

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/56/28

**Title:** 39th Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/56/28

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Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**



OF *39th Battalion*

FOR

*August* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

*Charles Hutton Major  
Co 19th Bn*



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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August 1918

Army Form C. 2118.

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39th Batt AM

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Pit Central Haive Wood</p>	<p>Aug 2nd</p>		<p>Weather Squally &amp; so interfered with aeroplane activity on both sides. Usual activity of our artillery whilst enemy artillery was more active than usual especially about P. 9 &amp; P. 10. Once again much enemy movement in back areas. During the day representative officers of 38th Batt visited their opposite and arranged about the take over due on evening of 2nd August. The evening was exceptionally dark &amp; wet &amp; interfered with the relief to some extent. Whilst relief in progress enemy put down some severe strafes on forward areas, <del>causing</del> causing many casualties both in 39th &amp; 38th batt. American troops belonging to 129th Regt were attached for training &amp; showed splendid fighting qualities. Relief was completed about midnight, troops moving to Reserve area situated about 1000 yards west of Haive Wood. <u>Villers Lane.</u></p>	
<p>024 a 45.75 Map Ref. Trance 62. S.W.</p>	<p>Aug 3rd</p>		<p>Batt Strength 40 officers 180 NCO. 555 men 1 NCO &amp; 1 man taken on strength 1 man promoted NCO. Weather excellent. Working parties supplied for work in forward area.</p>	<p>H. D.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ozra 45.75 France 67° 5N.	Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Major G. Tutton visited Batt from Echelon to see the C.O. reference taking over battalion whilst Lt Col Rostenderson DSO went to Echelon for a rest. Co went to Pde returning with information reference taking over the line again on the 4 <sup>th</sup> from 42 <sup>nd</sup> Batt. Lt Davis No. 9 129 <sup>th</sup> Regt & his A.C. 6 Staff still with the batt. Lt W Hunter 37 <sup>th</sup> Batt (Pde Liaison officer) living at B.H.Q.	
Ozra 45.75 France 67° 5N.	Aug 4 <sup>th</sup>		Batt Strength 40 off to 99 No. 555 men 2 men on strength 2 men evaced sick. 1 No. evaced wounded. Lt Major Wutton took charge of batt. Weather still fine. Capt Beauchamp, Lt August & Lt Partice during the morning went to reconnoitre position occupied by 42 <sup>nd</sup> battalion east of Vaire Gonsartie. Coy commanders also visited their opposite. Lt Davis & men returned to 129 <sup>th</sup> Regt. Relief of 42 <sup>nd</sup> battalion carried out without a hitch Relief complete being given about 11.30 pm	

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39th Batt A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
T.33.C.9570 France 62 <sup>nd</sup> SEINE	Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Total Strength (Batt) 40 officers 100 M.O. 550 men 1 M.O. + 1 man on strength; 6 men evac. sick Weather wet &amp; dull. Major Lt. Hutton &amp; Lt. J. B. Pringle visited the boys. Suspected Anti tank position at T.36.d.18.44. 2 Platoons from M Coy under Lt. Brown &amp; Cobden detailed to act in Cooperation with 42<sup>nd</sup> Batt. Our artillery not so active as usual; whilst enemy artillery below normal. Normal enemy movement. Great activity in forward area preparing for battle.</p>	
T.33.C.9570	Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>		<p><u>Batt Strength</u> 40 officers 99 M.O. 546 men 1 M.O. + 2 men evacuated sick; 2 men evac. injured Weather dull &amp; inclined to rain; against flying but our planes normally active. Enemy artillery normally active in back area, whilst enemy planes below normal. Much enemy movement in back areas. 2 M Coy platoons reported to 42<sup>nd</sup> Batt for duty. Still active preparing for battle, especially in forward areas. Boy commanders at present in line. Left Capt J. Stewart "D" Right Lieut J. McArthur "C". Linc boys Left Capt J. Stewart "D" Right Lieut J. McArthur "C". All nucleus for battle Support Lieut E. Fliter MC "B" Reserve Lieut J. Le Ferre "A"</p>	

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39th Batt A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
J33c 9570	Aug 30th		<p><u>Batt Strength</u> 41 officers 99 NCO. 548 men</p> <p>Lt G. Hay on strength; also 4 men.</p> <p>1 man transferred to 3rd Div. Lig. Coy.</p> <p>1 man evacuated wounded</p> <p>The following officers reported as liaison officers to</p> <p>11th Bde Lt J. Collins.</p> <p>10th Bde Lt A. E. Gayett.</p> <p>English Bde on left Lt J. Rushbrook.</p> <p>Weather still somewhat dull; our machines however active.</p> <p>Final preparations for battle. During the evening watches synchronised.</p> <p>11th Bde took over the patrols at 10 pm + commenced cutting our wire.</p>	
J33c 9570	Aug 31st		<p><u>Batt Strength</u> 41 officers 99 NCO. 546 men</p> <p>1 man taken on strength</p> <p>3 men evacuated sick.</p>	<p>5</p>

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
T33C 9570 Map Ref. 62° NE.	Aug 8th		<p>The attack opened at 4.20 am, excellent barrage; previous to this 39th Battalion was withdrawn to support position to permit 42nd Div to attack.</p> <p>Everything in the attack went to time table; the misty morning assisted by artificial fog helped the infantry although hampered the tanks to a certain extent.</p> <p>About 10 am orders were received from Bde to move to enemy trench system (39th) P17C 34 to junction with old front line; whilst here, troops were tactically disposed.</p> <p>A Troop platoon attached to 2nd Batt moved forward with the attack along the north bank of the Doune canal to keep touch with 58th Division &amp; 11th Australian Bde.</p> <p>Without suffering casualties the managed to capture 40 prisoners &amp; 5 Machine Guns.</p> <p>At 2.45 pm orders were received to move the battalion to Q70 map ref 62° SE where the Bde acted as Reserve to 4th Division. Batt moved at 4.10 pm from Decroche road on receipt of orders from Bde.</p>	



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Aug 1918  
37th Batt AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
T33 C 95.70.	August	8th	<p>Previous this move Lt Shaw &amp; Sgt Watkins proceeded forward as advance party &amp; met the Bde Staff at ALWAYS CROSS Q19d.30.70</p> <p>Bde allotted Q19a as billeting area for 37th Bde. Bde were allotted by Hazel Wood, battalion arrived at 5.30 pm. Major Mutton proceeded immediately to Bde Hqs Q19.c.8.8 and received by instructions that forward area was to be reconnoitred by officers of battalion.</p> <p>During the evening Lt Brown &amp; Hodder rejoined battalion having been relieved by 11th Bde.</p> <p>During the evening enemy aircraft was busy with bombs some dropping in the proximity to Hazelwood.</p>	
Hazelwood Q19a.	August	9th	<p>Pass Strength. 41 officers 98 M.V. 545 men 1. M.V. 1 man load. etc.</p> <p>Weather Good. Much activity on the part of the Artillery. Officers reconnoitred the area occupied by 12th Bde. Nothing further to note except that aerial bombing active thro' out the night in forward area.</p>	<p>7</p>

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Summary of Events and Information

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Aug 10th	Hazel Wood.		<p>Cont Strength 41 officers 98 M.C. 544 men                      1 M.C. on strength                      1 M.C. transferred to AA Postal Corps.                      1 man missing in action Much of strength                      Lieut Mason returned from School.</p> <p>Weather Still hold. About midday Major Hutton returned from conference at Bde HQ with information concerning the taking the Spur on the west of Chignolle between the main Amiens St Quentin Rd and the Somme R with the assistance of tanks the Bde was to move out from the front line near Laque at 9.30 pm, proceed along the road as far as Avenue Cross R78 c. 50-45 thence along road north to Robert Wood skirt Chignolle on the west flank with 50th Battalion near Long Wood R4C thus completing an encircling movement. Battalions moved out as follows 37th with one section MG Coy + 3 tanks, 38th with half section MG Coy, 40th with 3 tanks + 1/2 section MG Coy 10th T.M. Battery + 37th Battalion</p>	

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3rd Battalion R.F.

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hazel Wood	Aug 10th		<p>Battalion objectives were from R 28 a 6000 with along road to Crossing thence along main Road to La Plaque &amp; the remaining line from La Plaque to old front line being held by 20th Battalion.</p> <p>The Battalion moved from Hazel Wood at 7pm &amp; guided by Lt Shaw proceeded by route which lead South of Susan Wood between Amy Wood &amp; Benyl Wood to Hospital @ 30.C.40.50 thence along main Road.</p> <p>A block occurred near Hospital and before the column properly got going again enemy planes came across in force &amp; bombed in vicinity of hospital causing many casualties. Lt Fleiter (MC) was wounded. After some delay &amp; sorting out the column moved thro barrage of gas shells &amp; machine gun fire to La Plaque where the battalion was held up owing to the other battalions <del>line</del> being held up by machine gun fire. Battalion dug in at this spot.</p>	

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August 1918  
39th Batt AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
La Plaque Map Ref. 67. SE	August		<p>About 3am 39th Battalion were ordered back to the old Amiens fence line whilst 38th &amp; 40th dug in along the main road as far as R. 27. d. 30.40</p> <p>39th Battalion moved to Amiens fence line Q. 30 d.</p> <p>Casualties were 1 Killed (Lt Cobden) &amp; 39 (Wounded &amp; gasnet)</p> <p><u>Battalion Strength</u></p> <p>39 Officers 99 MCO. 517 men 5 MCO + 8 men on strength 1 MCO evacuated Sick Lt Cobden K/A Lt Plater Wounded 2 MCO + 9 men evacuated wounded 1 MCO + 1 man missing.</p> <p>Nothing further to note for the day except that the weather was excellent.</p>	
Q 30 d	Aug 3am		<p><u>Batt Strength</u></p> <p>39 Officers 99 MCO. 519 men 1 man on strength previously reported missing Lt J. A. Shaw on English Leave.</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hazel Wood Q 19 a	Aug 14 <sup>th</sup>		Weather still continues fine. Batt still resting. Major C.P. Nelson went on English Leave + Lt Col R.O. Henderson D.S.O. resumed command. Nucleus rejoined. <del>Capt. Hemmings</del> usual bombing at night.	
Hazel Wood Q 19 a	Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>		<u>Batt Strength</u> 38 officers 98 NCOs 523 men 11 men taken on strength 1 NCO + 1 man evacuated wounded 1 man evac. accid. injured 1 man " " sick Weather still hold. Battalion resting. Usual bombing at night.	
<u>Letto</u>	Aug 16 <sup>th</sup>		<u>Batt. Strength.</u> 38 officers 98 NCOs 523 men Lt J. Anear to Lewis Gun School. Weather still fine. Battalion resting.	
<u>Letto</u>	Aug 17 <sup>th</sup>		<u>Batt Strength</u> 38 officers 98 NCOs 517 men 6 men evac. sick. Weather good. Battalion resting.	

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30th Batt A.I.F.  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kingswood Q. 19. a.	Aug 18th		<p>Batt Strength 38 officers 98 No. 515 men 2 men off strength declared Illegal Absentees. Lt. A. W. O'Leary returned from School. Batt resting.</p> <p>Weather Good.</p>	
Kingswood Q. 19. a.	Aug 19th		<p>Batt Strength 39 officers 98 No. 513 men Lt Senior taken on strength 2 men on " " 5 men evad Sick. Batt resting.</p> <p>Weather Excellent.</p>	
Kingswood Q. 19. a.	Aug 20th		<p>Batt Strength 39 officers 96 No. 504 men 1 man on strength 2 No. + 10 men evad Sick. Batt resting.</p> <p>Weather fine.</p>	
Kingswood Q. 19. a.	Aug 21st		<p>Batt Strength 39 officers 96 No. 509 men 5 men on strength. Weather good. At 6.30pm. Battalion moved to Sully Leec.</p>	<p>13</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sully Lsec T35d.	Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup>		<p><u>Batt Strength</u>. 39 officers 96 M.V. 505 men                      weather good. 4 men evacuated sick.                      Battalion rested and reorganized prior to a move forward.</p>	
Sully Lsec Map Ref Grance 62°	Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<p><u>Batt Strength</u>. 39 officers 95 M.V. 507 men                      3 men on strength                      weather fine                      1 M.V. (Sgt. A. R. Ellis M.M.) transferred to O.C. Batt U.K.                      1 man transferred to A.A.O.C.                      Lt. H. Brock Sopp to School.                      Battalion rose at 3am moved at 5am to K31 crd, a danga                      just north of Sully's Laurette. The battalion rested in this                      area until 9pm when a move was made to Quarry in                      K18 d 70 65, where Col. Henderson established his headquarters                      a forward HQ was set up at L.8.C. 76; whilst the line                      taken over was as follows                      Right Coy. L3d 40 80 to L3a 70 70, line running east west with                      4 posts held by 2 platoons                      Centre Coy. L3a 20 20 to L2d 74 15 <del>to</del> with 5 posts held by 2                      platoons</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>T31 crd</u>	Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>With one platoon in reserve. Left. L Coy L. 2d. 74. 15 to Linc. 05.35 with a platoon in reserve at L9 a 2080. L Coy in support with line from L89 20.20 to L8C 50.60 Lt St G. Gayett M.M. + one man wounded.</p>	
K8 a jobs map Ref 62?	Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>		<p><u>Batt Strength.</u> 38 officers 95 M.O. 506 men Lt Gayett + one man wounded</p> <p>Weather good Enemy artillery very heavy. H.E. + gas was used to bombard the front line, which was held until midnight 24/25<sup>th</sup></p>	
<u>Bray Aug</u>	25 <sup>th</sup>		<p><u>Batt Strength.</u> 37 officers 91 M.O. 479 men 3 men killed in action 4 M.O. + 22 men evacuated wounded 2 men evacuated Sick</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bray CO. ONE	25th August		<p>Weather remained fairly good. The batt. handed over the line to 384th batt at midnight <sup>at 11.30 pm</sup> and took up a position in front of Bray to pump off poms. They were in position before dawn. The advance commenced at 2.30 am and was carried out without opposition other than artillery fire. All objectives were gained practically without casualties &amp; after a protective barrage had ceased the line was being out in accordance with orders so that it was as follows:</p> <p>Company - Right Flank L18a 99 00 - L18a 45 55          Company - Centre L18a 45 55 - L18a 20 95          Company - Left L18a 20 95 - L11d 75 45</p> <p>Company in support at L17c</p> <p>Batt HQ was successively at the Church in Bray at L16.d.50.20 and at L17d 40 50. Telephonic communication was established with Brigade &amp; trench maintained almost from start.</p> <p>The operation was thoroughly very successful and 7 MG's captured together with some machine. The line was held during the day &amp; towards evening further orders were received to advance &amp; take up position G 8 a 70 30 to G 5 C 99 30. This advance was to be made in conjunction with &amp; conforming to the movements of 11th A.I. Bde. Line of advance 8 pm; orders received at 8.30 pm and the batt moved off on flank of 44th Bn at 9.0 pm. 11th Coy following a little later.</p>	

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3rd Battalion AIF  
Aug. 1918.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bray	Aug 26th		<p>Roll strength 35 officers 84 Lt Col 466 men Lt Powell on strength Lt Brown &amp; August evacuated wounded. Maj. &amp; 12 men evacuated wounded. Weather still remained fine. Continued to move first followed by A &amp; B Coy &amp; met little opposition. As this Coy lost touch for a time &amp; waited waiting for other. Coy to come up. Lieut Brown to take defensive flank at G 8 a 15.15 to G 8 a 40.75, placing 5 posts astride the road running NN East Cemetery. The other Coy. established themselves in a series of posts stretching around outskirts of Suzanne from cross roads below grid line between G 8 a 1 c &amp; down valley behind Cemetery, obtaining touch with B Coy which was reinforced by a platoon of A Coy. B Coy experienced opposition from a machine gun in Chakan wood and silenced it, using Lewis Gun with success. The MG was captured. By 5 am the series of posts had been constructed along "A" line &amp; patrols had entered the village of Suzanne. A Coy less one platoon carried rations for the 3 forward Coys and after delivering same remained waiting further instructions, along lower road running East through G 8 c. Again the operation was most successful no casualties were experienced and many acts of bravery &amp; devotion to duty were noted. The work of Lieut Sarrard was Specially valuable</p>	<p>117</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bray Suzanne C.P.N.E.	Aug 26th		<p>Capture of Suzanne and advance to B Line - 9.30am to midday 26th August.</p> <p>For the purpose of mopping up Suzanne and advancing to B Line the boys moved as follows. A Coy span left to right with B Coy in support. The last named moved to rear of Cemetery to line established by A Coy on A Line &amp; obtained a tactical position of great value.</p> <p>L Coy mopped up the long street on right of village turning along river and came under machine gun fire at G.9C 35.25. A patrol of 10 sent out &amp; the Coy moved along a bank to B Line and got into position. The 37th Batt to pass saw D Coy was held up until the gun was silenced. When they moved forward &amp; after several further advances the line they held was consolidated by D Coy.</p> <p>L Coy moved thro' the centre of village, moved it up and after emerging from the edge was under fire from machine guns &amp; small arms. They eventually got across the valley on to the B Line and occupied an old German trench system in which they consolidated.</p> <p>A Coy mopped up the left of the village and after supplying covering fire for the 37th Batt. advancing on their left attached &amp; captured Murray Wood together with a double line of positions beyond. The 3 Coy dug in &amp; consolidated on B Line using the old German system where possible &amp; tactically useful.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Suzanne Co. NE	Aug 26 <sup>th</sup>		After the advance of the 37 <sup>th</sup> Batt. the whole of 'B' line was taken over & held until midday next day (27 <sup>th</sup> ) when it was handed over to 37 <sup>th</sup> Batt. The work of Capt Le Vere was specially valuable in regard to the capture of Murray Wood, which is subject of special report attached.	
Suzanne Co. NE	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Batt Strength</p> <p>35 officers 83 Mts 449 men</p> <p>Wounded 1 Mts 13 men</p> <p>1 man missing</p> <p>3 men evacuated sick.</p>	
			<p>Weather fine.</p> <p>At 11.30 am the battalion received orders to move to LZ 3 a.c. on relief by 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Relief took place at midday &amp; battalion moved to LZ 3 a.c. by order.</p> <p>During the period of operations B. Co. was successively at Suzanne Church and at LZ 3 a.c. 35. Telephonic communication was maintained with other batts. throughout. On completion of move the batt. was quartered in P.O.W. Cage L.23.0.49 (Sheet Co. NE). Here the battalion rested.</p>	
L23C49 Sheet Co. NE	Aug 28 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Batt Strength 35 officers 84 Mts 458 men</p> <p>Wounded 9 men in being</p> <p>1 Mts 1 man in Hosp.</p>	

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12849 that LINE	Aug 28th		Battalion rested & refitted. location fine.	
	Aug 29th		<p>Batt Strength 34 officers 79 M.O. 452 men</p> <p>Taken on strength 1 M.O. + man was sick</p> <p>Spuck off Lt Gratian to 2nd Training Bde 2 M.O.</p> <p>Batt moved out from camp at 11.30 am under the temporary command of Major Payne DSO (com). Lt Col Henderson DSO remained behind sick. The 1st halting place was Kana wood, where lunch was partaken of. At 2.30 pm the batt. moved thro Kana wood across the causeway in Gid &amp; GSC, thence across causeway in G6 c + d. to Lisampine trench in Hrc. Lt Gratian in Quarry Hrc. Batt. rested in this position until next day.</p>	
H2166 LINE	Aug 30th		<p>Batt Strength 36 officers 82 M.O. 458 men</p> <p>Taken on strength Capt Gile 1 M.O. + man 1 man was sick</p> <p>Spuck off Lt Powell returns from School.</p>	20

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H2C66 62 <sup>nd</sup> NW	Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>Weather Excellent. Battalion moved to vicinity of New Railway Station and remained for about an hour; then move was made to trenches in H. area; B. sign being situated H. 11. a. 5.6. At 2.30 pm the battalion moved to Sunken Road running N + S thro B. 300 to 1000. E. H. 11. 6. a. 7.5.</p> <p>While reconnoitering this position Major Payne + Lieut <del>James</del> Practice were wounded &amp; evacuated. On this information being forwarded to Bde Lieut Col Henderson went forward &amp; took charge of the battalion. About 6 pm Lieut J. J. Stone, who had been doing excellent work thro out the entire operation was killed by a shell. Thro out the evening the battalion came in for a lot of shelling; mostly enfilade and of a large calibre.</p>	
H2C66 62 <sup>nd</sup> NW	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>		<p><u>Battalion Strength</u> 31 officers 178 NCOs 433 men</p> <p><u>Knock off:</u> 1 NCO transferred to A.I.F. 18<sup>th</sup> London                  Lt J. J. Stone killed in action                  1 NCO " " "                  Capt R. L. Smith (M.C.) died; Lt Overton, Croxson &amp; Practice wounded.                  2 NCOs + 16 men evacuated wounded.                  1 man evacuated sick.</p> <p>On Aug 30<sup>th</sup> Capt J. Stewart to 1<sup>st</sup> Army School.                  Lt Collins &amp; Rushbrook rejoined from Liaison</p>	

Handwritten initials and number 21





# WAR DIARY

OF  
*3rd Battalion*

FOR

*August* 191*8*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Battalion Operation Order No 65<br>of 6th August 1918 |
| 2.  | Report on Operations<br>Aug 8th - Aug 31st 1918.      |
| 3.  | Despatch map as on Aug 8th                            |
| 4.  | Battalion Narratives from<br>23rd to 31st August 1918 |
| 5.  | Map 62 C.M.W.   |
| 6.  | Enemy Sector Organization<br>map as per the Aug 8th   |

*[Signature]*

*Chief Station Master  
Co 3rd Battalion*

Not to be taken beyond Coy Headquarters.

Copy No. 16

Map Reference 63 D. S.E. 1/30,000.  
63 D. S.W. 1/30,000.

APPENDIX

On a day to be known as E Day and at ZERO HOUR to be notified later 3rd Aust. Division in co-operation with other units will attack enemy positions opposite our Front.

Disposition of Troops as under :-

Canadian Corps on Right of Australian Corps.  
2nd & 5th Aust. Division on Corps Right.  
3rd & 4th Aust. Division on " Left.  
38th & 18th Divisions III Corps on Left of Australian Corps.  
1st Australian Division Corps Reserve.

10th A.I. Brigade (less 2 platoons) will hold the Divisional Front.

Phase I 9th A.I. Brigade on Right and 11th A.I. Brigade on the Left of 3rd Div. Front with Tanks and under a barrage of Artillery and Machine Gun Fire will attack and capture enemy positions up to the GREEN LINE which will be consolidated.

Attacking Troops will assemble in Jumping off Trenches before ZERO and 1 Hour.

Phase II 10th A.I. Brigade and 4th A.I. Brigade will pass through 9th & 11th Bri at the GREEN LINE and will assault the RED LINE. This phase will be carried out under open warfare conditions.

Phase III 10th A.I. Brigade and 4th A.I. Brigade will exploit success and will attack old British Reserve Line (BLUE LINE) and will establish themselves defensively on that line.

10th A.I. Brigade less 2 Platoons will remain as Divisional Reserve till capture GREEN LINE and will then become Corps Reserve.

Tanks will move forward between 9.30 p.m. and mid-night on Y/Z Night and assemble in rear of Infantry. Low flying Aeroplanes will fly over forward areas to drown the noise of the tanks and will also fly over the Front for an hour before ZERO. Low flying 'Planes will precede the Infantry advance and engage ground targets.

Artillery as explained to Coy Commanders.

Coy 38th Batta will provide a Patrol of 2 Platoons complete who will move along the North bank of the SOMME CANAL under orders of the 11th A.I. Brigade and will maintain touch with Right of 38th Division. These 2 Platoons will be under their own commanders <sup>with</sup> the senior officer in Command.

At the whole of the 4th Division passing through the 38th Batta Front Coys will immediately re-organise.

Positions for re-organising P.A.d. 30.00 to P.A.d. 30.30 (SUPPORT LINE).

Coys from Right to Left as follows :- A. B. C. D. O.K. to be wired to these headquarters and having taken up positions and organised, Coys will then await instructions.

*Arrived when in position of the 11" Bds which will be before zero and only all troops of the 38th Batta the front line will withdraw to the support line.*  
Fighting Order with 3 Bombs per man, Tools as mentioned below.

Anti-aircraft guns will be ~~ready~~ mounted during the re-organising of Coys.

Fighting Transport (Liners for S.A.A. & Bombs and Water Carts will be fully loaded before ZERO and must be ready to move at half an hour's notice.

APPENDIX 1/1

- 13. One member of 39th Batta to be at disposal of C.O. 10th A.I.B. Battery immediately after 2300 to carry forward his gun and ammunition if required. Further instructions will be issued as to time and place of reporting.
- 14. Popham Panels and Lamps for visual will be ready in the event of the Battalion moving forward.
- 15. Tool dump will be established at P.A.d.50.00 and on receipt of instructions from this office each Platoon will carry 8 Picks and 12 Shovels.
- 16. Watches will be synchronised on V/3 Night. *Watches will be synchronised over the phone, but will be set to the time of the day.*

Administrative Instructions to read in conjunction with Battalion Order No. 63

- 1. B.Coy will detail 1 Private for work on Divisional Ammunition Dump, reporting to Corporal LYONS at P.A.d.82.30.
- 2. B.Coy will detail 1 M.C.O. and 1 man to report to P.A.A.S. to guard and issue Reserver Rations to the C.Q.M.S's. Word will be sent to C.O. B.Coy when they are required. Rations allotted 39th Battalion P. eat +14, Grocery 375, Biscuits 300 approx.
- 3. Extra supplies and stores are being issued to C.M.
  - (a) Tea Soup and Oxo Cubes. 400 Rations.
  - (b) Solidified Alcohol. 1 weeks supply per man.
  - (c) Extra water bottles & carriers (proportion).
- 4. To provide for the opening up of wells an officer and party of tunnellers are allotted to this Division and work under the C.R.S. As soon as the party has located a well and opened it up they will mark it NOT TO BE OPENED. These wells will be tested under medical arrangements and the above signs removed and signs UNFIT FOR USE or FIT FOR USE with ..... Scoops, as the case may be.
- 5. Echelons of Battalions will be concentrated in the present area at a place to be selected by Lieut-Col H.C. Henderson, D.S.O. who will be in command of Brigade Echelon.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. Beauchamp*

Capt.  
Adj 39th Battalion A. I. F.

Distribution.

- 1 Lieut Col Henderson, D.S.O.
- 2 C.O.
- 1 Adj.
- 1 Sig Officer or Sergeant.
- 1/2 Coys.
- 6/10. C.O./M.C.O.
- 11 M.C.O.
- 13/15 L.C.O./Scout Officer.
- 16 10th A.I.B.
- 17 40th Batta.
- 16/17 War Diary.
- 18 B.E.O.
- 19 File.
- 20 Spare.



The task of moving all Dumps forward in close proximity to the jumping off line was carried out by this Brigade under great difficulties. The congestion of the roads at night owing to the movement of the other arms of the Service made it almost impossible to get the transport through so that the greater part of these Dumps had to be carried forward by man power. The work of transferring the Dumps was rendered more difficult by the darkness of the night and by the necessity of moving across broken country and over old trench systems often under heavy harassing shell and Machine Gun fire. There was little or no time for rest as, after working all night, the task of refitting the men and the issuing of extra Iron Rations, Water bottles, Water, Grenades, Flares and Message Rockets had all to be carried out during the day.

Watches were synchronized during afternoon of the 7th and again at 10 p.m.

On the night of 7th/8th August, the Battalions holding the line were withdrawn to the Support trenches on the arrival of the troops of the 9th and 11th Brigades to prevent congestion at the position of assembly.

Battalions were then reorganized in their new areas and held in readiness to move on receipt of orders. The enormous activity of the last few days and the fact that the enemy had captured several hundred British prisoners on MORLANCOURT RIDGE inclined us to believe that our plans must be known to the enemy. The night was consequently an anxious one and as each hour passed and no enemy action arrived our wonder increased. It was not until the last few minutes before ZERO that we allowed ourselves to believe that our Attack was unexpected.

At ZERO hour - 4.20 a.m. on the 8th August 1918, our Artillery, Trench Mortars, and Machine Guns opened fire in one well-timed and terrific burst. At the same time our planes dropped their loads of bombs on enemy rear positions.

At ZERO hour, the 37th Battalion was assembled and ready to move, in the event of ACCROCHE WOOD holding up the advance, they were to be used to clear the WOOD to enable the 33rd Battalion to proceed to its Objective. The assistance of the 37th Battalion however, was not required as ACCROCHE WOOD was taken by the 33rd Battalion without much difficulty.

Two platoons of the 39th Battalion moved forward with the Attack along the North Bank of the SOMME CANAL to keep touch with the 58th Division and the 11th Australian Infantry Brigade. Although their role was not fighting but liaison, they drove the enemy before them and succeeded in capturing 40 prisoners and 5 Machine Guns without suffering any casualties themselves.

The 10th A.L.T.M. Battery at ZERO hour co-operated with the Artillery and the Medium Trench Mortars by engaging enemy positions in ACCROCHE WOOD from ZERO to ZERO plus 10 minutes, covering the advance of the Infantry.

A remarkable feature of the Operation was the small amount of Artillery retaliation.

The Tanks all got away well on ZERO Hour and advanced with the Infantry and at 7 am the GREEN LINE had been captured and consolidation commenced.

As soon as the 4th Division passed through, the Battalions of the 10th Brigade were reorganized and ready to move to any part of the Corps Zone.

Shortly after ZERO Hour, salvage parties collected all stores in the area into Dumps.

At 8.20 am, orders were received from Division for the Brigade while in Reserve to take over the old enemy trench system running from P.22.d. to the Junction with our old front line in P.16.b. as a reserve system and HUNS WALK was to be improved as a C. T.. The boundaries were allotted as under :- 40th Batt. from P.22.d.8.0. to P.17.c.3.1. and 39th Battalion from P.17.c.3.1. to Junction with our old front line. Before this move was completed, however, this order was cancelled by Division and instructions given for the troops to be reorganized and rested and to remain tactically disposed with local precautions against surprise and to be ready to move at an hour's notice from 3 am on the 9th. This was later altered to read 5 a.m. on 9th.

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At 2.45 pm, orders were received from Division for the Brigade to move forward during the afternoon to Q.20 and to come under the orders of the G.O.C. 4th Australian Division as reserve. The Brigade was not to be used except in case of emergency to form a defensive flank.

The G.O.C. Brigade reported to the G.O.C. & 4th Division at CORBIE for instructions.

MOVE TO Q.20.

37th Batt. moved at 4.30 pm, 38th Batt at 4.35 pm, 40th Batt at 4.40 pm and 10th Machine Gun Coy at 4.45 pm round the South of ACCROCHE WOOD and the 39th Battalion moved at 4.40 pm and the 10th A.L.T.M. Battery at 4.45 pm around the North edge of the WOOD. The 10th Brigade Headquarters, Tunnelling Section, Cyclist Platoon, ~~and~~ passed the South edge of the WOOD at 4.50 pm.

A Brigade Report Centre was established at ALLWAYS CROSS, Q.19.d.

The move was carried out by Units moving over open country in Artillery formation and the column moving South of the WOOD came under harassing artillery fire and suffered slight casualties, otherwise the move was completed without mishap.

Our planes were flying in large flights and had complete mastery of the air and thus effected cover and protection from hostile aircraft.

Brigade Headquarters were established in the Gun-pits of a 10.5 cm Battery at Q.14.c.8.8.

Fighting Transport, Limbers with S.A.A. and bombs and Water Carts moved forward with their Battalions to the vicinity of the GREEN LINE.

On the morning of the 9th August 1918, Officers of the 39th and 40th Battalions reconnoitred the forward area of the 12th Brigade and Officers of the 37th and 38th Battalions reconnoitred the area of the 4th Brigade and Officers of Brigade Headquarters were engaged on the same work.

Troops spent the 9th in making bivouacs and as far as possible were bathed. During the night, enemy bombing planes flew over the bivouac Areas and dropped bombs without causing damage and in addition the whole Area was subjected to scattered shelling but no casualties, except to a few transport animals, occurred.

On the morning of the 10th August, the G.O.C. was called to a Conference at 4th Divisional Headquarters at CORBIE where he was instructed to carry out an Operation to capture the Spur on the West of CHUIGNOLIES between the main AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road and the SOMME.

Battalion Commanders and O.C. 10th M. G. Coy were hurriedly called to a Conference at Brigade Headquarters at 2 p.m., there being present as well the C.O. 8th Tank Battalion and his Section Commanders and C. O. 17th Armoured Cars.

The scheme was explained by the G.O.C. and orders issued verbally to all Commanders as time was very limited. The 37th Battalion with one Section 10th M. G. Company and with 3 tanks, one on the road and one on either side of the road as flank guards was to lead the way followed by 38th Battalion with half Section 10th M. G. Coy, ; next came 40th

Battalion with 3 tanks disposed on the flanks, half section 10th M.G. Company, 10th T. M. Battery and 39th Battalion in rear.

Special Signal arrangements were made both for lamp signalling and for special light signals to enable troops of 50th Battalion on N. of the SOMME to recognize our troops. All troops were to move as unobtrusively as possible from bivouac areas across country and to delay joining the main AMIENS - ST. QUENTIN Road as long as possible. Tanks were to be met by Guides at the Hospital Q.30.c. and the column was to pass the front line at LA FLAQUE at 9.30 p.m.

All Units had strict orders as to flank protection and tanks were to assist in this work. Brigade Headquarters were selected at Q.30.c.5.5. and the G.O.C. moved forward at 8.30 p.m..

On his arrival, owing to the presence of several enemy balloons which commanded the approach route he decided to delay the approach march for half an hour so that there might be less chance of the enemy learning our intentions and ZERO Hour was accordingly altered to 10 pm.

The advance from bivouacs had already commenced when this message was received but the troops who were moving in Artillery formation across country were halted in sheltered spots out of observation from the enemy. (A message was received later from 3rd Divisional Headquarter ordering ZERO to be kept at 9.30 pm, but it was received too late to be carried out).

The retarding of ZERO resulted in the troops having to take to the Main road in the vicinity of Brigade Headquarters owing to trenches and wire ahead of that position making progress slow in the dark. The first trouble met with was when the 40th Battalion was passing the Checking Point at Q.30.c.5.5.. Enemy planes flew along the road bombing and inflicted casualties both on personnel and on animals. Damaged limbers and wounded and struggling animals almost blocked the road and disorganized temporarily the march, but they were quickly cleared away and the march was resumed.

From this point forward, the road was almost continuously shelled especially in the vicinity of the Railway Dump just east of the old AMIENS LINE. In spite of everything, the head of the column passed Cross Roads, LA FLAQUE punctually at 10 p.m. The leading tanks which should have been disposed one on the road - one on either flank, found it impossible on account of the darkness to move anywhere but on the centre of the road where they followed the guides Lieut. G. MONICOL MO, 37th Battalion and Captain JEFFREY of the Tanks.

The enemy had heard the approach of the tanks and a hail of Machine Gun fire with a considerable amount of "whizz-bangs" shells was poured into the column as it passed the LA FLAQUE Cross-roads. The troops still pushed forward but, owing to the necessity of taking advantage of every possible cover, at a slower rate. The flank guards were slightly better off for cover, but the main body could only move either by means of the drains along the roadside or else practically in a prone position. The two Officers who were acting as guides to the tanks both became casualties and the tanks stopped. Word was sent forward by Lieut-Colonel E.K. KNIGHT through the Section Commander of the tanks that they must keep pushing forward at all costs but in the meantime two tanks had turned round and the advance of the Infantry was blocked, particularly as the tanks themselves were firing at enemy gun positions on both sides of the road. Just after ordering the tanks forward Lieut-Colonel KNIGHT was killed and the Senior left with the column was Major L.H. PAYNE, 40th Battalion who supervised the reorganizing and digging in which subsequently took place.

It was soon obvious that the scheme as originally planned could not be carried out and the G.O.C. Brigade ordered the 38th and 40th Battalions to dig in to the N.E. of LA FLAQUE Cross roads from approx. R.27.d.0.4. to R.26.c.1.5.. The 39th and 37th Battalions were at the same time ordered to withdraw to the old AMIENS LINE trenches near Q.30.d.. Seven Machine Guns and 2 - 3" Stokes Mortars covered this new defensive line. While the advance part of the troops had been suffering from Machine Gun fire, those in rear had been severely gassed and casualties totalling nearly 200 were received by the Brigade between 10 p.m. and daybreak on 11th August.

When it was decided to dig in near LA FLAQUE, the tanks were ordered to withdraw at 3.30 am. Immediately the noise of their engines was heard, the enemy fire increased in intensity, dying down again somewhat as daylight came.

At 4 am, however, in connection with an Operation of the 2nd Australian Division on our right, our artillery put down a heavy barrage on enemy positions to which he replied by an equally heavy shoot on our new positions. The digging in had, by this time, proceeded sufficiently far to give cover to our troops and our casualties were few.

Later in the morning, as the 5th Brigade left flank had advanced beyond our furthest post, it became necessary for us to move our right flank to maintain touch with the 5th Brigade posts and artillery covering fire was called for to keep down Machine Gun fire during the Operation. With this assistance, the 38th Battalion patrols rushed several enemy Posts and captured 3 Officers and 28 Other Ranks with 4 Machine Guns which were manned and used against the enemy.

During the 11th August, the positions of 38th and 40th Battalions were improved, the enemy keeping up intermittent Machine Gun and Artillery fire on our troops particularly those in the vicinity of LA FLAQUE.

After dark on 11th, this Brigade took over the line held by the 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade up to the road East and West through R.19.b. with Battalions disposed as follows :- 38th Bn on right, 40th Bn in Centre and 37th Bn on the left, and 39th Bn in reserve; Battalion Headquarters of 38th and 40th Battalions being moved back from LA FLAQUE to more suitable positions in R.26.

Prisoners captured during the 11th knew of no orders for withdrawal from their positions East of LA FLAQUE but the diminution of Machine Gun fire as reported by 38th Battalion during the night 11/12th seemed to indicate that such a withdrawal might have taken place during the night 11/12th.

The G.O.C., at daybreak, decided to capture PROYART and to push forward our line as far as practicable to the high ground on the East of the Valley running East of PROYART and through R.21, central - the line of Objectives being approximate: line from AVENUE CROSS to R.28.a.3.2. to R.21.d, central to Road and Railway Junction in R.21.a., thence Northwards along the line of the railway to R.15, central. This latter point was fixed in conjunction with 11th Brigade, in order that the whole of PROYART might be inclusive to this Brigade. Divisional Headquarters were asked by 'phone to keep artillery fire to EAST of the road running from AVENUE CROSS to ROBERT WOOD and thence to CHUIGNOLLES. Machine Guns also were ordered to keep East of this line. Orders were then telephoned to the three line Battalion Commanders instructing them to push out patrols and to occupy wherever possible positions ahead of our existing line up to the high ground as detailed above.

The troops entered with eagerness into the Operation which was carried out without any artillery support - covering rifle and Lewis gun fire only being relied on. It was soon found that the enemy was still holding many machine gun positions well placed to cover the low-lying country East of PROYART and LA FLAQUE and that he intended to offer resistance to any advance on our part.

On the right, the 38th Battalion found the enemy was still holding posts at AVENUE CROSS and opposite the centre of their line. By sending out two patrols who crept along under cover of the road on either side to outflank the AVENUE CROSS post and then to rush it, the right Company succeeded in capturing this Post with 1 Officer 28 Other Ranks and 3 Machine Guns. The Post was composed of 3 deep dugouts with a breastwork formed from the spoil.

In the centre, under covering fire from the reserve company, patrols pushed forward by short rushes and cleared out the enemy from his posts as far East as a line running R.28.c.5.4. to R.28.a.2.2. to R.21.d, central.

During the course of August 11/12th, the 38th Battalion captured a total of 4 Officers, 53 Other Ranks and in addition snipers accounted for a considerable total.

On the left of 38th Battalion, the 40th Battalion moved forward on a comparatively narrow front which included the Southern portion of PROYART Village. No enemy was seen actually in the Southern end of the Village but portions of half-consumed meals showed that he had made a very hurried exit.

Along the road running East and West through the Village, patrols met the enemy, captured 5 prisoners, 2 Machine Guns and inflicted casualties. Pushing on, they met the enemy in trenches in R.21.b. and found his snipers and Machine Guns active, so that advance had to be carried out very cautiously. However by skilful use of covering fire, patrols dribbled forward and occupied the trenches in R.21.b. Machine Guns further up the hill on our left were still active but the patrols of this Battalion pushed on and cleaned up three more enemy posts inflicting for the day 50 or 60 casualties by means of the Lewis Guns but suffering very slightly ourselves. The enemy bombarded PROYART and vicinity intermittently all day with occasional very heavy bursts of fire from guns of large calibre. While the two Battalions on the right were moving forward gradually on the South, the 37th Battalion on the left was working through the North of PROYART Village and were meeting exceedingly heavy machine gun fire from the front and left flank. The right flank also was enfiladed till the 40th Batt cleaned up their front,



Sergeant STATTON of 40th Battalion, seeing the 37th Battalion was held up on his left, on his own initiative organized a small party and in broad daylight, under very intense Machine Gun fire dealt with 5 nests of Machine Guns which were causing the trouble. He rushed 3 guns one after another and did wonderful execution with his pistol and finally when this was empty had a hand to hand fight with a German who had charged him with a bayonet. His dash completely surprised the enemy and the crews of the last 2 guns made off leaving the coast clear for the 37th Battalion to advance.

In the centre, while advancing alongside the road running East through the Village, an enemy post was encountered and rushed after a very smart piece of work by Corporal McCROHON, the Garrison of six with a Machine Gun being captured. This centre company moved forward by gradual stages to the bank in R.21.a.6.8., but had difficulty in maintaining this position for some hours owing to the enfilade fire from its left. The Company on the left worked forward as far as CROSS on SHRINE in R.15.a., but could proceed no further for a long while owing to the heavy Machine Gun fire from R.9.c.. It was not till the 41st and 42nd Battalions on the left had worked round through ST GERMAIN WOOD and silenced these guns that any further advance was possible. Having secured these positions East of the Village of PROYART, our snipers and Lewis Gunners continued their activities and gradually with the assistance of flank units obtained the superiority of fire so that just before dusk on 12th, it was possible to rush the enemy positions along the line of the railway from R.21.a.8.5. to R.15.central.

This final stage was carried out by a succession of rushes and under fire of portions of the troops. Eight Machine Guns were captured by the 37th Battalion but few prisoners were taken owing to the slowness of the general advance, which also accounted for the comparatively slight casualties suffered.

By the time the Brigade was relieved by 50th Brigade on the night 12/13th, the line as decided on for the Objective of the day was entirely occupied and consolidation was well advanced. We were in touch with both 6th Brigade on the right and 11th Brigade on the left - the former having advanced their left to conform to our right flank post.

Twice during the day, concentrations of the enemy were reported in the vicinity of ST MARTIN WOOD and were dealt with by artillery and no counter attack was made on our positions.

*W. Ramsay Macnicoll*

Brigadier - General.  
Commanding 10th Australian Infantry Brigade.

17/8/18.  
RL/ACC.

18/8/18  
Dear Ramsay

## NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FROM AUGUST 23rd 1918.

In the late afternoon of 21st August troops of this Brigade moved from areas south of CHERRY to positions in vicinity of SALLY LAURENCE north of the SOMME in anticipation of relief of 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. HQs were established at K.28.b.5.2. near MALDEN Wood. Battalions located as under.

37th Bn. K.19. 38th Bn. L.25. 39th Bn. J.33. 40th Bn. J.36.  
10th A.I.B. HQ J.36.

On the 22nd inst. the day was very hot and dusty and nearly all troops bathed and had packages of clothing. The bivouac areas were subjected to scattered shelling but no damage was suffered.

On 23rd inst. 39th Battalion was moved forward early in the morning to position in K.31. ready for support to 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. on account of the troops on their left flank being pressed back by enemy opposition. This situation on the left remained somewhat obscure throughout the day.

On the Night 23rd/24th August the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. relieved 9th Aust. Inf. Bde. in the line which ran along the Western outskirts of BRAY to L.15.a.0.0. to Cross Roads at L.9.d.2.0. thence along road northward to Chalk Pit L.3.d.5.6.

Battalions were disposed as under:-

3rd Aust. Pioneer Bn. (attached)	opposite LA NEUVILLE and along the West side of the river to L.15.c.4.4.
37th Bn.	thence to Cross roads at L.9.d.2.0.
38th Bn.	thence to Chalk Pit.
39th Bn.	forming a defensive flank from Chalk Pit to L.3.d.5.6. on account of uncertainty of the position on the Division on our left.

40th Battalion and 37th Battalion (with 1 Coy.) formed up during progress of the relief on a jumping-off line N. & S. through CHOUPIE at L.15.c.8.7. ready to capture BRAY, ZERO HOUR for attack being 1 a. m. on the 24th August.

Brigade HQs moved at 6 p.m. to K.28.d.9.6.

During the relief the enemy shelled forward areas heavily but did little damage.

On their approach march the 40th Battalion met with some delay owing to the road near K.28.b.3.0. being blocked, which resulted in Lewis Guns having to be unloaded from limbers and carried forward. The battalion was on its jumping-off line by 12.30 a. m. having suffered no casualties.

Communication by wire was almost impossible owing to the frequency with which the wires were cut. Power buzzers owing to the atmospheric disturbances were unreliable and messages were sent by runners a distance of 3,000 yards and then telephoned through.

37th Battalion prior to their moving off relieved portion of 39th Battalion but were ready to assist on North of BRAY at Zero, their role being the protection of left flank of 40th Batta by establishing posts between road junction at L.16.a.2.9. and L.9.d.4.7.

Our artillery opened with a good barrage at 1 a. m. moving by 200 yards lifts every 3 minutes throughout. The enemy replied at once by heavy machine gun fire and very shortly afterwards by much artillery, 4.2", 5.9" and 9" being used especially in the gullies in L.20.b. and in L.14.d.

The attacking troops - 2 Coys of the 40th *Battalion* attacking with 1 Coy. of 37th Battn on left: 1 Coy of the 40th *Battalion* mopping up and 1 Coy. carrying - got away well on the left of the barrage at 1.3 a. m.

Those on the Northern outskirts of the village came under heavy machine gun fire and sustained fairly heavy casualties - the Left Coy. Commander, Major L.F. GIBLIN D.S.O., M.C., being among the wounded. The progress of this Company was slow on account of machine gun fire but the assistance of a platoon of the 37th Battn was obtained after a long delay owing to the messenger sent to ask for this becoming a casualty. On account of this delay the artillery was kept firing for 15 Minutes longer than programme time to allow consolidation to be completed.

The Right Company met with slight opposition in the Southern end of the town.

By 2.30 a. m. both Right and Left Companies were through the town with the mopping-up Company almost through.

During consolidation of the objective - L.16.d.O.O. to L.16.Central to L.16.a.2.9. - considerable machine gun fire was encountered from the spur in L.16.d. but some very good work was done by the 10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery's Stokes mortars, one battery of 4 enemy machine guns being knocked out and others silenced. By 3.30 a. m. all objectives had been reached and consolidation was progressing and by 4 a. m. the village had been cleared of the enemy by the mopping-up party. The opposition in the village had been determined at first, as the enemy had expected the attack, but as soon as he discovered that the North and South parties had worked round the flanks of the village the enemy surrendered freely and a total of 2 Officers 184 Other Ranks was captured - 1 Officer 106 Other Ranks unwounded and 1 Officer 79 Other Ranks wounded. Material captured was considerable, 40th Battalion securing 22 Machine Guns and 2 Minenwerfer and the 37th Battalion 9 Machine Guns and some signalling apparatus. In addition the railway yard contained many trucks of R.E. material and there were enormous quantities of munitions and war stores in the huge dump East of the town.

The casualties sustained by the attacking troops for the operation were 2 Other Ranks Killed, and 1 Officer 40th *Battalion* Ranks wounded.

The 3rd Aust. Pioneer Battalion assisted the attack by covering the right flank on the South side of the river - establishing three posts around LA NEUVILLE.

During the day of the 24th inst. up till about 7.0 p.m. enemy shelled very heavily all forward positions with guns of heavy calibre but very few casualties were sustained.

On the 24th inst. instructions were given for the advance to continue during the night 24th/25th. This advance was carried out by the 10th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the Right with 11th Aust. Inf. Bde. on the Left, the objective being the high ground East and Northeast of BRAY with a final line of consolidation along the line of the road from Cross roads at L.24.c.2.1. through Squares 24 a and c 18 a. and c. to Brigade boundary at L.11.d.7.6. thence Northerly along same road. On consolidation of this objective patrols were to be pushed forward to the river bank and a switch line from L.17.b. through L.18.a. was to be constructed.

24th/25th AUG. '18. The attack of 10th A.I. Brigade was carried out by 37th Battn under Lieut-Col. C. B. STORY on the right with 2 Companies ("A" and "D") in line, "B" Coy. mopping-up and "C" Coy. in support; 39th Battn on the left, under Lieut-Col. R.O. HENDERSON D.S.O., with "C" Coy. on the right, "A" Coy. in centre, "B" Coy. on the left flank, and "D" Coy. as reserve.

40th Battn mopped up the area South of the 37th Battn as far South as the river and established a strong bridgehead post at L.24.c.1.1. 39th Battalion were in reserve West of BRAY.

25th AUGUST '18 The attack was carried out with the support of an artillery barrage at 2.30 a. m. on the 25th August. Attacking troops formed up by 2 a. m. on the start line - a North and South line through cross roads at L.10.c.0.3. This necessitated the withdrawal of the 40th Battalion from the posts established on the capture of BRAY; 37th and 39th Battalions were relieved at dusk by the 38th Battalion in line left - this line afterwards being handed over to the 11th Aust. Inf. Bde.

The assembly was carried out without mishap, the enemy artillery fire, which had been severe during the day, having slackened after nightfall.

Our barrage went down promptly at ZERO and the enemy quickly replied with artillery fire which was never very intense. No infantry opposition was met with until near final objective. This was quickly overcome and 20 prisoners of 203rd Regiment, 43rd Division were captured.

During consolidation of the GREEN Line, which was covered by guns of 10th Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery and a protective artillery barrage, enemy artillery increased and continued heavy scattered shelling over the whole of the high ground on the peninsula East of BRAY throughout the 25th inst.

The position of the 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade on the South of the river ran M.1.Cent., to G.31.d.0.0. to West outskirts of CAPPY, so that the 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade still required to watch river crossing N.W. of CAPPY.

Ten (10) Machine guns and approximately 100 prisoners were captured in this operation.

Consolidation being completed, patrols were pushed out to the river through South end of CEYLON Wood and came under enemy machine gun fire. About Noon a command post was established near the Railway station at BRAY and the 38th Battalion moved to a position on the East of BRAY just before dark on the 25th. At the same time the 40th Battalion moved 1 Company to dotted GREEN Line on map attached.

At 9 a. m. on the 25th inst. orders were received for the advance to be continued by bounds - the rate of advance to be regulated by the movement of troops of the Division on the left. 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade was on our left and had on its left 58th Div. troops.

The stages of advance laid down (as shown in attached map) were:-

- 1st stage G.8.a.0.8., G.8.a.Cent., G.1.d.0.8. to TRIGGER Wood.
- 2nd. " S.W. Corner SUZANNE, cross roads at G.0.b.6.7., G.2.Cent., Copse "N", A.26.Cent.
- 3rd " G.15.b.Cent., G.9.d.Cent., G.3.Cent., Copse "J", A.26.Cent.

The inter-brigade boundary ran from L.12.Cent. to cross roads in VAUX Wood, G.4.Cent.

A troop of 13th Light Horse was allotted this Brigade for reconnaissance patrol work, but on account of machine gun fire were compelled to work dismounted most of the earlier part of the 25th.

The troops on left of the 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade were held up near BILLON Copse and later, owing to inter-brigade reliefs, their advance was delayed with the result that no more could be made by this Brigade.

A captured enemy map gave the enemy successive lines of resistance on the country East of SUZANNE. This proved useful to our troops when they attacked on 26th inst.

25/26th AUG. '18. At about midnight a wire from 3rd Aust. Div. was received stating that the 58th Division troops had been ordered to push forward during the night, and that 11th and 10th Aust. Inf. Brigades were to conform.

25/26th AUGUST '18.

were ordered to take the first two objectives - lines "A" and "B" - and the 37th Battn the third - "C" Line - One troop of 13th Light Horse carried out patrol work.

The 39th Battn attached "A" Line without artillery barrage and had the 44th Battalion on their left. "C" and "B" Companies attacked, with "A" Company support and with "D" Company carrying.

A machine gun in CHATEAU Wood, which was silenced by Lewis guns of the Right Company and captured.

26th AUGUST '18. By 5 a. m. on the 26th August a series of posts had been dug and occupied along "A" Line shown in attached map, and patrols were being pushed out into the village. The 37th Battalion moved to a position of readiness for attack on "C" Line and were located along approximately grid line between L.11., L.12., on Western edge of CHEYLON Wood.

At 8.30 a. m. on the 26th the 39th Battalion commenced to move through SUZANNE to "B" Line with "D", "C" and "A" Companies attacking and "B" Company in support in rear of Cemetery G.8.a.

"D" Coy. moved via the South of the village mopping up the long street near the river and coming under heavy machine gun fire from the high ground to the North when nearly through the village street but moved under cover of banks on the North of the street to the old German trenches in G.9.c. Cent. The Centre and Left Companies met with little opposition till they emerged from the East side of the village, when they encountered much machine gun fire and mortar fire. However they gradually moved across under covering Lewis gun fire and in small parties reached their objective on the spur in G.8.b. and G.9.c., consolidating a position and using as far as possible the German trenches.

Soon after the 39th Battn got to the Eastern edge of the village enemy artillery, which had been very quiet during the night, opened and throughout the rest of the day continued with guns of all calibres to pound SUZANNE and the high ground to the West, first at SUZANNE Church and later at G.8.c.7.a.

The 37th Battalion (Lieut-Col. C.B. STORY) were meanwhile moving through close on the heels of the 39th Battalion - "B" and "C" Companies in front line and "A" and "D" Companies supporting.

"B" Company moved via the South of the village and occupied without difficulty trenches just in advance of 39th Battalion in G.9.c. "C" Company on the left met with very considerable machine gun fire from MURRAY Wood and from the German trenches in G.9.a. and b. MURRAY Wood was attacked from the flanks by "C" Company 37th Battn and by a party of 3 from the 39th Battalion under Lieut. S. Le FEVRE. This latter party with a Lewis gun crawled from 39th Battn trenches into MURRAY Wood where they opened fire and drove back a party of 30 of the enemy, then, attacking a machine gun crew with revolvers, they and 37th Battn flanking parties cleared the way for the advance of the 37th Battn "C" Company. This Company had further considerable hand to hand fighting in the trenches in G.9.a. and b. up to the "C" line. From these trenches the enemy fled in numbers towards VAUX Wood; many casualties were inflicted on him as he fled and in addition 1 prisoner and 1 machine guns were captured. During this stage of the advance the enemy used two 77 mm guns at close range until they were silenced by rifle and Lewis gun fire. The enemy pulled these two guns by man power into a depression close by and later brought out 2 horse teams to remove them, but Lewis gun fire caused casualties to these teams and the enemy fled abandoning the guns, which however were removed at nightfall before our troops could get on the spot.

By 1.15 p.m. "C" Line was completely occupied and was being consolidated. During this advance touch was lost with 44th Bde on the left, but "D" Coy. 37th Battalion sent out liaison patrols and established touch when the objective was reached by 37th Battalion.

On reaching "C" Line further advance was held up till flank troops came up, so it was after dark on 26th Aug. before the final mopping up of the peninsula as far as VAUX was possible, by which time the enemy had withdrawn all his troops and also his guns from the Valley in G.10. Examination after the advance showed that many of these guns 21 cm and 10.5 cm had quite recently been emplaced and had not fired a shot.

Casualties for the day up to 6 p.m. were 3 ~~killed~~ Other Ranks killed, 1 Officer, 40 Other Ranks wounded.

After dark "B" Company on the right pushed forward and consolidated a line from G.10.c.3.0. to G.9.a.9.9. with "B" Company 38th Battalion (which with "A" Coy., 38th Bn. had been attached to the 37th Battalion at 10 a. m.) on their right.

#### CLEARING OF VAUX Wood Spur.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on 26th orders were received for this Brigade to occupy SUZANNE-VAUX Spur South of grid through 3 Cent., 4 Cent. This was to be carried out in conjunction with 11th Aust. Inf. Bde's operation on the left. The 38th Battalion (under command of the C.O. 37th Battalion) were allotted South end of the peninsula to DRACON Wood inclusive, and 37th Battalion the North of this line with 1 platoon detailed for liaison with 11th Aust. Inf. Brigade on the left. **IX**

#### 27th AUGUST '18.

It was not till 3 a. m. on the 27th August that the mopping-up commenced but it was completed without any opposition the enemy having withdrawn completely after blowing up bridges at ECLUSIER and VAUX. At the conclusion of this operation early on the 27th August the 38th Battalion again came under the orders of Major A.J.A. MAUDSLEY a/c.o. of 38th Battalion and established "A" Company to watch ECLUSIER Crossings, "B" Company to guard VAUX Crossings, with "C" and "D" Companies in vicinity of VAUX Wood.

At 9.30 a. m. on the 27th verbal instructions were given for the relief of the Brigade by 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade, but after orders had been issued to units further instructions were received from 3rd Aust. Division at 4 p.m. that the advance was to continue and that the 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade would take over the line running North and North-west of VAUX Wood and would advance during the night, but that troops of the 10th Aust. Inf. Brigade would remain in the vicinity of SUZANNE ready to move and come on the right of the 9th Aust. Inf. Bde when they had reached the vicinity of CURU.

August 27/28th 1918.

APPENDIX

During the night 27/28th the 9th Aust. Inf. Brigade attacked enemy positions in vicinity of FARMY Wood and advanced to positions East of CURLU - the village itself was not mopped up.

As soon as this move had been carried out it was necessary for the 10th A.I. Brigade to move round to the right flank of 9th A.I. Brigade - the 38th Batta (Major A.J.A. MAUDSLEY) being detailed for this operation - one Company was sent at 7.30 a. m. on 28th by way of the causeways leading East from VAUX to reconnoitre and hold the peninsula between VAUX and CURLU as far South as FRISE. The bridges across the various channels of the SOMME which had been blown by the retreating enemy were rapidly made trafficable for infantry - 3rd Aust. Pioneers and 10th Field Coy. Engineers being allotted for this work. A small amount of machine gun fire was encountered from the CURLU side of the peninsula but by Noon the spur was held and the crossing at H.12.d. was denied the enemy.

August 28th 1918.

At 3.30 p.m. on 28th August two Companies of 38th Battalion ("C" and "D" Companies) were sent round along the North bank of the river to work through CURLU and take up a position on the right of the 9th A.I. Brigade. Although the latter had posts East of CURLU the enemy had not been cleared from the village. "D" Company moving through the village had some stiff fighting before the machine guns and snipers were cleared out of the village, and sustained heavy casualties. 4 Machine guns were captured in the village and by daybreak on the 29th a line of posts had been established about 150 yards S. and E. of CURLU.

38th Batta Headquarters were established at G.29.b.2.2. early on night of 28th August but the area was so severely shelled that communication except by runner was impossible.

During the late afternoon of 28th inst. 40th Battalion moved to close support in valley near MILLIMETRE Wood in G.9.b., G.10.a., and 37th and 39th Batta moved to positions in vicinity of SUZANNE.

August 28/29th 1918 The 38th Batta having consolidated from G.6.d. to B.25.c.4.0 South-East of CURLU during the night 28/29th August at daylight on 29th pushed out reconnoitring patrols towards HEM. This was accomplished without any opposition and a line was established through H.9.Central, H.3.d.0.0. H.2.b.Central and at midday orders were issued for 38th Battalion to attack with 40th Battalion as Left Flank Guard. The first objective was to be trenches N. and S. in H.4.b. and d. The second was the high ground in B.29. TERLINE Trench. "A" Squadron 13th Light Horse was sent forward to try and make Hill 110 in B.23.c. and d. One Section of 18 pdrs was allotted 38th Battalion and followed close after the attacking troops engaging fleeting targets with success. As soon as the Light Horse patrols moved forward enemy artillery and machine gun fire opened heavily, but the forward move continued by small parties working their way forward taking advantage of available cover and generally beating down enemy machine gun opposition until HANNETONS and Tournol Trench were reached about 1.30 p.m. Here the 38th Battalion were held up by machine gun fire. With the assistance of 2 Companies of 40th Batta (after a half hours artillery preparation on CLERY and CODE Alley) this was overcome and the advance continued. By 10 p.m. 38th Batta were on a line H.6.c., H.5.b.7.1., H.5.b.2.5., Copse 5., H.5.b.9.0., where touch was made with 34th Batta. The village of CLERY however had not been mopped up. The 40th Batta had 2 Companies - flank guard - in GLANDS Alley and 2 Coys in support on West and North Western edges of CLERY.

Batta Hdqrs were established:- 38th at H.3.d.1.6., and 40th adjacent.

While this advance was taking place,, 37th and 39th Battns were moved forward from SUZANNE-VAUX Area to bivouacs in H.1 and H.2. The Inter-brigade boundary was cross roads at S.W. Corner HEM Wood E. corner HOWITZER Wood, 4. b. Cent., Copse 5, Trench junction B.30.a.9.5. E

The 3rd Aust. Div. south of the SOMME had advanced to H.17. where two Companies had been thrown across the canal but could advance no further on account of very heavy machine gun fire from North of the river. The position of the Division on the North was very uncertain and the brigade on our left was bent backwards in a Westerly direction to maintain touch with them.

The casualties for the advance from VAUX Wood were 8 Other Ranks killed, 2 Officers 87 Other Ranks wounded and the captures included

The opposition had become more pronounced as the line moved towards CLERY, the enemy realizing that this was the key position to the taking of PERONNE, as the bridges on direct routes from the West over the SOMME had been destroyed and the enemy was in a position to prevent their repair. Troops for the attack on MT. ST.QUENTIN and further South had therefore to move via FEUILLERES and work through the area of the 10th A.I. Brigade and were dependent for their success on the work of this Brigade.

August 29/30th 1918.

On the night 29/30th August following on orders from 3rd Aust. Division, orders were issued for the 37th Battalion to advance on 30th instant with 18th and 20th Battns, 2nd Aust. Div., co-operating on their right and 34th Battn on their left. The first bound was to be to the GREEN Line on map attached on which also are shown Divisional and Brigade boundaries. From that line further advance, if any, would be made by 37th Battalion on the right and 40th Battalion on the left - the 34th Battalion being withdrawn. A squadron of 13th Light Horse was detailed for patrolling after capture of the GREEN Line.

37th Battalion ( under Lieut-Col. C. B. STORY ) had 1 battery of 18 pdrs of 3rd Army Bde, A.F.A. attached to it and in addition 1 battery of 4.5" Hows was pushed forward to work in close touch with attacking Battalion Commander.

As a preliminary move, 37th Battalion advanced during the night 29/30th through 38th Battalion to take up a line from just East of CLERY to H.29.a. Central.

37th Battalion moved off at 9 p.m., "A" Coy. on right, "G" Coy., in centre, "D" Coy. on left and "B" Coy. in support. The night was intensely dark and direction had to be kept entirely by compass so progress was slow and it was difficult to maintain touch. However the line held by the 38th Battalion was reached, without mishap, but it was impossible to locate definitely the jumping-off line laid down and companies jumped off from the line of 38th Battalion.

Soon after passing clear of the village of CLERY, Capt. P. G. TOWL, "A" Coy. found that the enemy was still holding posts on his right and sent out 2 patrols to locate them. One post was located on the road some little distance East of CLERY. By this time "A" Coy. was out of touch with the Company on its left, so direction was changed slightly to the N.W. and touch was re-established and almost at once enemy was found about 4.30 a. m. BERLINGOTS Trench I.l.a. and c. This opposition was soon overcome but "A" Coy. again lost touch. However it pushed on meeting many Boche in dugouts. These offered little opposition in the main, and 18 prisoners were taken. Another party of about 150 surrendered to a patrol of 4, but seeing how weak their captors were they decided to turn the tables. The patrol fired on them and they scattered and remained the trenches, giving trouble later in the day.

This right Company reached VAN Trench but were out of touch on both flanks and the enemy quickly discovered this and commenced to fire on the Coy. ( by this time only about 20 strong ) from front, flanks and rear. He also counter-attacked but was driven off by rifle and Lewis gun fire. The position, however, was such that no good purpose



could be reached by staying in VAN Trench out of all touch with the remainder of the Battalion, so a withdrawal was made to BERLINGOT'S Trench which was found to be reoccupied by the enemy who had worked in by means of communication trenches on the flanks. The enemy offered strong opposition and as the Coy. now had only one officer (Captain TOWL) and under 20 men, a further withdrawal to a bank about 100 yards to the West of BERLINGOT'S Trench was decided on. This was carried out under cover from fire of Lewis gun and two captured enemy machine guns. In this position the Company was compelled to stay till the afternoon of 30th August, when the advance of 2nd Aust. Div. troops on the right brought relief. It was only by constant watchfulness and prompt action several times during the day that the enemy was prevented from surrounding and mopping up the little party whose position was all the more precarious owing to their having in their midst 15 prisoners who could not be got to the rear. Lieuts. COX and WILLIS with the Centre ("C") Coy. had attacked VAN Trench further North round CLERY Copse but were unable to make any headway and suffered very heavy casualties - only 2 men of the right party of 10 returning and both Officers becoming casualties. The left Company had rather less opposition but were unable to reach the GREEN Line and dug in on a bank about 400 yards behind the objective.

CLERY Copse and surrounding trenches were very strongly held and several counter-attacks were launched, but broke down under our artillery and rifle, Lewis and machine gun fire.

Aug. 30th '18 The Support Company, 37th Batta, was brought forward early in the morning of the 30th August to reinforce the depleted line Companies but the opposition was too severe for any advance to be made.

At about 10.45 a. m. the 40th Batta was ordered forward to H.6.b. - one Company ("B" Capt. McINTYRE) being placed under orders of 37th Batta to clear up CLERY Village. Another Coy. ("D") was attached to Centre Coy., 37th Batta to operate against CLERY Copse. At 2 p.m. after artillery and Stokes preparation the copse was attacked. Again the enemy machine gun fire was too concentrated to allow any appreciable advance - heavy casualties were again inflicted on us including 2 out of 3 attacking Officers and it was found impossible to make any headway and the further attack was postponed till the 38th and 39th Battas could advance together after nightfall.

The clearing up of CLERY Village by "B" Coy. 40th Batta was carried out in fine style in the face of much severe opposition, but by skilful handling of his troops Captain McINTYRE succeeded in locating the enemy machine guns. A ~~strong~~ heavy artillery shoot was put down on these and the attacking troops followed close behind and rushed the positions, capturing two machine guns and 59 prisoners. The Boche made off down communication trenches and suffered heavy casualties from our Lewis gun fire in his retreat.

At 2.30 p.m. a small counter-attack was beaten off and "B" Coy. reinforced by "A" Coy. took up their positions on the Eastern edge of the village.

By this time the 18th and 20th A.I. Battas had commenced to move forward past the village (having crossed the SOMME at FEUILLERES) and in the face of our growing opposition the enemy gradually withdrew. About 9 a. m. the Brigade Command post was established just West of CLERY in H.5.b. and it was largely owing to the close touch which the G.O.C. was able to keep with his Battalions that troops were able to be pushed in to meet the many counter-attacks launched during the day, especially around CLERY Copse. Enemy artillery was intense throughout the day over the whole area H.5. and H.6.a. and b. The 30th was probably the most severe and ticklish day's work the Brigade had yet had, and it was only by the determined way in which the enemy counter-attacks were met that prevented the enemy from mopping up front line troops.

Prisoners obtained in this area were 2nd Guards Div. and were comparatively fresh troops but were not at all averse from being taken prisoner unless they found themselves in a big majority.

During the afternoon of 30th August order C.H.J.11 from 3rd Aust. Division was received for further advance on 31st.

At 7 p.m. on the 30th August a conference of Battalion Commanders was called at Brigade Command Post, at which orders were given for the further advance.

The next stage in the attack was to be carried out by the 38th Battalion (Lieut-Col. R.O. HENDERSON D.S.O.) on the left; 39th Battalion (Lieut-Col. R.O. HENDERSON D.S.O.) on the right; 39th Battalion (Lieut-Col. R.O. HENDERSON D.S.O.) on the left; the latter having moved during the morning of the 30th to H.5.a. and c.

The attacking battalions had - 38th Battn 3 Companies in line with 1 Coy. in close support - 39th Battn 2 Coys in line, 1 in support and 1 in reserve. The 20th Battn was on right of 38th Battn and 33rd Battn was on the left of 39th Battn; boundaries being as shown in attached map. The 40th Battn were in support of the 38th and the 37th Battn in support of the 39th Battn.

The action was to be dependent on the 9th A.I. Brigade making the line C.25.Cent., DEVILLARS Alley, COCHMEURY Trench, Cross Roads C.20.d.3.l.; QUARRY Farm to G.14.c.8.2.

The general plan was to swing gradually the right flank so that the line would ultimately run almost East and West and the Division on the North would work S.E. and meet it, but this Brigade was relieved before that stage could be reached.

Aug. 31st '18 The attack was carried out with artillery barrage which came down punctually at ZERO (6 a. m.) on right but was somewhat ragged on the left.

The enemy offered considerable opposition especially in vicinity of CLERY Copse where he brought up supports but without avail. The enemy also used 77 mm guns at very close range. However the objective was gained by 8 a. m. and was consolidated. Casualties were heavy but the enemy also lost heavily both in killed and prisoners, about 300 of the latter being taken.

Captures included 7 field guns, 1 heavy trench mortar and many machine guns.

Owing to the death from shell fire at daybreak of Major MAUDSLEY (Acting C.O. of 38th Battn) this Battn came under orders of C.O. 39th Battn at 10 a. m. Enemy machine guns continued to be very active after the objective was reached and 4 Stokes mortars were sent forward to deal with them. It was difficult to get them into position but this was done at last and at least two machine guns were put out of action by their shells.

At 10.30 a. m. a strong enemy counter-attack from I.2. Cent. C.26.d. developed. The 39th Battn brought up its reserve Coy. and artillery opened on the valley in I.2. Cent. and C.26. Cent. between the two the attack failed.

The 2nd Aust. Div. troops on the right who had attacked at 5 a. m. had been successful in taking Mr. ST. QUENTIN and FEUILLAU-COURT but the position of the Brigade on the left was not clear and touch was lost on this flank but was obtained about Noon.

A gap existing between 38th and 39th Battalions "G" Coy. 40th Battn were pushed to fill up this gap and very soon had 1 machine gun and 45 prisoners and also two 7.5 Minnenwerfer in action. The crews were captured and the 40th had the satisfaction of turning the guns on to a Hun post.

"A" Coy. 40th Battn were also sent forward on the left of 38th Battn and Battn Edgrs moved to a point about 300 yards N.E. of CLERY Copse. Two F.O.O's - Major H. GLOVER, 26th Battery A.F.A. and Captain B. L. DAVIES, 25th Battery A.F.A. were stationed here also and did some excellent work both on enemy's positions and also on enemy massing for counter-attacks.

The objective for the day was the main road BOUCHAVESNES-MT. ST. QUENTIN. Much good work was done by the 40th Battalion on the right - snipers and Lewis gunners accounting for many Boche and on several occasions breaking up parties massing for counter-attack.

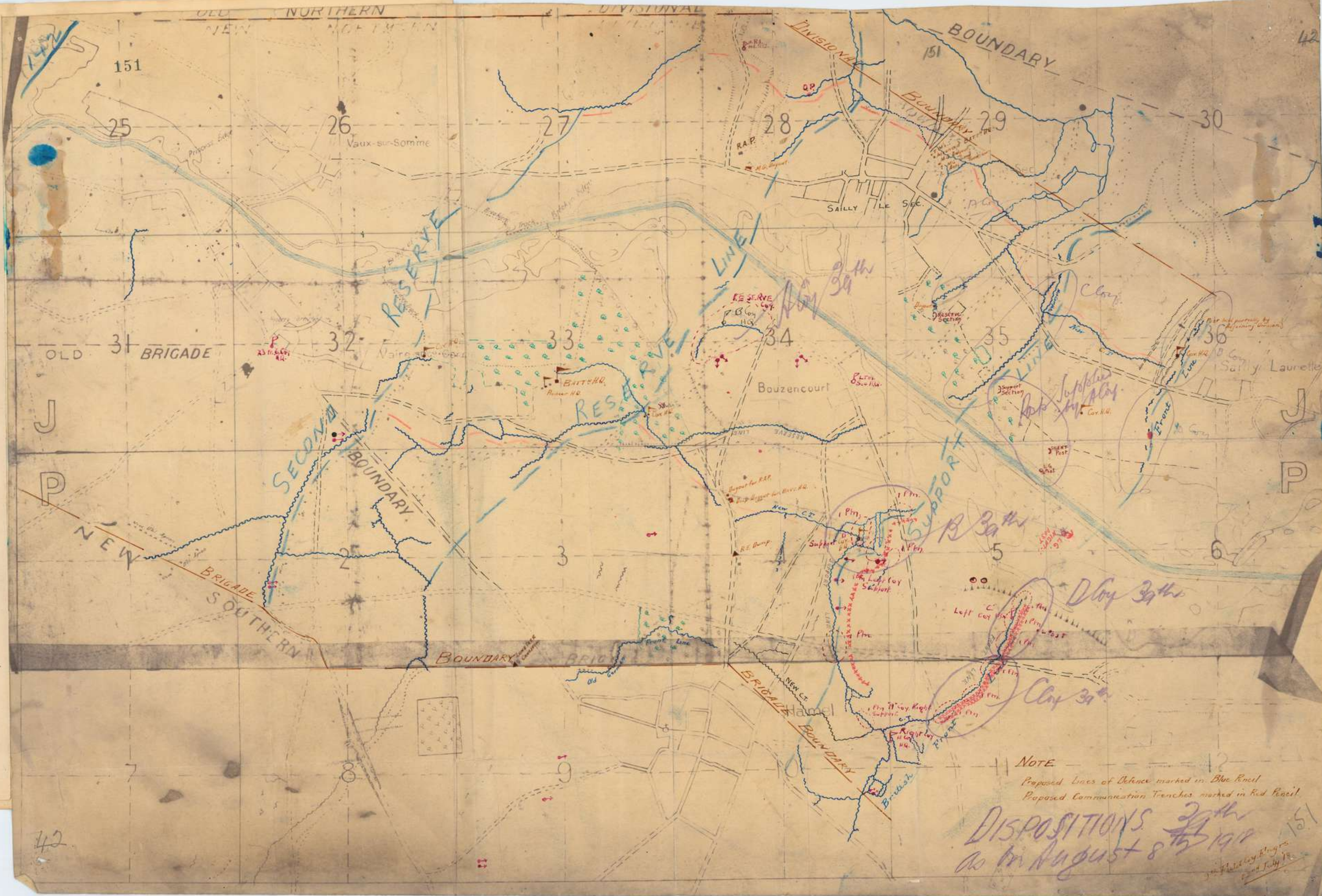
The excellence of the signal communications of this Battn and their close liaison with Artillery enabled guns to deal quickly with bodies of the enemy and at least twice during the 31st led to counter-attacks being broken up before they could develop.

The 39th Battalion on the left flank in touch with 9th A.I. Brigade had their left flank on the cross roads in C.20.d.3.1. and their right flank in HERSTFIELD Trench: 37th and 38th Battns being along brown line in attached map.

During the afternoon in order to facilitate the relief by 11th A.I. Brigade troops were ordered forward on the line of BOUCHEVESNES - MT. ST. QUENTIN Road. Everyone was utterly tired out as a result of the previous weeks strenuous fighting but the prospect of relief put new heart into them and first the 40th on the right then the 39th Battn on the left and 37th Battn in centre pushed forward.

The relief by the 11th A.I. Brigade was a slow process, the night being exceptionally dark and as they were to advance under barrage in the morning at 5 a. m. 1st September, their arrival was anxiously looked for so that outgoing troops might be clear before the enemy's barrage in reply to our could come down. However by a narrow margin the troops of this Brigade were able to get just clear of the danger zone in time and withdrew to bivouacs around CUREU where the respective Quartermasters had hot meals in readiness.

The casualties suffered since the attack on BRAY had numbered 6 Officers, 44 Other Ranks Killed. 29 Officers 377 Other Ranks wounded and 1 Officer 5 Other Ranks missing. Prisoners taken more than equalled the total casualties and the enemy casualties from our fire were, especially on the last two days of the month, very heavy.



NOTE  
 Proposed Lines of Defence marked in Blue Pencil  
 Proposed Communication Trenches marked in Red Pencil

DISPOSITIONS 2nd Div  
 as on August 8th 1918

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General Narrative of Events for period  
23rd/24th August to 27th August 1918.

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Reference Maps 62 D. N.E. 1/20,000.  
62 C. N.W. 1/20,000.

The Operations undertaken during this period divide themselves into four distinct periods :-

- 1 Taking over and holding the Line held by the 34th Battalion.
- 2 The advance from beyond BRAY.
- 3 The advance to "A" Line in front of SUZANNE.
- 4 The capture of SUZANNE and the holding of the "B" Line.

First Period. The Battalion moved off from the donga N of SAILLY-LAURETTE (K.31.c and d) at 9.p.m. moving by a chosen road to the quarry, in K.18.d.70.65 where Company guides were waiting and thence to forward B.H.Q. at L.8.c.2.6., where platoon guides took the platoons to the line. The C.O. established himself at the quarry K.18.d.70.65. and a relay point for receipt of messages, etc, under Lieut Prentice J.M. at L.8.c.2.6. In the line the positions of Companies was as follows, midnight 23rd/24th. Right - A.Coy L.3.d.40.80 to L.3.a.20.20, line running east and west, with 4 posts held by two platoons. Centre - B.Coy L.3.a.20.20. to L.2.d.74.15 with 5 posts, held by two platoons, and a platoon in Reserve. Left - D.Coy L.2.d.74.15 to L.2.c.05.35 with a platoon in Reserve at L.9.a.20.80. C.Coy in Support with Line from L.8.a.20.20 to L.8.c.50.60.

This period had nothing special save that the enemy artillery was very heavy. High Explosive Shells, chiefly 5.9's and gas were used to bombard the front line which was held from midnight 23rd/24th August to midnight 24th/25th August.

Second Period. From midnight 24th/25th August to 9.p.m.25th August. It include the taking up of a position beyond the town of BRAY and the advance to chosen positions. The Battalion handed over the line to the 38th Battalion at midnight and guided by Lieut August and a party of scouts were in position before 2.a.m. The advance commenced at 2.30.a.m. and was throughout carried on without opposition other than enemy artillery fire. All the objectives were gained practically without casualties and after a protective barrage had ceased the line was swung out in accordance with orders so that it was as follows :-  
C.Coy - Right Flank L.18.a.99.00 to L.18.a.45.55.  
A.Coy - Centre, from L.18.a.45.55 to L.18.a.20.95.  
B.Coy - From L. 18.a.20.95 to L.11.d.75.45.  
D.Coy in Support at L.17.c.

The Battalion was successively at the Church in BRAY, at L.16.d.50.20 and at L.17.d.40.50. Telephonic communication was established with Brigade and touch maintained, almost from the start.

The operation throughout was very successful, and seven machine guns captured, together with some prisoners. The line was held during the day and towards evening further orders were received to advance and take up positions on the A.Line, G.8.a.70.30 to G.8.c.99.30. This advance was to be made in conjunction with, and conforming to the movements of the 11th A.I. Brigade. The time for the advance was fixed at 8.p.m. but the orders were received at B.H.Q. at 8.40.p.m. and B.Coy moved off on the flank of the 44th Battalion at 9.20.p.m. "A" and "C" Coys moving a little later.

(continued)

Third Period. 11.p.m. 25th August to 9.30.a.m. 26th August. Taking the "A" Line.

"B" Coy moved first, followed by "A" and "C" Coys, and met little opposition. As this Coy lost touch for a time and whilst waiting for the other Coys to come up Lieut Mason established a defensive flank at G.8.a.15.45 to G.8.a.40.75, placing 3 posts astride the road running N.W. past CEMETERY. The other Coys established themselves in a series of posts stretching round outskirts of SUZANNE from the cross roads below grid line between G.8.a. and c and down valley behind CEMETERY, obtaining touch with "B" Coy, which was reinforced by a platoon of D. Coy. "C" Coy experienced opposition from a machine gun in CHATEAU WOOD and silenced it, using Lewis Guns with success. This gun was captured. By 5.a.m. the series of posts had been constructed along the "A" Line, and patrols had entered the village.

"D" Coy - less one platoon - carried rations for the three forward Companies and after delivering same, remained waiting further instructions, along lower road running East through G.8.c.

Again the operations were most successful; no casualties were experienced, and many acts of bravery and devotion to duty were noted. The work of Lieut GARRARD was specially valuable.

Fourth Period. Capture of SUZANNE and advance to "B" Line - 9.30.a.m. 26th August to Mid-day 27th August.

For the purpose of mopping up SUZANNE and advancing to "B" Line the Companies moved as follows :- "A" "C" "D" from Left to Right, with "B" Coy in Support. The last named moved to rear of CEMETERY to line established by "A" Company on the "A" Line and obtained a tactical position of great value.

"D" Coy mopped up the long <sup>STREET</sup> stretch on Right of village running along the river and came under machine gun fire at G.9.c.35.25. A patrol was sent out and the Coy moved along a bank to the "B" Line and got into position. The 37th Battalion Coy to move through "D" Coy was also held up until the gun was silenced, when they moved forward and after the eventual further advance the line they held was consolidated by "D" Coy.

"C" Coy moved through centre of village, mopped it up and after emerging from the edge was under fire by machine guns and small minerwerfer fire. They eventually got across the valley on to the "B" Line and occupied an old German trench system in which they consolidated.

"A" Coy mopped up the left of the village and after supplying covering fire for the 37th Battalion advancing on their left attacked and captured MURRAY WOOD, together with a double enemy system beyond. The three Coys dug in and consolidated on the "B" Line, using the old German system where possible and tactically useful.

After the advance of the 37th Battalion the whole of the "B" Line was taken over and held until mid-day next day (August 27th) when it was handed over to the 37th Battalion. The work of Lieut LE FEVRE was specially valuable in regard to the capture of MURRAY WOOD, which is the subject of a special report. At 11.30.p.m. on the 27th August the Battalion received orders to move to L.23.a and c, and moved accordingly. During this period of the operation B.H.Q. was successively at SUZANNE Church and at G.8.c.70.35. Telephonic communication was maintained and touch with other Battalions throughout.

The operations were generally very successful due to every and loyalty of all ranks, everyone working to the utmost to obtain best possible results.

Lieut Col.  
C.O. 39th Battalion A.I.F.

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39TH BATTALION A.I.F.

30th August 1918.

Report on the capture of MURRAY WOOD.

Map Reference 62.C. 1/20,000.

APPENDIX 4

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1 Following on the capture of the village of SUZANNE, which has been dealt with in the general narrative of operations the capture of MURRAY WOOD requires special mention as a piece of work displaying special ability and outstanding value.

After the mopping up of SUZANNE had been completed three Companies of the 39th Battalion proceeded to dig in - "A" "C" and "D" in order from left to right. "A" Company consolidated a portion of old German trench along the contour from G.S.A. 23.30 to G.S.A. 30.44. Whilst this work was in progress a message was received from the Company of the 37th Battalion on the left flank, saying they were held up by machine gun fire and asking for covering fire on MURRAY WOOD. Lieut S. LE FEVRE and Sgt C.A. LORTON with a gunner crawled forward from their position and entered the wood, driving before them a party of the enemy, estimated at 30, upon seeing which Lieut LE FEVRE sent back a runner with a Lewis Gun section. He and Sgt LORTON advanced through the wood, to within 10 yards of a machine gun position at G.S.A. 35.64. The enemy gunners opened fire on them and Lieut LE FEVRE replied with revolver fire and Sgt LORTON with his rifle whereupon the enemy gunners fled up the trench shown in blue on map, going from corner of the wood.

Lieut LE FEVRE, with the Sgt and the Lewis Gun section which had joined him, drove and followed the enemy up the trench, bombing them from several blocks. The enemy took up a line of resistance in the trench running south from G.S.A. 30.30 behind MURRAY WOOD. Lieut LE FEVRE then ordered up the remainder of his Company and brought heavy Lewis gun fire and rifle fire to bear on the trench whereupon the enemy fled in disorder in the direction of SUZANNE. Lieut LE FEVRE and his immediately occupied the position vacated by the enemy and inflicted heavy casualties as they retreated. The enemy strength is estimated at 200 men and the casualties at from 80 to 90 men. This places the wood entirely in our possession and later, when the 37th Battalion took over, the wood and the trench in front were handed over to them.

After taking the second trench two parties of men disappeared down a cover and reappeared later on the opposite side, pulling out two guns, presumably "Whizz Bangs". A Lewis Gun opened upon these, and the gun crews were dispersed - two men with four horses galloped out of MURRAY WOOD and hooked up one of the guns, but the Lewis Gun brought down the two leading horses and the men then fled, both guns being abandoned by the enemy.

Lieut Col.  
C.O. 39th Battalion A.I.F.



5074 BATTALION I.I.C.

General Narrative from 23.10.44 to 27.10.44 1st September 1944

APPENDIX

4

9/9/48

Reference Maps :- 62.D. N.E. 1/25,000  
62.C. W.W. 1/25,000

(Continuation of General Narrative of 23/24 August 1944)

On completion of work the Battalion was quartered in P.O.W. Camp 63.D. N.E. (Sheet 63.D. N.E.). The Battalion on being re-organized rested in these billets until 11.30 a.m. on 24th, when on the receipt of order to move from Brigade the Battalion, temporarily commanded by Major PAYNE, D.S.O. (4th in rank) in the absence of Lieut Col A. Henderson, moved to DUX WOOD. The Battalion after having pushed forward of some 500 yards across the country in A.4 and B.5.0 the 1st Coy moved to H.2.0-8.6. The Battalion remained in this position until 11.30 a.m. when orders to move were received from Brigade; a halt was made near the Reulucy station for about an hour. A new order to proceed in H.3.2.0-2.0. being at 11.45 a.m. on receipt of orders the Battalion moved to where Road ran in N 95 through B.30.d.10.00, being at H.6.4.4.0. Whilst reconnoitering this position Major PAYNE and parties were wounded and evacuated, as the information being forwarded to Lieut Col A. Henderson, D.S.O. went forward and took charge of the Battalion. Lieut Col Henderson has been doing excellent work throughout the entire operation and is filled by a shell - Lieut Col Henderson relieved the 7th Battalion in Berlinette Trench in rear of Berlinette Trench. The relief was in progress orders to fall back were received, so as to allow the heavy artillery to do 1st targets in close proximity to line; the Battalion fell back to position in fully north of Berlinette Trench. At 1.10 a.m. orders were received to position in rear of Berlinette Trench preparatory to an advance. Day's 1st Coy moved to position at B.30.d.30.30., the 2nd Coy extending along Berlinette Trench with 3rd Coy on the right in touch with 7th Battalion, 3rd Coy took up a support position with 4th Coy in reserve.

At 2.15 a.m. the barrage opened and the advance was prosecuted in spite of strong opposition in the way of 77th and 78th Divisions. The Battalion moved forward and killed whilst the 2nd Coy was being moved to position preparatory to an advance. The Battalion moved forward to position at C.20.d.25.10. The Battalion moved forward to position at C.20.d.25.10. The Battalion moved forward to position at C.20.d.25.10. The Battalion moved forward to position at C.20.d.25.10.

Lieut Col. Henderson

General Narrative from 1st September 1918 to  
2.a.m. 11th September 1918.

(Continuation of General Narrative of 25.8.18/1.

Reference Maps :- 62. A.C. N.E. 1/20,000.  
62. C. N.W. 1/20,000.

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The Battalion remained in their quarters in Quarry H.L.d.35.20. with B.H.Q. at H.7.a.4.7. until 5.p.m. 5th., when on receipt of orders from Bde they proceeded to I.2.a & b where they were met at 8.p.m. by the advance party and billeted in <sup>then</sup> ~~marches~~ in I.2.a. with B.H.Q. at I.2.a.00.80.; the Battn reported in position by 9.p.m. During the afternoon of the 6th Capt Giles Lieut Shaw and representative Officers of the Coys went forward through Mt St QUENTIN to the vicinity of BUSSU to reconnoitre country for likely overland routes. At 3.p.m. on same date Major C.R.Hutten rejoined from English Leave and took charge of the Battalion in place of Lieut-Col R.O.Henderson, S.O. who remained with Q.M.Store for a rest. Early on the morning of 7th the 37th and 38th Battns moved out to forward area, whilst 39th & 40th Battns remained resting until 7.a.m. of the 8th when both Battalions moved forward, 39th Battn resting in ROSNES WOOD J.22.c.30.40. During the afternoon Capt Giles, Lieut Shaw and Coy Commanders proceeded to 10th Bde Hqrs for instructions & reference reconnaissance of forward area. From Bde Hqrs the party proceeded to vicinity of ROISEL and reconnoitred position held by 38th with a view to taking over portion of line during the evening of 8th, and advancing so as to occupy old system of trenches east of HERVILLY WOOD between K.19 central and K.25 central, with 40th Battalion on left holding line between K.7. central and K.13.d.00.00 and 37th Battn on right holding the remainder of Divisional Front from K.31. central South to Divisional boundary. On the return of the reconnoitring party a meeting was held at which the C.O. (Major C.R.Hutten) explained the complete operation. At 8.p.m. the Battalion marched out from ROSNES WOOD, and proceeded via TINCOURT and HAMELET to vicinity of Quarry at J.23.a.30.70., where the troops rested prior to having a meal before entering on the enterprise. Shortly after the troops had arrived in this area the enemy put down at heavy strafe of 5.9's. 3 men were killed and several wounded whilst the transport such as Lewis Gun limbers and Cookers was interfered with to such an extent that several horses belted. On seeing this Lieut H.N.R.McDonald & Sgt Ford of the transport immediately gave chase, although shells were falling all around, and were instrumental in pulling up the belting teams and bringing them back to the troops who had in the meantime been collected and put into fairly safe positions. As soon as the Lewis Guns had been picked up by the men a start was made at 1.30.am on 9th, C.Coy under Lieut A.D.McArthur advancing on the South of HERVILLY WOOD A & B.Coys under Capt R.N.Andersen taking up a position in trench east of Hervilly Wood with D.Coy under Lieut C.T.Mason advancing along the North of the wood, the line of consolidation being :-

Left Post D.Coy L.19.e.95.85 to L.19.e.98.65.

Centre Post B.Coy L.19.d.25.50 to L.19.d.35.35.

Right Post C.Coy L.25.b.10.65 to L.25.b.05.25.

with Liaison Post with 40th Battn supplied by B.Coy. at K.13.d.25.10. When daylight came consolidation was complete with forward B.H.Q. (Capt Giles & Lieut Shaw) at K.30.b.70.85 and rear B.H.Q. (Major C.R.Hutten, C.O. & Lieut Neilson, Adj) at K.23.a.40.75.

During the early morning a prisoner belonging to the <sup>18</sup>th Fus.Regt was captured in L.31.b. whilst carrying 3 cups of coffee to his mates. Throughout the 9th nothing unusual to report except occasional heavy shelling of western end of HERVILLY WOOD and HERVILLY VILLAGE. During the evening advance parties of 2nd & 4th Battalions 1st Aust.Division reported and reconnoitred the line, About 9.p.m. on same evening a prisoner of 21st Bav.Inf.Regt wandered into our lines whilst carrying coffee to his mates.

(continued)

Early on the morning of 10th telephonic communication was completed from front line through forward B.H.Q. through rear B.H.Q. to Bde Hqs and during the remaining portion of tour was maintained without hitch. About 7.30.a.m. 10th the movements of 2 Beche enabled us to pinpoint the enemy outpost line. Particulars as follows :-

2 Beche came from CARPETA COPSE in L.15.c. and moved to & remained about 3 mins. at each of the following Strong Points :-  
L.20.c.50.90., L.14.c.60.30., L.14.c.70.70.

Reliefs for these posts seem to be supplied from men billeted in Carpeta Copse.

About 3.30.p.m. a platoon of the 4th Battn as well as a platoon of the 2nd Battn reported to forward B.H.Q. reference pushing out the line about 1000 yards on to the forward ridge thereby taking the enemy outpost line. At 6.30.p.m. "peaceful penetration" was attempted 4th Battn working from L.19 central to L.19.d.30.00 whilst 2nd Battn worked from L.19.d.30.00 to L.25.b.20.00; 4th Battalion managed to push out and occupy trench L.19.b.30.30. to L.19.b.90.00. but were held up by machine gun fire from the outpost line already pinpointed, whilst 2nd Battn never advanced at all owing to intense machine gun fire. It was then decided to desist until darkness set in.

The Battalion was finally relieved by 4th & 2nd Battns, the 4th Battn taking over left & centre posts, whilst 2nd Battalion took over Right Post. On relief Coys moved independently to RONCES WOOD J.22.c. "Relief Complete" being given about 10.p.m. During the move to Ronces Wood whilst Lieut McArthur's party was at the Y.M.C.A. at HAMELET an enemy bombing aeroplane dropped about 20 bombs, killing 11 <sup>men</sup> and wounding ~~11~~ Lt McArthur being wounded.

The last of the Battalion finally reached RONCES WOOD at 2.a.m. 11th Sept. billeted there until midday and then moved to HANDLE COPSE J.20.a.30.10.

*R. O. Henderson* Lieut Col.  
C.O. 39th Battalion A.I.F.

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1  
20,000

NOTE. CHANGE OF COLOUR.  
Enemy Trenches in Blue.  
British Trenches in Red.

FRANCE.

EDITION 4. B

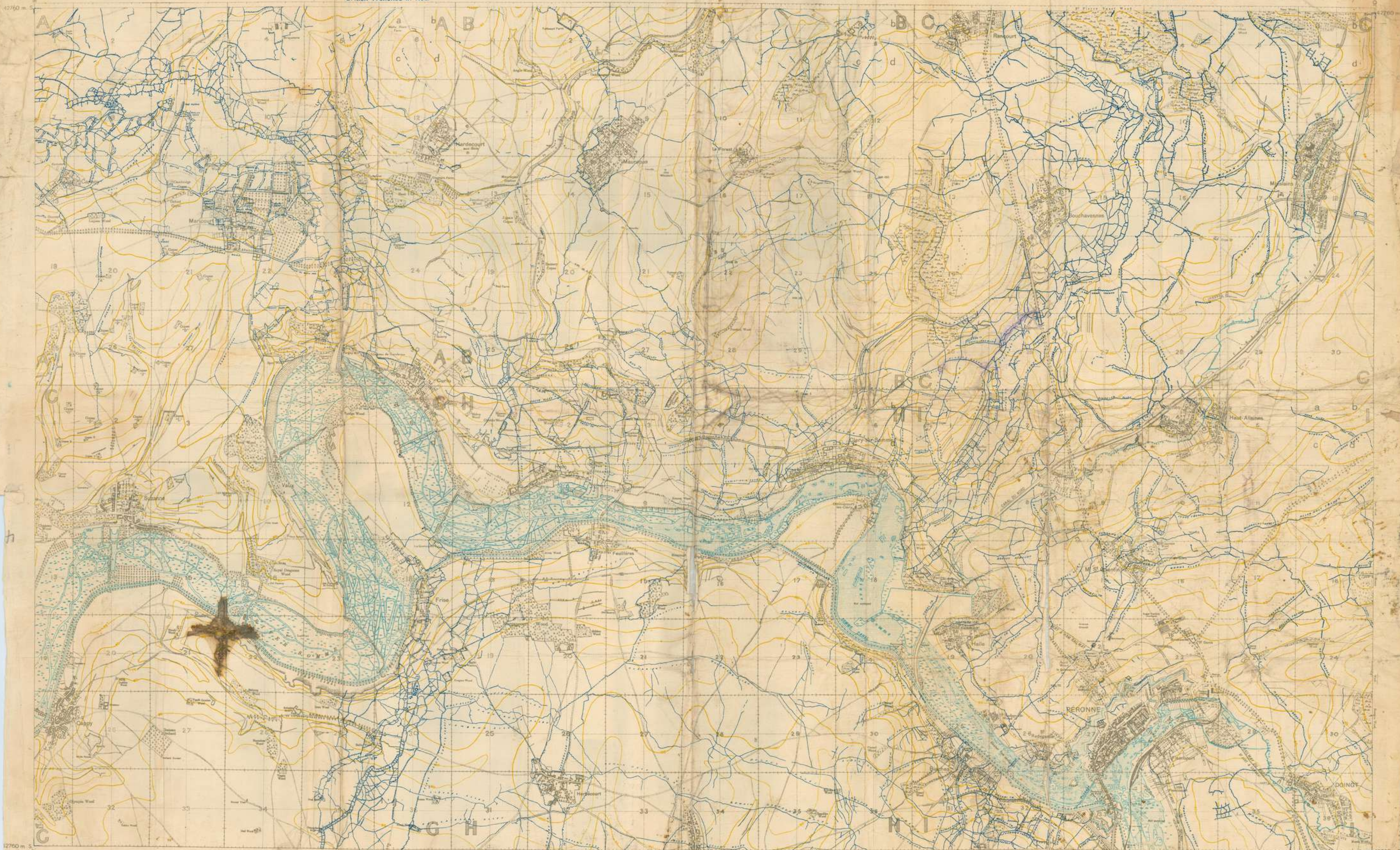
TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 6-3-18

SHEET 62° NW.

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49



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Scale 1:20,000  
 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Yards  
 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Meters

Ordnance Survey, 10.11.18

Appendix 5

Map 62411

b71

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1:40,000

Parts of 62° 62' 66' 66°

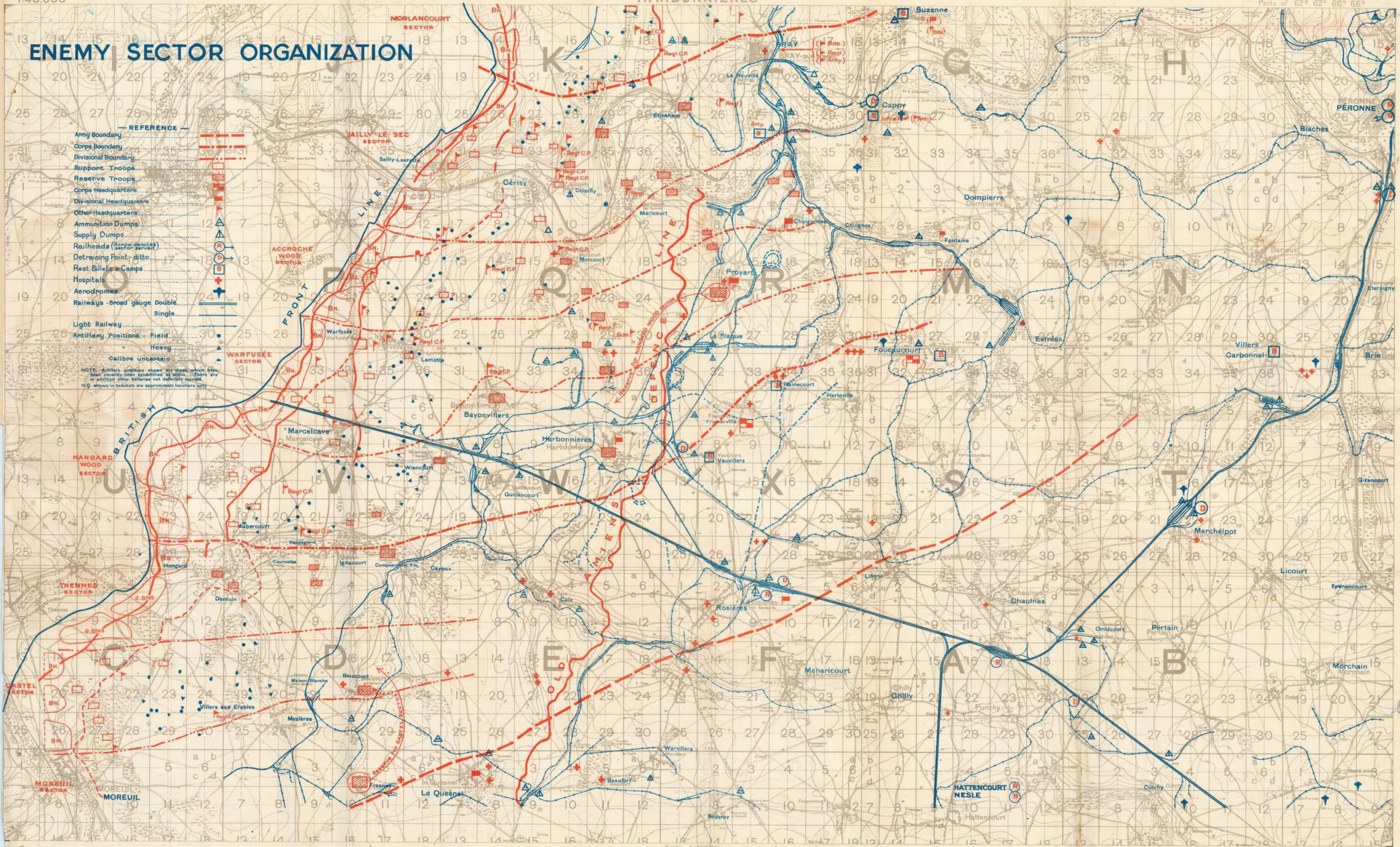
# HARBONNIERES

## ENEMY SECTOR ORGANIZATION

### REFERENCE

- Army Boundary
- Corps Boundary
- Divisional Boundary
- Support Troops
- Reserve Troops
- Corps Headquarters
- Divisional Headquarters
- Other Headquarters
- Ammunition Dumps
- Supply Dumps
- Railheads (Arrow denotes)
- Detraining Point - ditto
- Rest Bilets - Camps
- Hospitals
- Aerodromes
- Railways - Broad gauge Double
- Single
- Light Railway
- Artillery Positions - Field
- Heavy
- Calibre uncertain

NOTE: Artillery positions shown are those which have been recently been established as active. There are in addition other batteries not definitely located.  
H.Q. shown in brackets are approximate locations only.



Scale: 1:40,000

(4088) FIELD SURVEY BY S.A. 3-8-18

*Enemy  
Sector  
Organisation*

*Appendix 6*  
*Enemy Sector  
Organisation  
Prior to August 1944*

APPENDIX