- 8. "D" Coy.
- 9. Left Bn.
- 10. 5th A.I. Bde.
- 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 12. Spare.

*J. J. G. G. G.*  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F. Cap tain.

For 24 hours ending 7 a.m. 17/3/18.

PATROL HOUPLINES 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs & L.G.  
P C.4.d.8.3. T 9 p.m.  
P To patrol North along river bank and visit WHITE FARM &  
C.5.a.2.2.  
P C.4.b.65.80 T 12 Midnight C Nil  
I Sounds of pumping were heard proceeding from the LAUNDRY.  
At 10.30 p.m. our 6" Hows. fired 14 shots on this  
position, 13 of which fell short. Everything correct at  
WHITE FARM & C.5.a.2.2.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs & L.G.  
No. 2. P C.16.a.8.5. T 9.15 p.m.  
P Patrol North and examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE.  
P C.10.b.85.55. T 12.30 a.m. C Nil  
A small minenwerfer was seen firing from DYE WORKS on to  
vicinity of 5.c.10 & 6.c.10. M.G's. active firing from  
the ARCHES. FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE is in same condition  
as usual.

No. 3. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs & L.G.  
PATROL. P C.4.b.7.5. T 1 a.m.  
P Examine DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE. Visit WHITE FARM. Patrol South.  
P C.10.b.8.9. T 4 a.m. C Nil  
I DRIFTWOOD was visited and found to be unaltered. Visited  
WHITE FARM & listening post at C.5.a.2.2. Both were  
correct & quiet. Voices were heard opposite WHITE FARM  
& also to the right of LAUNDRY. River was patrolled  
from DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE to bank in front of 7.c.10.  
There was very little M.G. fire & no artillery firing  
in No-Man's Land.

OUR Were very active at 8 a.m., 12.30 p.m., 11 a.m., 1, 1.35, 3.40  
PLANES 6.20 p.m. 8.10 p.m. one of our planes dropped four  
bombs on FRELINGHIEN.

ENEMY Enemy T.M. at 10.30 a.m. fired few rounds from DURIEZ FARM  
T.M's. C.5.d on to Right Coy. of Left Battalion. Later same  
T.M. again shelled this Sector (11.30 a.m.) Very  
active during 24 hrs especially on HOUPLINES SECTOR.  
12 m & one firing from the ARCHES on to vicinity of  
C.10.b.7.3. also on to CECIL LANE but without causing  
damage. 10.30 p.m. Light & Heavy T.M's. fired on  
BARKENHAM AVE, CARTER'S SWITCH from DYE WORKS &  
FRELINGHIEN CHURCH.

ENEMY Quiet on Left Sector. Fairly active from ARCHES on right  
M.G's. Sector. Playing over LE TOUQUET STATION.

INFANTRY 2.30 p.m. Two men observed walking along road (C.11.d.00.40)  
ACTIVITY in S.E. direction; disappeared in vicinity of  
C.17.b.40.85. 10 p.m. Sounds of pumping heard from  
the LAUNDRY.

ENEMY Planes crossed our lines at following times:- 10;15 a.m. 10.40 am  
PLANES & 1.40 p.m. when 5 of the enemy attacked one of ours  
but without success. 10.40 p.m. Plane dropped 2 bombs  
on 19th Bn. Sector. All were fired on by A.A. Guns  
and M.G's.

FLARES Normal.

MISCELLANEOUS 8 a.m. Observation Balloons arose at bearings of 68° of  
T & 58° T from C.9.d.90.67 but were taken down at 9 a.m.  
on account of bad visibility. 1.45 a.m. enemy  
balloon rose on this bearing 136° T.

To I.O.  
5th A.I. Brigade  
By Runner 7.15 a.m.  
17/3/18.

(Sgd). C. J. SAMS, Lieut.  
A/I.O. 17th Bn.

SECRET.

17TH BATTALION. A. I. F.

12 Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 17/18th MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength  | :Time and :<br>:Place of:<br>:Departure: | :Time and :<br>:place of:<br>:Return : | Instructions.  | :<br>:Password |
|-----|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 10 o.r.<br>: "A" Coy.                       | : 9 p.m.<br>: 6.c.10.                    | :Midnight<br>: 1.c.16.                 | :Patrol South to cover Relief.   | : CAMEL        |
| 2   | :1 Off. 10 o.r.<br>: "B" Coy.                       | : 9.15 p.m.<br>: 8.c.4.                  | :Midnight<br>: 1.c.4.                  | :Patrol South to cover Relief.   | : CAMEL        |
| 3   | :1 Off. 15 o.r.<br>: with L. Gun<br>: from "A" Coy. | : 1 a.m.<br>: Post No. :<br>: 1.c.16.    | : 4 a.m.<br>: Post No. :<br>: 5.c.10.  | :Patrol North along River<br>: Bank. Endeavour to examine<br>: FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE.                           | : CAMEL        |
| 4   | :1 Off/ 15 o.r.<br>: with L. Gun<br>: from "B" Coy. | : 2 a.m.<br>: Post No. :<br>: 7.c.10.    | : 5 a.m.<br>: Post No. :<br>: 6.c.4.   | :Patrol North along River Bank:<br>: Examine Bridges and visit<br>: Posts at C.5.a.2.2. and<br>: WHITE FARM. | : CAMEL        |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters. When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "MOONLIGHT".

Patrol Reports will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. File.        | 8. "D" Coy.         |
| 2/4. War Diary. | 9. Left Bn.         |
| 5. "A" Coy.     | 10. 5th A.I. Bde.   |
| 6. "B" "        | 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy. |
| 7. "C" "        | 12. Spare.          |

*J. M. Barrett* Captain.  
Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT.  
For 24 hours ending 7.15 a.m. 18/3/18.

No. 1. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 10 o/r & L.G.  
 PATROL P C.10.b.7.3. T 10.45 p.m.  
 P To cover Relief. P C.16.a.8.5.  
 T 12.45 a.m. C Nil  
 I A thorough search was made of the ground in the vicinity of Posts 5.c.10 & 4.c.10. Patrol then worked Southwards to C.16.a.8.5. No enemy activity of any kind was noticed.

No. 2. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 10 o/rs  
 PATROL P C.4.b.65.80. T 9 p.m.  
 P To cover Relief. P C.4.d.8.3.  
 T 12 Mid. C 1 man gassed.  
 I No enemy parties encountered. Patrolled the front of posts while relief was carried out.

No. 3. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr. 15 o/rs & L.G.  
 PATROL P C.16.a.8.5. T 1 a.m.  
 P To patrol North along river & endeavour to examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE.  
 P C.10.b.7.3. T 4.10 a.m. C Nil  
 I Along the whole sector everything was very quiet. M.C's. & T.M's exceptionally so. There were very few flares. A fog was hanging over low ground & the river. Enemy working parties were detected at C.17.a.35.83 & C.11.c.5.6. where hammering was going on as if stakes were being driven in.

No. 4. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/rs  
 PATROL P C.10.b.8.9. T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol North along River Bank; examine Bridge; visit WHITE FARM.  
 P C.4.b.7.3. T 5 a.m. C Nil  
 I No sign of any enemy. DRIFTWOOD Bridge is in an impassable state.

INFANTRY Inter-Coy. Relief was carried out on the night of the 17/18th OPERATIONS March. Relief was successfully completed by

OWN Carried out successful retaliation against enemy T.M's firing ARTILLERY on our front; also 77 m.m. battery firing from behind FRELINGHIEN. 18 pdrs. shelled UNKNOWN & DURIEZ FARMS.

OUR Fired 5 rounds at 11 a.m. on C.11.a.8.4. & 10 rounds at 2.40 T.M's. p.m. on C.5.c.70.48. 12 noon our heavy T.M. shelled SCREENED FARM. Dropped 2 bombs on FRELINGHIEN at 8.30 a.m. and 8 bombs at 12 Midnight.

ENEMY 10.5 a.m. T.M. firing from C.11.a.85.60 fired 5 rounds on T.M's. C.10.b. This place shelled by 18 pdrs. 10.50 a.m. T.M's shelled C.10.b. from C.11g.75.90. 2 p.m. fired 4 shells in vicinity of LE TOUQUET STATION. 3 p.m. enemy T.M. fired a few rounds from C.5.c.70.48 on KIWI STREET, then fired for 3/4 hour on to same position. 4.5 p.m. heavy T.M. again firing on STATION & NORTH BLOCK. 8.15 & 9.15 p.m. bombarded KIWI STREET with gas M.W. pineapple T.M's & gas shells.

ENEMY Active during period from DYEWORKS, BRIDGE HOUSE and the ARCHES M.C's.

PLANES Planes crossed our lines at the following times:- 7 at 10.15 a.m. driven off by A.A. fire.

BALLOONS Balloons rose on following bearings:- 10.15 a.m. 136° T from C.4.a.9.9. 7.5 a.m. 68° & 78° T.B. from C.9.d.90.67. At 12.50 a.m. 93° T from C.9. 2 to 3 p.m. 142°, 129° and 105° from C.4.a.9.9.

To I.O.  
5th A.I. Brigade.

(Sgd). C. J. SAME, Lieut.  
A/I.O., 17th Bn.



S E C R E T.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

14

14  
Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 18/19th MARCH 1918.

| No: | strength                                      | :Time and :place of :Departure: | :Time and :place of :Return.     | Instructions.   | :Password |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. : with L. Gun : from "B" Coy. | 9 p.m. : Post No. : 1.c.4.      | :Midnight : Post No. : 8.c.4.    | :Patrol North along River Bank : Visit Post at C.5a.2.2. and : WHITE FARM.  | :KANGAROO |
| 2   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. : with L. Gun : from "A" Coy. | 9.15 p.m. : Post No. : 1c.16.   | :12.15 a.m. : Post No. : 6.c.10. | :Examining FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE : and patrol North.                           | :KANGAROO |
| 3   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. : from : "B" Coy.             | 1 a.m. : Post No. : 6.c.4.      | :4 a.m. : Post No. : 7.c.10.     | :Visit WHITE FARM, and patrol : South as close as possible to : River Bank. | :KANGAROO |
| 4   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. : from : "A" Coy.             | 2 a.m. : Post No. : 5.c.10.     | :5.30 a.m. : Post No. : 1.c.16.  | :Patrol along Breastwork to : River, and then patrol : South.               | :KANGAROO |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme will on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters. When patrol returns the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "SUNSHINE".

Patrol Report will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- 1. File.
- 2/4. War Diary.
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" "
- 8. "D" Coy.
- 9. Left Bn.
- 10. 5th A.I. Bde.
- 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 12. Spare.

*J.G. Davock*  
 Captain,  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/r  
 No. 1. P C.4.d.8.3. T 9 p.m.  
 P Patrol North along River Bank. Visit post at C.5.a.2.2. and  
 WHITE FARM.  
 P C.4.b.65.80. T 12 Midnight. C Nil  
 I Not sent out on account of Gas Scheme.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr 15 o/r & L.G.  
 No. 2. P C.16.a.8.5. T 9.15 p.m.  
 P Examine FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE and patrol North.  
 P C.10.b.85.55. T 12.15 a.m. C Nil  
 I Not sent out on account of proposed Gas Projector bombardment

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr 15 o/r  
 No. 3. P C.4.b.7.5. T 1 a.m.  
 P Visit WHITE FARM and patrol South as close as possible to River  
 Bank.  
 P C.10.b.8.9. T 4 a.m. C Nil  
 I Visited WHITE FARM at 1.15 a.m. Struck river about 200 yds  
 North of DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE. Examined bridge and if it  
 connects with the bank on enemy side it could be  
 crossed but with difficulty. Voices were heard close to  
 the bridge. The river is very low & the bank very dry &  
 easy to patrol. No sign of the enemy could be detected  
 at the LAUNDRY. Patrol left the river about 100 yds  
 South of the SOAP HOUSE.

PATROL DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr 15 o/r  
 No. 4. P C.10.b.7.3. T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol along Breastwork to river & then patrol South.  
 P C.16.a.8.5. T 5.30 C Nil  
 I

4 p.m. Our artillery replied heavily to enemy 3.55 p.m. bomb-  
 ardment which ceased almost immediately. Fired on M.G.  
 positions & working parties during the night.

OUR T.M's. 10.30 a.m. Fired 10 rounds on the ARCHES. 3 p.m. Fired 10  
 rounds in rear of SOAP HOUSE.

OUR PLANES Active over enemy's front line at 9.20 a.m. 5.30 p.m. Fired on  
 by A.A. and M.G's. from FRELINGHIEN.

ENEMY T.M's. 7.15 a.m. Enemy T.M. shelling C.4.b firing from Church in  
 FRELINGHIEN. 7.45 a.m. active from C.5.d.35.17 on LE  
 TOUQUET STATION & vicinity of post C.10.2. Same T.M.  
 fired few rounds from same place on to C.4.b. KIWI ST  
 at 12.15 p.m. also at 11 a.m. 12.25 pm.

ENEMY M.G's. Fairly active during night on front line parapets. Located  
 at C.11.c.6.1 and C.11.c.55.85.

PLANES Active over our lines at 10.40 a.m. Three. Much less  
 active than usual; our own about normal.

INFANTRY ACTIVITY Working Party heard at DYE WORKS at 11.45 p.m. C.11.c.5.6.  
 At 9.25 a.m. working party seen working under the  
 camouflaged roof of SCREENED FARM. They were again  
 seen at 2 p.m. This work seems to be of importance as  
 it is carried on in daylight. 5.45 p.m. One man seen  
 walking along shallow trench at C.17.a.75.85, wearing  
 cap & no rifle or equipment. At same time smoke was seen  
 issuing from a dug-out at C.17.a.88.74.

APPENDIX 15

BALLOONS 645 a.m. Enemy observation balloons rose on bearings as follows  
 58° 60°, & 63° T.B. from C. 9d. 90. 67.  
 7 a.m. Balloon rose on a T.B. of 158° from C. 4. a. 9. 6.  
 9 " " " " " " 145° " C. 4. a. 9. 6.  
 9.25 a.m. " " " " " " 136°, 109°, 131° from C. 4. a. 9. 6.

MISCELLANEOUS Observers at Post 5.c.10 report that a big railway runs near FRELINGHIEN Bridgehead & work appears to be going on there. Last night one of the enemy could be heard having difficulty in managing a horse at this spot. M.G. fire is used to drown the sound of the light railway.

ENEMY PATROLS Just before daylight, an enemy patrol approached 5.c.10 Post being fired on by the garrison of the post. One wounded enemy captured. No casualties were sustained by our men. Further particulars will be forwarded as soon as possible. The prisoner belongs to the 102 Regiment.

To I.O.,  
 5th A.I. Brigade. (Sgd). C. J. SAME, Lieut.  
 A/I.O., 17th Bn.

To C.O.,  
 17th Bn.  
 At about 5.30 a.m.; a party of 6 Huns approached post 5.c.10 & attempted to cut wire. Up to the present the only information I have is that the post opened on the party with Mills Bombs, the result that one of the patrol who states that he is a Corporal of the 102nd Saxon Regt. is now lying at the R.A.P. badly wounded. Hearing explosions of bombs on the left at about 5.30 a.m. I immediately despatched a patrol under Lt. IANE to the left, but everything was then quiet, & the party assisted in getting the Hun to the rear. It was then daylight & this party was fired on by enemy M.G's. I received a coded message from Lieut. FLOOD who is at 6.c.10 at 6.5 a.m. This was immediately communicated to H.Q. I will obtain further information from the post to-night.

(Sgd). E. T. HARNETT, Capt.  
 O.C. "C" Coy. 17th Bn.  
 19/3/18.  
 9.15 a.m.

Active over enemy's front line at 5.30 a.m. 5.30 p.m. fired on by A.A. and M.G.'s from FRELINGHIEN.  
 7.15 a.m. enemy T.M. shells C.A.P. firing from Church in FRELINGHIEN. 7.55 a.m. receive from C. 4. a. 9. 6. 17 on LI TOWN STATION & vicinity of post 5.c.10. Same T.M. fired few rounds from same place on C. 4. a. 9. 6. 17 at 12.15 p.m. also at 11 a.m. 12.25 p.m.  
 Party active during night on front line parapets located at 11.0.1 and 11.0.25.  
 Active over our lines at 10.40 a.m. Three Mch less active than usual; our own about equal.  
 Working party heard at BYE WORKS at 11.45 p.m. C. 11.0.25. At 9.25 a.m. working party seen working under the camouflaged roof of GREENWOOD FARM. They were again seen at 3 p.m. This work seems to be of importance as it is carried on in daylight. 5.45 p.m. One man seen walking along shallow trench at C. 11.0.25. 7.55, wearing cap & no rifle or equipment. At same time smoke was seen issuing from a dug-out at C. 11.0.25.

SECRET.17TH BATTALION. A.I.F.16  
Copy No 2PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 19/20th MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength       | :Time and<br>:place of:<br>:Departure: | :Time and<br>:place of:<br>:Return: | Instructions.   | :Password |
|-----|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. | 9 p.m.                                 | Midnight                            | Patrol North; examine FRELING--                                       |           |
| 1   | with L. Gun    | Post No. 1.c.16.                       | Post No. 6c.10.                     | -HIEN Footbridge; return along North side of Breastwork               | DINGO     |
| 2   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. | 9.15 p.m.                              | 12.15 a.m.                          | Patrol North along River Bank   |           |
| 2   | with L. Gun    | Post No. 1.c.4.                        | Post No. 6.c.4.                     | Visit post at C.5.a.2.2. and WHITE FARM.                              | DINGO     |
| 3   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. | 2 a.m.                                 | 5.30 a.m.                           | Patrol along Breastwork to River, and then patrol South.              | DINGO     |
| 3   | from "A" Coy.  | Post No. 5.c.10.                       | Post No. 1.c.16.                    |   |           |
| 4   | 1 Off. 15 o.r. | 2 a.m.                                 | 5 a.m.                              | Visit WHITE FARM and patrol South as close as possible to River Bank. | DINGO     |
| 4   | from "B" Coy.  | Post No. 5.c.4.                        | Post No. 7.c.10.                    |   |           |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.

When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "RAIN".

Patrol Report will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- |                 |                     |                                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. File.        | 8. "D" Coy.         | <i>M. Harvey</i><br>Captain.     |
| 2/4. War Diary. | 9. Left Bn.         |                                  |
| 5. "A" Coy.     | 10. 5th A.I. Bde.   | Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F. |
| 6. "B" "        | 11. 5th AM. G. Coy. |                                  |
| 7. "C" "        | 12. Spare.          |                                  |

No. 3. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr 15 o/rs & L.G.  
 PATROL P C.10.b.7.3. T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol along breastwork to river & then patrol South.  
 P C.16.a.8.5. T 5.15 a.m. C Nil  
 I During the whole of the patrol everything was very quiet, owing in all probability to the gas attack. There were hardly any flares, and all M.G's. and T.M's. on patrol's sector were quiet, not a shot from the T.M's. being fired. Owing to the rain the ground was very muddy, & made the going very heavy. It was exceptionally dark & consequently observation was very difficult. Nothing further to report

-----

No. 4. DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr 15 o/rs.  
 PATROL P C.4.b.40.15. T 2 a.m.  
 P Visit WHITE FARM & patrol South as close as possible to River Bank.  
 P C.10.b.8.9. T 5.20 a.m. C  
 Patrolled No-Man's Land & returned to Trench about 1.c.4. Went out again at 4.30, patrolled sector, reaching trench near 5.c.4.

-----

OUR ARTILLERY 8.30 a.m. Our 18 pdrs shelled wood in C.5.d with Shrapnel & acted in conjunction with gas bombardment at 10.30.

-----

GAS 10.30 p.m. Our artillery opened up heavily for about 3 minutes while the Gas Projectors fired about 700 projectors on to FRELINGHIEN and to the left towards DURIEZ FARM. The first batteries of projectors were fired at 10.32 p.m. & the last were fired at 10.50 p.m. Our batteries gradually slackened fire from 10.33 p.m. After the gas bombardment enemy was very quiet until about daybreak this morning when he fired a few 4.2s 77 m.m. and a minenwerfer. The Battalion on the left report hearing gas alarms in enemy lines during the bombardment. The most noticeable feature was the silence after the gas.

-----

PATROLS Nos. 1 & 2 patrols did not go out on account of Gas Bombardment at 10.30 p.m.

-----

ENEMY T.M's. At 7.30 a.m. 2 heavy trench mortars opened on LEFT & RIGHT Coys front (C.10.b & d & C.4.b & d) firing from C5.d.38.17. Heavy T.M's. put few shells on to vicinity of C.10.d.2.7 at 8.10 a.m. firing from FRELINGHIEN CHURCH C.11.c.75.70. Vicinity of C.4.b.7.8. was shelled with heavy T.M's. at 8.45 a.m. from C.11.c.75.70 (4 shells only). At 11 p.m. & 1 p.m. enemy light T.M. put 2 shells on C.10.d at 11 pm. & 2 shells on C.4.b at 1 p.m. One was firing from the VATS. 3.10 a.m. Heavy minenwerfer firing from C.11.c.6.7 on to vicinity of Post C.10.2 (C.10.d.1.8). This same T.M. opened up again at 6 a.m. but was silenced by the artillery.

-----

ENEMY M.G's. Occasional bursts in early part of the night, but after gas bombardment practically nil. Two guns located at C.17.a.17.48 & C.11.c.5.5.

-----

AERIAL ACTIVITY No aeroplanes were observed crossing our lines during the day

-----

INFANTRY ACTIVITY At 7.15 a.m. Two men again seen working on SCREENED FARM. At 4 a.m. 19/3/18 men at WHITE FARM Post report having seen an enemy patrol of 30 (about) moving along right bank of river.

-----

FLARES Almost Nil. (usual white flares) 4.30 a.m. 200 yds to W of FRELINGHIEN 10 orange flares covering a front of 1000 to 1500 yds went up.

-----

(2).

REPORT ON ATTACK BY HUN PATROL.

ENEMY To C.O., 17th Bn.  
PATROLS From Lt. FLOOD, "C" Company.

I have to report that at 5.30 a.m. to-day 19/3/18 an enemy patrol of five approached Post C.10.5 and unsuccessfully attempted to cut wire on Southern side of Breastwork. The patrol advanced on the Post along the Southern side of the Breastwork. They then met our listening post of 2 men about 70 yds along the breastwork from the post & about 150 yds from the river. L/Cpl. BONNER, J. who was posted on the southern side of breastwork, - challenged the patrol, & receiving no answer, threw three Mills Bombs, & simultaneously L/Cpl. MONKS fired on the party from the north side of the breastwork. One of the enemy was wounded & taken prisoner & showing resistance had to be bayoneted before he could be brought to the rear. The balance of the patrol - 4 men - made off in the direction of FRELINGHIEN Bridge & were fired on by the two sentries. It was then daylight. On search being made only one of the enemy (who is now a prisoner) was found. Some more of prisoner's effects are being forwarded with this report.

To I.O.

5th A.I. Brigade (Sgd); C. J. SAME, Lieut.  
By Runner 7.15 a.m. A/I.O., 17th Bn.  
20/3/18.

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

APPENDIX 18

20/3/18.

## Reference Maps:-

Sheet 26.S.W., 1/20,000.  
 Sheet 36.N.W., 1/20,000.

1. The 17TH BATTALION, A.I.F. will be relieved by the 27th Battalion A.I.F. on the night of 21/22 March 1918. On relief, the 17TH BATTALION will move to KORTPEYP "A" Camp by train, detraining at CONNAUGHT SIDING. Entraining Point and time of departure of train, will be notified later.
2. Baggage Wagons will report to Transport Lines at 4 p.m. on the 20th instant.
3. Trench Stores, Maps, Defence Schemes, Aeroplane Photographs, and Works Policies will be handed over, and receipts in duplicate forwarded to Battalion Orderly Room by 10 a.m. on the 22nd instant.
4. One Guide per platoon will meet incoming Unit at AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND STALL, LE BIZET, at 7 p.m. on the 21st instant. Companies will arrange for Guides for Posts to be at Company Headquarters.
5. Each Company will detail One N.C.O. to report to Lieut. A. T. DOIG M.C. at Transport Lines, at 9 a.m. on the 21st instant, as a Billeting Party. These N.C.O.'s. will meet the train at CONNAUGHT SIDING, and guide their Companies to new Camp.
6. Transport Officer will arrange for limbers as under, to collect Lewis Guns, etc., viz:-
 

|                            |    |                 |
|----------------------------|----|-----------------|
| For "A" and "C" Companies  | at | SURREY FARM.    |
| For "B" and "D" Companies  | at | RESERVE FARM.   |
| For Battalion Headquarters | at | DESPIERRE FARM. |
7. Regimental Quarter Master will arrange for a hot meal for the Battalion on arrival in Camp.
8. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by wire.
9. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued by Runner  
 at 7 p.m. 20/3/18.

*J. B. Barrett* Captain,  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. File.
- 2/4. War Diary.
5. "A" Company.
6. "B" "
7. "C" "
8. "D" "
9. 27th Battalion A.I.F.
10. R. Q. M.
11. Transport Officer.
12. Spare.

SECRET

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

19  
19 Copy No 2

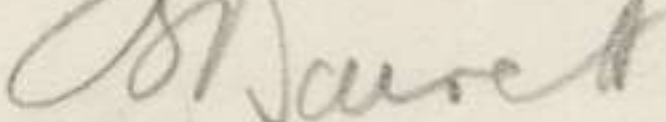
PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 20/21 March 1918.

| No. | Strength        | :Time and :place of :Departure: | :Time and :place of :Return. | Instructions.                   | :Password |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | : 9 p.m.                        | :Midnight                    | :Patrol North along River Bank. | : FOX     |
|     | : with L. Gun   | : Post No.                      | : Post No.                   | : Visit Post at C.5.a.2.2.      | : FOX     |
|     | : from "B" Coy. | : 1.c.4.                        | : 8.C.4.                     | : and WHITE FARM.               | : FOX     |
| 2   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | : 9.15 p.m.                     | :12.15 a.m.                  | : Patrol North and examine      | : FOX     |
|     | : with L. Gun   | : Post No.                      | : Post No.                   | : FRELINCHIEN BRIDGE.           | : FOX     |
|     | : from "A" Coy. | : 1.c.16.                       | : 6.c.10.                    |                                 | : FOX     |
| 3   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | : 1 a.m.                        | : 4 a.m.                     | : Visit WHITE FARM, and patrol  | : FOX     |
|     | : from          | : Post No.                      | : Post No.                   | : South as close as possible to | : FOX     |
|     | : "B" Coy.      | : 6.c.4.                        | : 7.c.10.                    | : River Bank.                   | : FOX     |
| 4   | :1 Off. 15 o.r. | : 2 a.m.                        | : 5.30 a.m.                  | : Patrol along Breastwork to    | : FOX     |
|     | : from          | : Post No.                      | : Post No.                   | : River, and then patrol South. | : FOX     |
|     | : "A" Coy.      | : 5.c.10.                       | : 1.c.16.                    |                                 | : FOX     |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters. When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "SNOW".

Patrol Report will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after the return of the patrol.

- |                 |                     |   |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. File.        | 8. "D" Coy.         | <br>Captain,<br>Adjutant 17th Battalion A. I. F. |
| 2/4. War Diary. | 9. Left Bn.         |   |
| 5. "A" Coy.     | 10. 5th A.I. Bde.   |   |
| 6. "B" "        | 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy. |   |
| 7. "C" "        | 12. Spare.          |   |



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17TH BATTALION, A.I.F.  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

APPENDIX 20 31

For 24 hours ending 7.15 a.m. 21/3/18.

No. 1 DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Officer 15 o/r & L.G.  
 PATROL P C.4.d.8.3. T 9 p.m.  
 P Patrol North along River Bank. Visit post at C.5.a.2.2. and  
 WHITE FARM.  
 P C.4.b.65.60. T 12 Mid. C Nil  
 I From Post l.c.4. I moved down to River at the SOAP HOUSE &  
 patrolled North. The River is rising rapidly & is over-  
 flowing into the marsh. No enemy encountered. Visited  
 post at C.5.a.2.2 & WHITE FARM. The DRIFTWOOD BRIDGE is  
 partially submerged.

No. 3 DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr. 15 o/r.  
 PATROL P C4.b.7.5. T 1 a.m.  
 P Visit WHITE FARM & Patrol South as close as possible to River  
 Bank.  
 P C.10.b.8.9. T 4 a.m. C Nil  
 I Visited WHITE FARM at 1.15 a.m. & struck the River at DRIFT-  
 WOOD BRIDGE. The river is very high. Patrolled South-  
 wards along the river bank, which is practically dry.  
 The marsh, however, is flooded. Nothing was seen or heard  
 of the enemy.

No. 4 DEULEMONT 1/10,000 P 1 Offr. 15 o/r.  
 PATROL P C.10.b.7.3. T 2 a.m.  
 P Patrol along Breastwork to R iver & then patrol South.  
 P C.16.a.8.5. T 5.30 a.m. C Nil  
 I Patrol Leader & one N.C.O. leaving remainder of patrol as  
 covering party at C.11.a.1.1. moved along breastwork  
 towards FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE. On South side of Breastwork at  
 C.11.c.20.95 a small belt of German concertina wire 5' high  
 was struck, running from top of embankment to canal which  
 lies parallel to road. At C.11.c.25.85 there is a small  
 wooden structure with slits of peepholes on sides facing  
 our lines which has very likely been used at one time as  
 a German Listening Post. A bomb was thrown into wooden  
 structure at C.11.c.37.94 to ensure that there were no  
 enemy occupying it. A rifle grenade was fired on to bridge  
 C.11.c.45.90. Three minutes from time of throwing bomb  
 flares went up from C.11.c.44.90 & M.G's opened fire.

OUR ARTILLERY 2.15 p.m. 18 pdrs shelled wood in C.5.d. Did counter-battery work  
 during day & silenced 4.2 guns at night which were firing  
 on MONMOUTH TRENCH. 12.15 a.m. 18 pdrs fired on & dispersed  
 working party at C.11.c.45.90. Our 4.5's shelled  
 C.11.c.9.3 for 10 minutes at 6.20 p.m. 3.45 a.m. our  
 artillery shelled on left Battalion front very heavily  
 for 17 minutes, gradually slackening off after that time.

OUR T.M's. 9 a.m. Our trench mortars fired 10 rounds on C.5/d.38.17 which  
 is an enemy T.M. emplacement.

OUR PLANES Very active during afternoon. Fired on by A.A. M.G's. from  
 FRELINGHIEN.

ENEMY T.M's. 11.30 a.m. Enemy T.M's. fired 10 rounds on C.4.b from C.5.d.38.17  
 2.30 p.m. Light enemy T.M. was active from C.17.a.80.95 on  
 C.10.d.3.6. At 12.35 a.m. enemy T.M. active from C.11.c.7.  
 7. was silenced by our artillery.

ENEMY M.G's. A.A.M.G's. located at C.11.c.7.7. C.11.c.2.6. C.5.c.70.60  
 C.17.a.35.63 and C.11.b.2.6. Located at C.11.C.55.85 and  
 C.11.a.55.05.

INFANTRY ACTIVITY 12.30 p.m. 2 men were seen to leave CESSPIT HOUSE travelling  
 along path in direction of UNKNOWN FARM. 12.15 a.m.  
 working party heard near FRELINGHIEN BRIDGE.



SECRET.

17TH BATTALION, A.I.F. 21

Copy No 3

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 21/22 March 1918.

| No: | Strength                                | :Time and :place of :Departure:      | :Time and :place of :Return.             | Instructions.                  | :Password |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1   | :1 Off. 10 of<br>: from<br>: "A" Coy.   | : 9 p.m.<br>: Post No.<br>: l.c. 16. | : 10.30 p.m.<br>: Post No.<br>: s.c. 10. | : Patrol North to cover Relief | : SPRING  |
| 2   | :1 Off. 10 o.r.<br>: from<br>: "B" Coy. | : 9 p.m.<br>: Post No.<br>: l.c. 4.  | : 10.30 p.m.<br>: Post No.<br>: s.c. 4.  | : Patrol North to cover Relief | : SPRING  |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.  
 Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.  
 When patrol returns, the following word will be wired to Battalion Headquarters - "SHOWERY".  
 Patrol Report will be handed in to Battalion Headquarters OF RELIEVING UNIT.

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. File.        | 8. "D" Coy.         |
| 2/4. War Diary. | 9. Left Bn.         |
| 5. "A" Coy.     | 10. 5th A.I. Bde.   |
| 6. "B" "        | 11. 5th A.M.G. Coy. |
| 7. "C" "        | 12. Spare.          |

*J. Barnett*  
 Captain,  
 Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

17th Aust Bn A.I.F.

24/3/18

## Reference Maps:-

Sheet 285.W + S.E (part of).

Ed 3a 1/20,000

1. The 5th Australian Inf. Bde will relieve the 5th Aust Infy Bde in the MESSINES sector on nights of 24th/25th and 25th/26th March. The 17th Bn will relieve 30th Pm LINE RIGHT on night 24th/25th of 3rd

A coy Right Front

B coy Left Front

D coy in Support

C coy in Reserve.

2. Coys will fall in ready to move off at 2.45 P.M. in the following order: A coy, B coy, C coy, D coy; distance between Coys 100 yds.

① A halt will be made in the vicinity of WULVERGHEM for tea.

3. Transport Officer will arrange for Officers Mess <sup>water Carts</sup> and bookers to proceed to the halting place near WULVERGHEM and to leave camp at 2.45 P.M.

Lewis Gun Limbers, and limber for Signalling & Pm Orderly Room equipment will dump their loads at T6.d 5.9 under guard. Limbers will then return to Transport Lines.

② After tea 3 bookers will go forward to STINKING FARM U7a where all cooking for the Bn will be done.

③ All water for the front line will be drawn from Pm Hqs in petrol tins.

④ Bn Hqs is at U10a 3.9.

⑤ R.A.P. is near Bn Hqs.

⑥ Instructions re rations & details to remain behind will be issued later.

⑦ ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued by runner 12 noon 24.3.18

J. Barnett Capt

Adj't 17th Bn A.I.F.

## DISTRIBUTION

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 File        | 9. R.Q.M              |
| 2/4 War Diary | 10. Transport Officer |
| 5 A Coy       | 11/12 Spare.          |
| 6 B Coy       |                       |
| 7 C Coy       |                       |
| 8 D Coy       |                       |

COPY

23

23

Intelligence Report

17th Bn. A.S.F.

for 24 hours ending 5 a.m. 25.3.18.

Operations The relief of R.F. Front Bn. was successful, completed by 10.15 p.m. 24.3.18.

At various intervals our planes were over enemy lines and were subjected to considerable M.G. fire.

During the day, our artillery shelled enemy lines in Warneton, across of Kingsclere, Soldiers Crossing (Heavies) & the Gasometer. T.M. positions were subjected to retaliating fire (effective).

Enemy Shellings

| Time       | No. Shells | Calibre  | Direction       | Target      | Nature | Results |
|------------|------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|--------|---------|
| 7.15 a.m.  | 8          | 4.2 H.F. | rear Warneton   | Septieme Tm | -      | -       |
| 8.20       | 45         | "        | "               | "           | -      | -       |
| 12.20 p.m. | 4          | "        | rear Kingsclere | L Coy.      | -      | -       |
| 2.30       | 11         | "        | Chau            | Bethlehem   | -      | -       |
| 4.35       | 5          | "        | Kiwi            | ?           | -      | -       |
| 10.10      | 10         | " Gas    | ?               | Huns Walk   | -      | -       |
| 11.10      | 10         | L.T.M.   | Kiwi            | U.S.B.      | -      | -       |
| 12.35      | 10         | do       | "               | "           | -      | -       |
| 2.55       | 10         | H.T.M.   | "               | near Spk 45 | -      | -       |
| 4.25       | 10         | "        | "               | Spk 45      | -      | -       |

Enemy M.G. Hostile M.G. active during night

Quicks On 2 occasions - 1.30pm - 12pm mid night - 2 enemy planes crossed our lines.

Miscellaneous Visibility good. Buake reports

I.O. 5th Brigade per D.P. 25.3.18 (see CR, Mo The Lt I.O. 17th Bn.

Intelligence Report. 94 17th Bn. A.S.M.

for 24 hours ending 5 am. 26.3.18

Operations

Our artillery, rightly, shelled enemy areas - defenses. T.M. positions at U.12, O.S.5. and in vicinity of Kiwi Farm were subjected to retaliating fire.

Our planes were active during morning and from 3pm till 7pm.

Enemy Shelling Enemy artillery - T.M.s. were less active.

| Duration              | Tps | Direction             | Calibre        | Target                                | Notes | Result             |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 9.5 am.               | 10  | Warneton              | 4.2 H.E.       | U.30                                  |       |                    |
| 9.30                  | 25  | Chateau               | "              | Huns Walk to White Col. R. Coy Sector |       |                    |
| 10.30                 | 13  | U.12.c.5.5            | H.T.M.         | S.p.H. U.4                            |       | No material damage |
| 11.5                  | 10  | Kingsclere            | 7.7 H.E.       | S.p.H. U.4                            |       |                    |
| 12.35<br>1 pm<br>p.m. | 20  | Warneton + Kingsclere | 4.2 - 5.9 H.E. | S.p.1. U.4                            |       |                    |
| 1.00                  | 15  | O.36.c.5.5            | H.T.M.         | Steignest Farm                        |       |                    |
| 5.55                  | 9   | Kiwi Farm             | 4.2 H.E.       | Vicinity Fbrsara                      |       |                    |
| 8.20                  | 3   | "                     | H.T.M.         | "                                     |       |                    |
| 12 pm                 | 12  | " ?                   | "              | "                                     |       |                    |
| 5.15 pm.              | 50  | "                     | 4.2 H.E.       | Huns Walk in U.4 b.                   |       |                    |

Enemy M.G.s were active opposite R. Sector during but otherwise less active.

Enemy activity

Hostile Ariel Activity Almost nil. R.E.A. seen at 1.30 pm. Hostile Balloon on T.B. 103°

from U.4.2.15.20

Movement - Considerable train movement noticed during afternoon behind enemy lines.

At 12pm smoke was seen - also a main head from Trench at U.6.C. 48.65.

At 6.55 pm. 2 men left Kingsclere Farm - disappeared at U.6.C. 15.90. From 2.30 am to 3 am. enemy transport could be heard in direction of Bas Warneton.

A number of flash lamps were observed signalling during night for short periods. One was observed on T.B. of 99° from U.4.2.15.20 at 8.40 pm. At 11.33 pm. red flames breaking into several strands was seen on L. Bn. Front. No result.

Miscellaneous General questions and train movement may indicate relief. Prisoner Parrying.

(cc) C.R. Mc Shea R. I.O. 17th Bn. A.S.M.

To

I.O.

5th Bde.

6 am. 26.3.18 D.D.

Intelligence Report  
for 24 hours ending 5 p.m. 27.3.18

Operations Our activity was slightly more active - Warneton receiving the most attention from F.A. About 20 rounds from Heave Hows were observed around Comines Ch. about 6 pm. Retaliation was obtained on enemy T.M. Our planes were active during day. At 7.30 am 3 of our planes 1 E.A. down in vicinity of Bas Warneton.

Enemy Shelling Quite during day but quiet during night.

| Time                   | Planes    | From                       | Calibre                         | Target  | Nature         |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 6.45 am                | 12        | O36 d. 5.5.                | H.T.M.                          | U35 d.  | -              |
| 7.00 am                | 20        | ?                          | 77 H.E.                         | rear of Spl. U.S.                                     |                |
| 12.15 pm<br>- 2.00 pm  | 50 approx | Kingsclere Warneton        | H.2.<br>77 H.E.                 | S.P.H. U.H.<br>U.H.B. 12.20<br>Huns Walk.             |                |
| 2.47 pm<br>- 7.30 pm   | few       | Kiwi Fm                    | H.T.M.<br>also<br>Pincapple.    | Wundam<br>U.5.4.81.                                   |                |
| 10 pm                  | 1         | No 8. Position             | H.T.M.                          | Right Post  |                |
| 10.45 am               |           | Barrage scattered on left. |                                 |   |                |
| 10.50 pm<br>- 11.35 pm | 2         | near of Kingsclere         | 77, H.2.<br>59 H.E.<br>few 90s. | S.P.H. U.H.<br>Huns Walk<br>Septieme Infl. 40.<br>OP. | Light Barrage  |
| 12.5 am<br>- 2.30 am   | 20        | Kiwi Fm.                   | H.T.M.                          | Left Coy.   |                |
| 4.0 am                 | few       | ?                          | 77 H.E.                         | near The. also<br>Lacroy U.H.B.                       | End of Barrage |

Time Planes From Calibre Target Nature  
 4 am } few ? 77 H.E. S.P.H. Douve ? Curfew 2  
 - 4.20 }  
 1-3 pm 200 Nos 2, 5, 6, 21, 8, Kiwi Fm T.M. Front Line. Longing.  
 position  
 E.A. killed - E.T.M. fire during day  
 apparently included registration shots.  
Enemy attacks Enemy M.E. were more active during night.  
Hostile Aerial activity More active than previous 2 days. 1 E.A. forced down near Bas Warneton after 1/2 hr. over our lines - 7.00 am. 11.40 am E.A. few low over sector and front. 3.15 pm - 4.35 pm over Br on left and occasionally over this sector. E.A. down over Br at 8.10 pm - 8.25 pm. Enemy Balloon was observed in front at 10.30 pm.

Movement Movement of road men appear to indicate that enemy withdrawal during day from their posts in front of our posts No 1 & 2. Threat at U.6.C. 48.65 still observed. (Also reported 26.3.18) 2 men left at 8.10 am and disappeared at U.6.C. 65.85. At 8.20 am 2 men wounded, 1 captured - carrying a light work from U.6.A. 25.30 to rear at U.6.B. 05.12. 12 noon 1000 left sector at V.7.D. 9.5 + smoke also observed. 5.10 pm 3 men left V.7.A. 75.81 + disappeared in rear of Warneton each carrying a bag.

APPENDIX 25

7.36 am. Signal lamp working from Kiwi  
 Farm.  
 Enemy M.C. active from 0360-19.90.  
 Train movement less than yesterday. (26/3/12)  
 Visibility. Foggy in early morning but very  
 good onwards.

(20) P. M. Stee Lt  
 I.O. 17th Bn.

I.O.  
 5th A.S. Brigade.



Copy No 5

Secret.

17th Battalion Order No 62

Headquarters,  
17th Battalion, A.I.F.  
28th March 1918

1. On the night 28/29 March "C" Coy, will relieve "A" Coy and "D" Coy, will relieve "B" Coy in the Home Line.
2. "A" - "B" Coy will take over the reserve - support dispositions respectively.
3. Liaison operation by R.C. (Brigade Order No 150) will take place tomorrow at 10.40 P.M. Relief will take place at such time after Zero as safety conditions will permit in terms of this order. The relieving Coy will reoccupy the evacuated area.
4. Positions for the evening meal will be as usual. "A" Coy will arrange to push back the trucks en route to the Reserve position.
5. Minor arrangements will be <sup>made</sup> ~~arranged~~ mutually between Coys subject to the terms of this order.
6. The word "Cigarette" will be used to Pn. H.Q. on completion of relief.
7. Acknowledgement.

*G. Gilbert*  
Adjutant, 17th Bn A.I.F.  
for C.O.

Distribution

- 1 - A Coy
- 2 - B "
- 3 - C "
- 4 - D "
- 5/7 - Liaison
- 8 - 6th A.I.F. Bde
- 9 - File

17th Battalion A.S.F.

27

Intelligence Report

for 24 hours ending 5 a.m. 28.3.18

See warning time from U.H.D. 12.18

Operations At 10.30 p.m. gas attack with 4" Stokes came off according to programme. Approx 2 min. after zero enemy gas flares bursting into 2 areas and opened <sup>on front line</sup> with M.G.'s - T.M.s. Artillery (4 or 5 light) until 10.55 when it ceased on firing of flares bursting into 2 areas. At 11 pm 2 areas again brought on fire for about 5 mins. when it was stopped by flares (open as before). Several Stokes rounds dropped in rear of our front posts (men withdrawn as per programme) and gas could still be smelt at midnight when posts re-occupied - but quickly disappeared.

Our Artillery Normally active. Fired during day on enemy T.M. positions round Kivi Farm, Chateau Chesquieres & Kingsclere by 4.5 & 18 pm. Warneton Church also shelled by 4.5. Hours. At 11.40 p.m. Bds

Enemy shelling Quite than usual on the whole, except from 3.30 am onwards (row

ceased 7 am) 7

| Time  | Rounds                                     | Direction   | Calibre                 | Target  | Remarks  |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|----------|
| 6.15 am }<br>7.55 am }<br>6.30 pm }<br>11.30 pm } | about 20-30 rounds each dip each direction | L.T.M. non }<br>No 8 prairie }<br>Other ? }             | L.T.M. }<br>Pineapple } | Mainie }<br>Mainie }<br>Post No 9 & 8 }<br>(U.F.D. 2) |          |
| 10.30 am  | 10   | Warneton  | 4.2 H.E.                | Fm de la Croix  |          |
| 11.30   | 25   | ?   | 4.2 K59                 | U.S. 100  |          |
| 1.30 pm }<br>2.35 pm }                            | 10 }<br>few }                              | Kingsclere }<br>Kivi Fm. }                              | 77 H.E. }<br>4.2 }      | Staignest Fm.   |          |
| 5.30 pm   | 20   | 130° T.B.   | 77                      | Bethlehem Rd.   |          |
| 5.40 pm   | few  | 110° T.B.   | 4.2                     | do.   |          |
| 5.50 pm }<br>6.30 pm }                            | few }<br>each gun }                        | Kingsclere }<br>Nos. 16, 17 & 18 }                      | T.M.                    | L. Coy.   | Sitterna |
| 7.5 pm }<br>7.50 pm }                             | few }                                      | Kingsclere  | 77 Shrap. }<br>4.2 "    | Huns Walk.  |          |
| 3.30 am onwards                                   | 2 or 3 a min.                              | Kivi Fm. }<br>Kingsclere }<br>T.B. 133° }<br>T.B. 90° } | 4.2 }<br>5.9 }<br>77 }  | New Cross St }<br>O.P. }<br>U.H.D. 88 }<br>vicinity } |          |

Warning time from U.H.D. 12.18.

Enemy Artillery M.G.s were active during night than usual except during gas attack.

Hostile Aerial Activity nil.

Movement - At 7.15 am party of 15 men seen moving from V.7.c.3.4 towards Warneton 18 pm gas (100 yds E) V.1.c.40.45 party of 2 or 3 men seen NW at 3.30 pm & 4.30 pm.

Movement has was also suspected during early morning but could not be verified owing to fog.

3 pm. Man was seen moving from Warneton Ch. when 4.5" opened up.

APPENDIX 24

7.35 pm. Signal lamp observed in vicinity of  
Kiwi Farm.

From midnight onwards front posts (on  
reoccupation) report that enemy trenches seem  
quieter than usual.

Miscellaneous

Flies More than usual after gas  
bombardment

Visibility Poor.

by: C. R. McPhee Lt.  
I.O. 17th Bn. A.I.F.

I.O.

5th Brigade

per D.T.L.S.

8 a.m. 28.3.18.

88

17th Battalion AIF

Copy No. 7

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~~Operation~~ Order No 63

29.3.18

APPENDIX

28

Reprinted Map Sheet 25 1/20000

- ① In the event of orders being received for the relief of the Battalion the words "YES" will be wired to all concerned, on the date on which the relief is to take place. On the receipt of this message the following routine will be observed.
- ② Each Coy will detail one nec. to report to Lt. Blackburn at Bn H.Q. at 3 pm to act as Bickling party
- ③ The following guides will be detailed to report to Bn H.Q.
  - Front Line Coy:- two per Coy as soon as visibility permits
  - Support Coy:- two at 7 pm.
  - Rear Coy:- One for Coy. H.Q. at 7 pm
 Sig Officer will detail two runners to be at junction of Duckboard track & Messines-Walvinghem Road at T.L.D. 10.70. at 6.30 pm to guide the incoming unit as far as Bn H.Q.
- ④ Transport Officer will arrange for transport as under
  - (I) To be at Stinking Farm at 8 pm
    - (a) Lewis Cart.
    - (b) limber for Officers' gear.
  - (II) Two and a half (2 1/2) limbers for Lewis Guns, which when loaded will move with the Battalion
- ⑤ On relief receipts will be obtained for all trench stores etc, two copies of which will be handed in to Bn H.Q. by 10 am on day following relief.
- ⑥ On completion of relief code words as under will be wired to Bn H.Q.
  - A Coy "OIL"
  - B "FLANNELETTE"
  - C "PULL THRU"
  - D "BOTTLE"

⑦ Acknowledged

|                |           |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Distribution:- |           |            |
| No 1           | A Coy     | No 9. Div  |
| " 2            | B "       | No 10. Div |
| " 3            | C "       | " 11. Div  |
| " 4            | D "       |            |
| " 5            | 5th AIF   |            |
| " 6/8          | War Diary |            |

*[Handwritten signature]*

17th Battalion A.I.F. Coy.

29

29

Intelligence Report

for 24 hours ending 5 a.m. 29.3.18

Operations Relief of Tank Air Corps by Reserve and Support Coy was successfully completed.

Our artillery was fairly active during morning. A number of enemy T.M. positions in vicinity of Chesouiers Ch. and Kiwi Farm were subjected to retaliation fire by H's at 18 p.m. 18 p.m. paid attention to Warneton - Ch. At 1:51 a.m. our T.M. fired on enemy line with incendiary bombs. Enemy replied with bursts of M.E. fire - 30 rounds H's.

Enemy activity Less than usual. Practically nil from 2 a.m.

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Target</u>     | <u>Range</u> | <u>Calibre</u> | <u>Direction</u> | <u>Remarks</u>        |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 7:50 a.m.   | Bethlehem Rd.     | 10           | 59 H.E.        | ?                |                       |
| 7:25 a.m.   | Front line        | 50           | L.H.           | Angle T.M.       | Retaliation obtained  |
| 10:10 a.m.  | Steignest.        |              | T.M.           | Ch. Chesg. Kiwi. |                       |
| 1:45 p.m.   | U.K.V.            | 18           | 77 H.E.        | Ch. Chesg.       |                       |
| 12:10 p.m.  | Sph. U.V.         | 12           | "              | Kiwi Fm.         |                       |
| 5:35 p.m.   | Steignest.        | Few.         | 59 H.E.        | Bas Warneton.    |                       |
| 7:10 p.m.   | Vicinity 8.9 Post | 25           | Triangular     | ?                |                       |
| 1:55 a.m.   | Peak of Sph. U.V. | 30           | 4.2 H.E.       | Kingsclere       | Retaliation from T.M. |

Hostile. Aerial Activity. Nil.

Movement - 29 OK 2:30 p.m. movement at V.H.A. 2.8 - at 2:55 p.m. what appeared to be a Caterpillar was seen here moving along road S.E.

Our planes. Over our line 3 or 4 times during day.

Position. Very good.

(50) 17th Bn A.I.F.  
I.O. 17th Bn A.I.F.

To  
I.O.  
SIR G.D. Briggs.  
per D.T. L.S. 6 a.m. 29.3.18.

APPENDIX 29

86

SECRET. 29<sup>a</sup> 17TH BATTALION, A.I.F. 29<sup>a</sup> Copy No 2

PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 29/30TH MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength                              | :Time and :<br>:place of :<br>:Departure: | :Time and :<br>:place of :<br>:Return. : | Instructions.   | :<br>:Password |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------|
| 1   | 1 Off. 8 o.r.<br>: from<br>: "C" Coy. | : 9 p.m.<br>: Ferme de<br>: la Croix      | : 10.30 p.m.<br>: Ferme de<br>: la Croix | : Inspect ditch running N.& S.<br>: 100 yds in front of our line.<br>: Try and locate enemy posts. To:<br>: inspect enemy wire. | :<br>: WHISKY  |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.  
 Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.  
 When patrol returns, ~~the following words will be used to identify the~~  
~~patrol~~ - the Patrol Commander will report personally to Battalion Headquarters, and furnish report.

Copies to -

- 1. File.
- 2/4. War Diary.
- 5. "A" Coy.
- 6. "B" "
- 7. "C" "
- 8. "D" Coy.
- 9. Right Bn.
- 10. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
- 11. 5th A.I. Bde.
- 12. Spare.

*[Signature]*  
 Lieut.  
 A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

86  
S E C R E T.30  
17TH BATTALION. A.I.F.30  
Copy No 2PATROL PROGRAMME FOR NIGHT 30/31 MARCH 1918.

| No: | Strength                        | :Time and<br>:p lace of<br>:Departure | :Time and<br>:place of<br>:Return   | Instructions.  | :<br>:Password |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1   | Off. 8 o.r.<br>from<br>"C" Coy. | 9 p.m.<br>Ferme de<br>la Croix.       | 10.30 p.m.<br>Ferme de<br>la Croix. | Try and locate enemy outpost<br>and if possible obtain<br>identifications. | RUM            |

Pass Word and Programme will be made known to all ranks immediately it is received.

Programme must on no account be taken forward of Company Headquarters.

The Patrol Commander will report to Battalion Headquarters on the return of the patrol, and furnish report.

Copies to -

1. File.
- 2/4. War Diary.
5. "A" Coy.
6. "B" "
7. "C" "
8. "D" "
9. Right Bn.
10. 5th A.M.G. Coy.
11. 5th A.I. Bde.
12. Sp are.

*A.G. Gilbert*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 17th Battalion A.I.F.

17th Battalion A.I.F.

31

Intelligence Report

for F.H. Enigma 5 a.m. 30/3/18

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Operations

A reconnaissance patrol of 10 M.G. 3. ex. left Post Vill. 52.72 at 8 p.m. and proceeded along ditch running North to road and thence N.E. towards enemy line.

The ditch was found to be running straight and about 4' wide. An enemy post and M.G. was located behind a hedgebank running N+S and about 50' on the enemy side of the ditch.

This appears to be one East of our 1st Post. Patrol then moved N.

along ditch from 150' to the road. A M.G. fired from the vicinity of U.I.B. 87.69 and at the same time a flare was fired from the same spot. A Co. was also heard to come from this vicinity.

The ground over which the patrol travelled was in a very bad state - being churned up & water pooled.

Patrol returned at 10.30 p.m. Same patrol covered same ground between 1.15 a.m. & 3.30 a.m. on 30/3/18 without gaining any further information.

(W.L. Flood Lt. Officer 1/2 Patrol)

Observations Hostile T.M. positions at Kiwi

Warneton - Ch. Chesqueres were observed 31

31

A working party at U.I.B. 05.80 was dispersed on 18 p.m. Soldier Cassin was killed on 4.50 at 2 a.m.

Enemy Shelling

less than usual

| Time                | Calibre     | Target                 | From                        | Remarks            |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 9.45 a.m.           | M           | Sp. U.K.               | Kiwi Fm.                    | No material damage |
| 10.5 a.m.           | H.T.M.      | Rt. Front              | Ch. Chesq. rear of Warneton |                    |
| 12.30 p.m.          | 77 H.E.     | Sp. U.K. Hung Walk     | Kingsclere                  | 16 ras.            |
| Quick to 3 p.m.     |             |                        |                             |                    |
| 4.20 p.m.           | 4.25 a.m.   | En. de la Croix        | Warneton                    | 20-30 ras.         |
| 5.20 p.m.           | H.E. H.T.M. |                        | Bondai Ho. No. 8.16         |                    |
| Quick to 11.30 p.m. |             |                        |                             |                    |
| 11.30               | H.29 a.m.   | U.I.B. U.3. d          | ?                           | 50 ras.            |
| 1 a.m. 2 a.m.       | H.T.M.      | Rt. Front Line (No. 1) | Kiwi Fm.                    | 12 ras.            |

Machine Guns

Continued burst on

towards post area.

Artillery

Nil

Movement

Movement was observed at

U.I.B. 20.15, U.I.B. 2.3. (3 occasions during day)

A party working at U.I.B. 05.80 was dispersed. Movement was observed near pill boxes in this field at intervals during the day.

Visibility

Good during most part of day.

(see Op. No. 1 the Day)

I.O. 17th Bn. A.I.F. I.O. 17th Bn. A.I.F.

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APPENDIX 31

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17th Battalion, A.S.F.  
 Intelligence Report  
 for R.H. hours around 5am 31.3.18

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Operations

Patrol of 1 officer + 8 or ranks left our line at U.I.I.B. 52.60 and proceeded to reconnoitre suspected enemy positions at U.I.I.B. 70.62. No post was found here and the patrol crossed ditch by a small bridge at the point where Zorceda Rd. crosses it. The patrol then turned half right and made towards enemy wire, and suspected post in the vicinity of U.I.I.B. 77.60. After close on the wire - the patrol was challenged by a hostile patrol of about 5 men inside his wire. A bomb fight ensued in which the officer in charge of our patrol was wounded by the first enemy bomb. Our patrol endeavoured to surround the enemy but were prevented by the wire. Some casualties were caused to the enemy as he was heard to scream. Numerous flares were heard sent up from the enemy lines and his patrol withdrew. All our men returned to our lines. Besides the patrol leader - 3 or ranks were slightly wounded. The hostile wire just about this point

(U.I.I.B. 77) presents an obstacle - but is by no means in good condition. No main tank is in a very wet and rough condition, and movement is difficult.

(At Flood Officer's Patrol)

Gas projector attack started at 1 am. Enemy reply was feeble (77. Time) and ceased altogether at 1.50 am. At 1.10 am a heavy cloud could be seen hanging over enemy lines. Gas bombs could be heard at intervals.

Our Artillery co-operated in gas attack. Our 89th. shelled targets round Warneton, Kiwi Farm, Kingsclere - also enemy front line. Heavy shelled Comines, Bas Warneton & La Busse. (see movement).

Our planes were active during the day (6.30 - 7.30 am) - 8.35 - 9 am - 9.15 am - 1.20 am - 1.15 to 1.45 - 2.15 pm)

Enemy Shelling:

| Time                | Target               | Calibre          | Direction    | Remark                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|---|
| 8.35 am             | R. Front             | T.M.             | North        | 6 in                                      |
| 10.5 am             | U.I.I.B. 21          | 4.2 H.E.         | Bas Warneton | 18 "                                      |
| 1.30 pm<br>& 2.5 pm | "<br>& vicinity      | 77 Gun           | Kingsclere   | Intermittent                              |
| 2.16                | Bas on R.            | 5.9              | 92° 92½°     | Flares from town at Comines               |
| 3.45 pm<br>5.30 pm  | Scattered over Sect. | 77 Gun<br>14. E. | ?            | About 70 nos H.E.<br>Gas and/or gasperca. |

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APPENDIX 32

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| Time    | Target     | Calibre | Direction | Remarks              |
|---------|------------|---------|-----------|----------------------|
| 37 7 pm | Red Sector | 77 Gas  | ?         | Gas and<br>artillery |

About a dozen T.M. Bombs and a few  
parapets were put over during night on  
Front Line.  
Very little shelling during day from  
enemy heavies.

Enemy M.P. Quiet. Moderate fire during  
Gas protection attack.

Hostile Aerial activity L.E.A. over our  
lines at 4.15 p.m.

Enemy Artillery Most of shelling during  
day appeared to be from same two batteries  
of 77mm. and they also appeared to be shelling  
Bn on mark.

Movement Movement was observed at  
U.G. 10.50. also smoke at numerous intervals.  
Considerable smoke from dug-outs at  
U.G. 10.50. & U.L. 38.90. 3 men seen to  
enter house at U.G. 75.65.

At 12.30 p.m. an enemy balloon was observed  
from T.B. of 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° to bearing of 96° from  
O.P. (Plover) at U.L. 12.20.

Flare dump in vicinity of Fm. de Bussche  
(Vid) hit by our How. at 3.20 p.m.

Train seen skirting, behind Bas Werneton  
(on bearing of 103 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° T.B. from U.L. 12.20)

Flares Red flares brought enemy activity  
into action and at 1.30 p.m. Green flares  
caused cessation of activity on our sector.

Visibility Bad (Fair from 11 am - 1.30 p.m.)

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(20) Ch. M. P. H. J. H.

I.O. 1715 Bn. A.S.F.

I.O.  
5th A.S.F. Brigade  
3/3/18.

for March. Transport Officers Report.

No evacuation of horses during month.  
 General health of animals good tho' condition in some cases might be better.  
 Animals are still on reduced forage ration.

13 lb oats for H. D.      11 lb oats L.D.      9 lbs hay for all.

This ration cannot be profitably reduced further + could with advantage to animals be increased somewhat as there has been a slight decline of condition through the older horses.

The use of a chaff cutter which was available for a short while caused a sensible improvement.

2-4-18.

M. J. Purley, Capt.  
 T.O. 14th Div.