

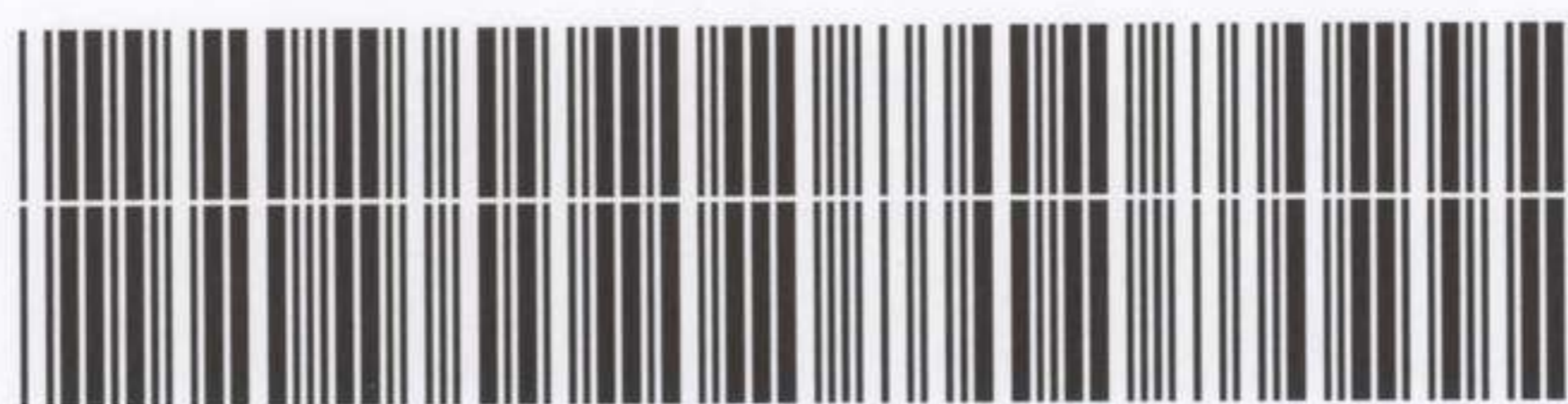
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/63/28

Title: 46th Infantry Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-23/63/28

18,000-12/1 -S723

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205

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

M A Y

191 8

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY	1918.		
	1st		<p>Found us still in the line. The day was uneventful, there being practically no hostile shelling. The weather was fine, and the men were under no discomfort in the trenches. Arrangements were made during the day for relief by the 47th Battalion. The latter Battalion was weak in numbers, not having sufficient to take over all our dispositions; two companies, therefore of the 46th Battalion - "B" and "C", under Lieutenants Carter and Cowey respectively, were left in support, the front line companies only being relieved. The relief was conducted without casualty, and was complete at half an hour after midnight.</p> <p>"A" Company (Capt. Syme), and "D" Company (Lieut. Wallace) then moved to positions at O.34.d see Disposition Report. The Battalion now came under the tactical administration of the 13th Aust. Inf. Brigade. Being close to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, they were under constant shell fire, and under much greater strain than when in the front line trenches. Fortunately they did not suffer many casualties, - being well dug in to a high bank. In case of attack they were to man some strong points near their dug-outs. Most of these positions existed on a map only, and the remainder had been partly dug, and badly sited. Orders were speedily forthcoming, however, for the 46th Battalion to dig. Fresh posts were sited by an Engineer Officer, and night work commenced at high pressure. The H.Q. of the Battalion were situated in De BOIS ABBE' at O.26.c.9.4. a beautiful old house, most of the rooms being fully furnished. So far, this house property had been respected, and had not become a hunting ground for the unscrupulous souvenir hunter who pillages friend and foe alike. It was therefore more comfortable than many H.Q. the Battalion had held previously.</p>	
	2nd		<p>Was marked by fine weather and nothing unusual occurred. The spasmodic bursts of shelling in the wood and round H.Q. was not relished, but was put up with for want of a better alternative. At night an attack was made on MONUMENT WOOD by the 48th Battalion. To assist the Trench Mortar Battery, taking part the 46th Battalion supplied 2 N.C.O's and 20 men, whose efforts brought a letter of appreciation from the C.O. of the Battery. One man especially distinguished himself - 2564 Private Eric Stevenson.</p>	Appendix 1
	3rd		<p>The day was uneventful. At night "B" and "C" Companies which had been left in support to the 47th Battalion, were relieved by the 49th and 16th Battalion respectively, and withdrew to the other two companies. The relief was completed without incident by 1 a.m. "A" and "B" Companies occupied the night by digging trenches.</p>	
	4th		<p>Rain fell heavily all the morning making the men very uncomfortable in the dug-outs. Some of them were fortunate enough to have sheets of iron overhead, but the majority had waterproofs and a few trench shelters. At 6 p.m. our guns put down a heavy barrage on MONUMENT WOOD, but no retaliation was forthcoming - not that we wanted it. The night was occupied as usual - digging.</p>	

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 46th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date MA 1918.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5th		Today a meeting of C.O's was held at Brigade Headquarters at BLANG-TRONVILLE, and here it was learnt that the long expected scheme of re-organising the A.I.F. was to be applied to the 12th Brigade. The scheme was that Brigades be reduced to 3 Battalions only, necessitating the cutting out of one Battalion. The 47th Battalion was the one selected by higher authority to go and its officers were then balloted for by the remaining C.O's, and the 46th Battalion gained a number of excellent officers.	
	6th		The men followed the usual pastime at night and excavated much earth in their new line. During the night heavy rain fell, but trench digging was not relaxed. Men were wet through, but the Brigadier was anxious that sufficient accommodation be dug for the 4 companies - so they could live in the line and fight in it if necessary. As there were 400 men to accommodate, much earth had to be excavated. The day was uneventful.	
	7th		This turned out a fine day after the rain. General Birdwood visited Headquarters to enquire after the men's welfare, and conversed with all officers present. The men now were getting in a most uncomfortable state through not having any facilities for a bath or change of clothes. Two weeks previously a portion of the Battalion had bathed at FRECHENCOURT, but a fortnight in the line had wiped out even the memory of this. As we were due to go into the line again in a day or two, it was decided to relieve us by the 45th Battn., and allow us to go back to BLANG-TRONVILLE for a bath. This relief was carried out and completed by 9 p.m. During the time the Battalion was under the 13th Brigade, from 300 to 350 yards of new traversed trench were dug, with an average depth of 5 feet, ready for occupation by the relieving Battalion. The Battalion now made its way back to the BLANG-TRONVILLE (Location:- Sheet 62d -N.23.c and N.29.a.), with Headquarters in BLANG-TRONVILLE; the men being protected from the weather by trench shelters.	
	8th		The men were marched in by companies to LA MOTTE and received their much needed bath and change of clothes; while Company Officers and a proportion of N.C.O's visited the front line preparatory to taking over a sector from the 15th Battalion.	
	9th		Final preparations were made for taking over the line. At 7 p.m. the Battalion commenced to move out in sections with intervals taking a straight route across country to a position N.E. of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX occupied by the 15th Battalion. Relief was completed without casualty by 12-10 p.m. For location and disposition of Battalion see Appendix	
			The front line consisted of a number of disconnected posts. On the right, occupied by "B"	Appendix 2

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May	1918		
	9th		<p>Company, there were 4 posts - 3 posts being nominally joined by a trench about 2 feet deep. No attempt had been made to join the 4th. This company sector was 500 yards in length. On the left sector of the front line, occupied by "C" Company (Lieut. Cowe,) were 5 posts extended over a length of 750 yards. The least distance between these posts was 60 yards; the greater 250 yards. The support line was dug for a distance of about 300 yards; while 500 yards remained to be dug to connect it with the Battalion on the left. The Reserve line was in good condition, and known as VILLERS RESERVE.</p> <p>From the reserve to the support line a communication trench had been started. It looked well on the map, but on inspection was found to be from 4 feet deep for a short distance, to depths varying 15 to 18 inches. xxxx A communication trench was also shown as running from the support to the right sector of the front line; but most of this was only in the prepared stage. Thus the Battalion once more in its career had plenty of digging in front of it.</p>	
	10th		<p>The day was very quiet, very little hostile fire. "No Man's Land" in this sector was very narrow - ranging from 70 to 250 yards. This fact probably accounts for the non-shelling of our front line by the enemy. Our gunners, however, with more faith in their prowess, kept up a harrassing fire, and several times landed 4.5's and 18 pdrs in our own line. Happily, no casualties resulted, but the moral effect was present.</p> <p>The Artillery was very keen to do more correct shooting, and took steps to prevent a recurrence. C.O's of battalions were ordered to be present at 4 p.m. at an O.P. in VILLERS BRETONNEUX to meet the artillery officers and observe a shoot. The O.P. was a very ricket, half demolished building from which the whole front could be seen. The shoot commenced punctually, and proved fairly satisfactory, but the range had to be lengthened by 200 yards over the 46th Battalion area.</p> <p>A liasion officer from the Artillery was always present at Battalion Headquarters - from which the front line or the effect of shooting could be observed; permission was therefore obtained from the Artillery Group Commander to send future liasion officers to a position in the front line, as from this position they were better enabled to locate any battery firing short, also to observe results of fire on enemy positions. It was also decided to leave these officers there for 48 hours - giving them more time to become familiar with the front.</p>	
	11th		<p>This was marked by much activity by our Artillery, with very little response from the enemy. The day was fine, and the condition of the troops was comfortable.</p>	

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WSP

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MA	1918		
	12th		Today enemy aeroplanes and artillery were very active. The enemy appeared to be registering on our reserve trenches and wire. He afterwards lifted on to our battery positions in the rear. whether he found them or not, I cannot say. We did not have the mastery of the air today. Mastery of the air is akin to mastery of "No Man's Land". The infantry claim to be masters of "No Man's Land" when they can roam about at will, seeing nothing of the enemy; but if our planes had been out today they would have seen plenty of hun planes to occupy their attention.	
	13th		Weather dull, with intermittent showers throughout the day. At night the 48th Battalion relieved our right sector - taking from us about 500 yards of trench, leaving us 750 yards. The Company relieved ("B" Company) sent 2 platoons to strengthen "C" Company on their left and the remainder to the support line. The relief was completed at 12-30 a.m. without incident.	
	14th		At 2 a.m. an unsuccessful raid was made on a portion of enemy trench on our front. We lost a valuable officer - Lieut. L.N. Jennings, with 1 Other Rank killed and 3 other ranks wounded. Enemy artillery was active all day, but caused no casualties. The 47th Battalion relieved us at night, the relief being complete without casualties at 1 a.m. As the 47th were weak in numbers, the reserve company, 46th Battalion ("D" Company) remained in position.	
	15th		On relief the 3 companies and Headquarters occupied positions about a mile in the rear and became Battalion in support. See Disposition Report. Although in support, work did not cease as there was much digging still to do and make the position secure. Two parties of 48 each, working in three shifts were occupied in making dug-outs for forward Battalion Headquarters. Another party of 1 Officer and 20 men formed a burial party for dead horses - of which there were many. The remainder - about 150 were occupied in digging and improving a communication trench in our previous position. This last was wholly night work; it will be seen from this that a Battalion in the line or in support does not get much rest.	Appendix 2
	16th		The morning was quiet, and weather fine. About midday a sad event happened that resulted in the loss to the Battalion of one of its best officers. Captain Outhwaite M.C., the Battalion Q.M. had left H.Q. on his return to the store, when his horse, becoming frightened, threw him. Severe injuries to the head resulted, and although he received immediate medical attention, he died a few hours later. He had only received his M.C. a few weeks for devotion to duty at ALBERT.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date MA 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17th		Nothing extraordinary occurred today - except that we had the satisfaction of seeing 2 hun 'planes brought down by our airmen. The hun artillery, was active, apparently, searching for our gunpositions.	WSP
	18th/20th		These three days were passed with the enemy artillery, fairly active. On the 19th he gave our sector a severe bombardment; no casualties resulted, but many shells were xxxx too close to us to be pleasant.	WSP
	21st		Arrangements were made today for relief, the 3rd Division taking over from the 4th. The 35th Battalion arranged to relieve us, and we were to go back to the GLIS. Line - see Disposition Report.	Appendix 2
			Advance parties were sent to reconnoitre our new positions, which were occupied by 1 company of the 33rd Battalion. They consisted of a trench system for 1 company, the remaining three being bivouaced, and provided with trench shelters. The relieving Battalions arrived at H.Q. at midnight.	WSP
	22nd		Guides then took them to their respective positions, and the relief was complete by 1-45 a.m. We got into position at GLIS. by 3 a.m.	WSP
			The day was given to resting and swimming. The men appreciated living so close to water and took full advantage of the opportunities o swim.	WSP
	23rd		A kit inspection took place followed by cleaning of equipment and clothing. A further inspection was held by the C.O. in the afternoon. The weather was hot, and the men in their spare time swum and slept alternately. They had much arrears of sleep to make up - they, got little in the line.	WSP
	24th		New clothing was issued and training of Lewis Gunners, signallers, and scouts was commenced. The band instruments were brought up from the rear dump and the players started getting into form again.	WSP
	25th		Training was begun according to Syllabus attached, and a Riding Class started for junior Officers, under the instruction of the Transport Officer. Lieut. Jackson, the Lewis Gun Officer also commenced a class of instruction in German machine guns, of which we have two. A knowledge of the enemy guns has been found useful in the past, and on more than one occasion we have used them in the trenches with effect.	Appendix 3
			Today we received our first draft of 65 men from the 47th Battalion. They were formed up and addressed by the C.O., and drafted to various companies.	WSP
	26th		Sunday. A Church Parade was held for Roman Catholics. A special parade was held at RIVER. for the presentation of medals and ribands by General BIRDWOOD. It was also the last occasion on	WSP

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
	MAY	1918.																	
	26th		<p>which General BIRDWOOD would be present with us, being about to take command of an Army. Special Training as laid down in Syllabus was carried out and an inspection by the C.O. took place in the afternoon. The men turned out well, looking smart in new clothing. An absence of chin straps was noticed; it seems the average soldier pays very little attention to this article of equipment.</p> <p>Training as usual. Advice was received that Lieut. Muriel had been granted the M.C. for gallantry near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.</p> <p>Training. The Battalion Signal school is making good progress under Lieut. Faulkner, while Lewis Gunners are improving rapidly.</p> <p>An aquatic carnival was held in a large lagoon near the SOMME at GLIS. Prize money was donated from regimental funds, and a thoroughly enjoyable day was spent. The Brigadier and Staff were prevented from attending, but our former Brigadier - General Gellibrand, now of 3rd Division was present. We had a hot summer's day and all events were keenly contested. In the evening the I.M.C.A. representative of the Brigade brought the Brigade Concert Party to the Battalion and an enjoyable programme was rendered to members of the Battalion and other troops in the area.</p> <p>Training of Specialists was carried on, and parties were sent from each company to reconnoitre the AUBIGNY LINE, into which we are to move.</p> <p>During our stay here the weather has been perfect and with the good food issued and the frequent bathing has put the Battalion into excellent health. The sleeping in bivouacs in the woods is preferred by the men in such weather, and has helped to make them fit.</p> <p>Our Strength today is -</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">With Battalion -</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">37</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Officers</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">830</td> <td>Other Ranks</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Detached -</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">13</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">"</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">99</td> <td>" "</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Total</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">50</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Officers</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">929</td> <td>Other Ranks.</td> </tr> </table>	With Battalion -	37	Officers	830	Other Ranks	Detached -	13	"	99	" "	Total	50	Officers	929	Other Ranks.	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>
With Battalion -	37	Officers		830	Other Ranks														
Detached -	13	"		99	" "														
Total	50	Officers		929	Other Ranks.														
	27th																		
	28th																		
	29th																		
	30th																		
	31st																		

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 46th BATTALION A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY	1918.	<p><u>MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS.</u></p> <p>2/Lieut. D. Carmichael - Wounded (Gas) 2.5.18. Lieut. A.V. James MM - Sick 9.5.18.</p> <p>Lieut. E.A. Charlton - Sick 10.5.18</p> <p>Lieut. M.D. Cobb transferred to 4th Aust. Machine Gun Battalion 10.5.18.</p> <p>Lieut. J.K. Hall rejoined from Seconded List 8.5.18.</p> <p>Captain A. Braby - Sick 13.5.18. Lieut. L.N. Jennings - Missing 14.5.18.</p> <p>Captain R. Outhwaite M.C. - Accidentally Killed - 16.5.18.</p> <p>Lieut. E.A. Charlton rejoined from Hospital 17.5.18.</p> <p>2/Lieut. L. Byrne M.C. - Sick to Hospital 23.5.18.</p> <p>Lieut. L.L. Coulson MM rejoined from Hospital 23.5.18.</p> <p>" A.V. James MM rejoined from Hospital 23.5.18</p> <p>Captain A. Braby rejoined from hospital 25.5.18</p> <p>The undermentioned Officers taken on strength of 46th Battalion from 47th Battalion. 26.5.18.</p> <p>Captain (T/Major) F.R. North Captain J. Brack</p> <p>Lieutenant G.P. Storey Lieut. B.R. Bird M.C.</p> <p>" D.C. Rose " W.H. Keogh MM</p> <p>" W.E. Brough 2/Lieut H.L. Dunnett MM</p> <p>2/Lieut. J.J. Molphy Captain T.V. Riley</p> <p>Captain C.A. Symons - Detached to S.O. & S. School.</p> <p>Captain N.F. Bremner D.S.O. - Detached to 47th Battalion Details</p> <p>Lieutenant N.J. McGhie M.C. " " " "</p> <p>" A.V. Paterson MM " " 12th A.I. Brigade</p> <p>" H.G. Smith M.C., D.C.M. " " " "</p> <p>Captain G.S. Vanstan relinquished appointment of Adjutant and resumed regimental duties 28.5.18</p> <p>Captain J. Brack appointed Adjutant - 28.5.18</p> <p>Lieutenant P.C. Brearley relinquished appointment of Assistant Adjutant - 26.4.18</p> <p>" A.E. Leith appointed Assistant Adjutant - 16.4.18.</p> <p>Lieutenant B.R. Bird M.C. is detached for duty with 12th A.L.T.M.B. 31.5.18.</p> <p>Promotions:- To be LIEUTENANTS. Dated 5th May 1918. (A.I.F. List No.336.)</p> <p>2/Lieut. A.F.M. McKenzie 2/Lieut. C.M. Pleasance 2/Lieut. W.C. Pleasance</p> <p>" W.L. Hanna MM " R.E.D. Palmer " A.B. Mortimer</p> <p>" L. Byrne M.C. " D.M. Sandral " D. Carmichael</p> <p>" J.J. Molphy - dated 12th May 1918.</p> <p>" H.L. Dunnett MM " " " "</p>	

WAR DIARY

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46th BATTALION A.I.F.

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Place	Date M A -	Hour 1918	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS.</u> Major J.M. Edgley D.S.O. (invalided) is placed on Regimental Seconded List - 25.3.18. Lieut. E. Corbett D.C.M. is transferred to Permanent Supernumerary List - 11.4.18 Captain W.R. Davidson M.C. now reported Killed in Action is struck off strength - 16.8.17. Lieut. A.J.C. Muriel M.C. is placed on Seconded List (Wounded). - 30.4.18.</p> <p>Reinforcements, Casualties for Month Patrol Report Intelligence Summary Works Report Report on Support Line and communication Trench Summary of work done by 46th Battalion while in the line Medical Officer's Report Quartermaster's Diary Transport Officer's Report</p>	<p>Appendix 4 " 5 " 6 " 7 " 8 " 9 " 10 " 11 " 12</p>

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APPENDIX. ⁹

WAR DIARY

OF

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

M A Y 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
✓ 1	Honours & Rewards
✓ 2	Disposition Report
✓ 3	Syllabus of Training
✓ 4	Reinforcements, casualties etc. for month
✓ 5	Patrol Report
✓ 6	Intelligence Summary
✓ 7	Works Report
✓ 8	Report on Support Line and communication trench
✓ 9	Summary of work done by 46th Battalion while in the line
✓ 10	Medical Officer's Report
✓ 11	Quartermaster's Report
✓ 12	Transport Officer's Report

[Handwritten initials]

*A. C. Ford Lt Col
CO-46th Bn*

46th BATTALION.

HONOURS & REWARDS FOR MONTH OF MAY.

RECOMMENDATIONS.Lieutenant A.J. MURIEL.

For gallantry near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX near on the morning of 30.4.18. This Officer was in charge of a party which was detailed to take possession of a farm held by the enemy. Buildings on fire in his rear - although advised not to proceed he determined to go on and make the best of conditions. Heavy M.G. Fire. Lieut. Muriel went forward to find a safer way for the men. Severely wounded but contrived to communicate the information obtained by his patrol and saved this party from suffering severe casualties. Inspiring example.

No.4145 Corporal V.J. WASLEY.

Devotion to duty near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Cpl Wasley was in charge of a section of Signallers in line during the Battalion's tour of duty between 27.4.18 and 3.5.18. Enemy artillery caused many breaks in the line. With apparent indifference to the shelling he went out and maintained his lines. On evening of 1st and 2nd May he went out under heavy shell fire 4 times and maintained communications. Inspired his section with confidence in him as a leader and gave them an excellent example of devotion to duty.

No.2564 Private Eric S. STEVENSON.

For conspicuous gallantry during the attack at MONUMENT WOOD 2.5.18. Was carrying shells for 12th A.L.T.M.Bty during engagement. When contact with the enemy was gained the carrying party found themselves cut off from the gun by a party of the enemy. Stevenson then bombed them so vigorously as to disperse the opposition, thus enabling the shells to be brought to the gun. By this time the Company Commanders to whom the gun was attached was killed so Stevenson went forward alone to find an officer. 3 of the enemy barred the way but he bombed one and shot 2 with an enemy rifle - killing one and wounding the others. Returning to his party he heard calls for assistance coming from a comrade taken prisoner by 3 huns. He rescued this man with the aid of enemy bombs and rifle - killing one and wounding the others. He then gathered several of the party and attacked and silenced a German strong point which barred the withdrawal of the gun - German bombs only being used.

DECORATIONS AWARDED.MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. A.J.C. Muriel.

MILITARY MEDAL.

No.4145 Corporal V.J. Wasley.

46th BATTALION.

DISPOSITION REPORT 4.5.18.

To 13th A.I. Bde,

B.H.Q. 0.26.d.0.3.
R.A.P. 0.28.c.6.4.

A and D Companies - 0.34.c.9.5. to 0.34.d.7.7.

B and C Companies - 0.28.c.2.8. to 0.34.a.3.9. thence 0.34.a.9.8 to 0.34.d.76.

In trenches and dug into embankment.

Ration Dump - 0.34.a.1.9.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

.5.18.

DISPOSITION REPORT 10.5.18.

Sheet 62d S.W.

B.H.Q. - 0.18.d.25.15 Strength - 6 Officers 34 O/R.
R.A.P. - 0.24.c.4.8. " 1 " 3 "

In Line - Right:- "B" Company. Left:- "C" Company.
In support - "A" Company In reserve - "D" Company.

Line. Right Sector - "B" Company. - 3 Posts.

Right Post - 0.25.c.73.80 to P.25.a.90.00.

Strength - 1 Officer 23 O/R.

Men are distributed in 6 groups in this trench and there are 2 Lewis Guns in post.

A Vickers Gun is posted in trench at P.25.c.80.85 approx.

Centre Post. - P.25.b.00.20 to P.25.b.12.30.

Strength - 1 Officer 16 O/R.

Men are distributed in 3 groups in this post and there are 2 Lewis Guns in post.

A Vickers gun is posted at P.25.b.00.20 (approx.)

Left Post. - P.25.b.29.40 to P.25.b.40.50.

Strength - 1 Officer 20 O/R.

This post is held by 3 groups and there is a Lewis Gun in post.

Vickers Gun posted at P.25.b.29.40 approx.

A listening post of 2 men is established 25 yards in front in centre of position.

Company H.Q. - P.25.a.79.05.

Strength - 1 Officer 13 O/R.

Strength of Company - 4 Officers 72 O/R.

Right company sector is a continuous trench but between posts the trench is very shallow. (2 ft.)

Line. Left Sector. "C" Company.

No.	Post	Location	Officers	O/R	Lewis Guns
1	Post	P.25.b.57	1	13	1
2	"	P.25.b.69	-	11	1
3	"	P.19.d.75.15	-	16	2
4	"	P.19.d.85.35	1	24	1
5	"	P.19.d.90.65	1	26	2
Coy. H.Q.		P.19.d.57.25	1	11	

Total Strength - 4 Off 101 O/R.

These posts consist of well dug trenches but are not continuous.

Supports. - "A" Company.

P.25.a.42 to P.19.c.61.

Coy. H.Q. - P.25.a.44. Strength - 3 Officers 95 O/R.

This is a continuous trench well dug. There is about 300 yards of this trench unused on left and about 600 yards on the right, most of which is shallow.

A C.T. half completed runs back to reserve line.

5 Lewis Guns in posts evenly spaced between above location.

205
2 Vickers Guns are in this trench held by "A" Company.

Reserve.

- "D" Company.

0.30.b.46 to 0.24.d.38

Strength - 2 Officers 85 O/R.

3 Lewis Guns in trench

This is a continuous trench and is part of the VILLERS Line.

TOTAL STRENGTH - 20 Off. 390 O/R.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.

I.O. 46th Battalion.

10.5.18.

DISPOSITION REPORT 6 a.m. 14.5.18.

B.H.Q. and R.A.P. same as in last report.

Front Line.

Post No. 1	P.25.b.5.7	1 Off.	15 O/R	1 Lewis Gun
2	P.25.b.6.9.	1 "	20 "	2 " "
3	P.19.d.75.15	1 "	24 "	2 " "
4	P.19.d.85.35	-	25 "	2 " "
5	P.19.d.95.50	1 "	30 "	1 " "
6	P.19.d.90.65	1 "	29 "	1 " "
Coy. H.Q. -	P.19.d.65.25			

Total Strength - 6 Officers 154 O/R.

Note:- "B" Company occupies No. 1 & 2 Posts - Strength - 2 Off. 35 O/R.

"C" " " remainder " 4 " 119 "

Total strength - 6 Off. 154 O/R.

Supports.

"A" Company - P.25.a.32.75 to P.19.c.97.

Coy. H.Q. - P.25.a.38.

Strength of "A" Company - 4 Off. 111 O/R.

"B" Company H.Q. is together with "A" and the following "B" Coy men are in the trenches - 1 Officer 12 O/R.

Total - 5 Officers 123 O/R.

"A" Company has 4 Lewis Guns evenly distributed in trench.

Reserves. "D" Company - Strength - 3 Officers 94 O/R.

"B" " " 1 " 30 "

Total - 4 Officers 124 O/R.

Location-

In VILLERS Trench - Right - P.30.b.20.25

Left - P.24.d.15.60

Coy. H.Q. - "D" & "B" Coys - P.24.d.25.20

"D" Company has 3 Lewis Guns in Trench.

"B" " " 2 " " " "

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.

I.O. 46th Battalion

14.5.18.

DISPOSITION REPORT to 6 a.m. 15.5.18.

Sheet 62d.

B.H.Q. - 0.16.c.50.25. Strength 6 Officers 34 O/R.

R.A.P. - 0.22.a.55.30 " I " 3 "

"A" Company (C.H.Q.) 0.16.a.85.20. Strength 4 Officers 111 O/R.

Men are in dug-outs and trenches in close proximity.

"B" Company (C.H.Q.) 0.23.a.6.3. Strength 4 Officers 77 O/R.

Men are in dug-outs and shelters along embankment,

"C" Company (C.H.Q.) 0.23.d.9.9. Strength 4 Officers 107 O/R.

Men in dug-outs in close proximity.

"D" Company - remain in old position in Villers Line (Reserve)

(0.30.b.45.90 to 0.24.d.15.40.)

Strength - 3 Officers 114 O/R.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.

I.O. 46th Battalion

15.5.18.

46th BATTALION.

DISPOSITION REPORT 22.5.18.
-----Sheet 62d.B.H.Q. - N.20.c.95.50 Billet No. 56 GLIS.
Strength - 8 Officers 50 O/R.R.A.P. - N.20.c.95.50 Billet No. 58 GLIS.
Strength - 1 Officer 3 O/R."A" Company - T.1.c.8565 to N.26.c.2.3. Strength - 6 Off 138 O/R
manning the GLIS Trench in platoon posts."B" " Northeast corner of wood in N.31.b. (men under trench
shelters. Strength - 5 Off. 99 O/R."C" " No.20.d.98 (in wood)
Strength - 4 Off. 119 O/R."D" " N.20.d.88 (in wood)
Strength - 4 Off. 169 O/R.(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

22.5.18.

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46th BATTALION

SILLABUS OF TRAINING.

- May 23rd. - Parade 8-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
 Companies will march to bathing places in fighting order. Equipment will be taken to pieces and thoroughly cleaned and scrubbed. Ammunition and rifles will be cleaned. When arms and equipment have been thoroughly cleaned all ranks will bathe, feet will be inspected and attended to. A thorough inspection of kit will be made and accurate lists of all shortages compiled and forwarded to the Quartermaster. At 2 p.m. the C.O. accompanied by the Quartermaster will inspect the Battalion by companies, on completion of inspection each company will conduct a voluntary bathing parade under an officer.
- May 25th. Companies will arrange for Lewis Gun and Rifle Grenade training.
 All scouts will parade near "D" Company bivouacs at 9 a.m. Equitation Class under Captain D.B. Payne M.C.
- May 27th. Lewis Gun. All No.1's ~~from~~ will parade at B.O.R. at 9 a.m. under the Lewis Gun Officer for instruction in German Machine Guns.
Scouts. All Battalion and Company Scouts will parade at No.20.d.central at 9 a.m.
Signallers. All H.Q. and Company Signallers not on duty will parade under the Signalling Officer at N.31.b. central at 9-30 a.m.
 Companies less those detached for training under Specialist Officers will parade for inspection as under:-
 "A" & "B" Company - 9 a.m. "C" & "D" Company - 10 a.m.
 Those not on specialist training as detailed above will carry out training in Lewis Gun and No.36 Grenade.
 Equitation Class.
- May 28th. Training as for 27th.
- May 29th. Lewis Gun training will be carried out under company arrangements.
 Other specialist training as for 27th.
Scouts. Each company will select 4 men as scouts and every ende vour will be made to send the same men daily for training Equitation Class.
- May 30th. Companies will hold muster parade at 9 a.m. A thorough inspection will be made, special attention being paid to shaving and general cleanliness. Billeting areas will be thoroughly cleaned up.
- May 31st. Training as for 29th.
 Equitation Class.

ZHA

46th BATTALION A.I.F.

REINFORCEMENTS, CASUALTIES ETC FOR MONTH OF MAY.

May.	Struck off Strength.						Taken on Strength.						Remarks.								
	Killed.		Wounded.		Sick.		Missing.		Transfd.		Prison.			Rfcts.		Rejoined.		Tfcd.		Prison.	
	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	Off.	O/R.	
1							1	1	1												
2			1	5			3														
3				7			2														
4		1		2																	
5																					
6							1														
7				2																	
8									1					1	9			1			
9						1	3														
10						1	1		1												
11				1								1									
12				2			1				1										
13		1		2		1	4														
14		2		5			2														
15				2																	
16	1			4																	
17				3																	
18				2																	
19																					
20				1			2														
21				1																	
22				2			1														
23						1	3					1	2	15							
24							1										2				
25									1					1			1				
26							2					15	114	1	3		2				Rfcts from 47th Battn.
27																					
28																					
29				1								6		14					1		
30							1							12							
31							2														

Note:- On 12.5.18 4 Officers and 91 O/R marched in from Nucleus Camp to reinforce Battalion in the line.

APPENDIX

205

46th BATTALION.

PATROL REPORT.

Strength - Lieut. W.L. Hanna M.M. and 3 O/R.

Task:- To patrol "No Man's Land" between the right left flanks of "C" Coy., to try and place enemy machine guns and reconnoitre enemy wire.

Time of departure - 1 a.m.

Time of return - 3-15 a.m.

Report:- Patrol left right post (P.25.b.5.7.) and proceeded towards enemy for 100 yards. At this point a M.G. was observed by its flash, to fire from mangle heap at P.26.a.1.3. and another gun was observed firing from front line. This was a light gun as it changed its position after each shoot. The wire between P.25.b.6.1. & P.25.b.9.7. is very poor having been smashed by rifle grenade fire or by M.G. fire. The enemy when firing his M.G. from here seems to hit the wire very often for sparks are seen when bullets strike the wire. Patrol then proceeded N.E. to where the enemy has a break in the line of trench which is filled in with wire on small screw pickets (P.26.a.1.8.) We then proceeded to P.20.c.0.0. where an enemy trip wire was met with. Getting over wire patrol entered a small bit of trench about 18 feet long. Trench held 9 boxes Vickers M.G. ammunition in boxes, also shovels and 1 box S.A.A. and bombs. Owing to the lack of guiding marks it is impossible to give a correct location. This trench cannot be seen by daylight owing to crop. The enemy has a stretch of french wire in front of his position but as far as patrol could see by flares, there is no barb wire in front. Between P.20.c.3.2. and P.26.a.1.9. patrol got lost for a while but managed to get their direction by aid of enemy flares. Patrol proceeded to P.20.c.1.1. where enemy could be heard talking. Patrol then moved to P.20.c.2.4. where M.G. could be observed firing from P.20.c.5.2. Patrol then returned to No.5 Post. These locations are approx. The state of "No Man's Land" is good though grass is high affording good cover.

13.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 1st May 1918.
-----Enemy Activity.Artillery.

Was active on cross roads at O.29.d.8.4. with H.E. and Shrapnel during the morning. During the afternoon it was quiet. At 10-30 p.m. enemy placed a light barrage on our front line doing no damage. Shortly after 1-30 a.m. after our attack enemy shelled front line but no casualties were inflicted.

M.G.

Quiet during day. During attack enemy appeared to be firing 5 machine guns, 2 from farm O.36.d.6.9. and three from positions in rear of farm apparently in the front line.

Planes.

1 was overhead at 7-15 a.m. and 2 planes came out at 2-15 p.m.

Snipers.

Our right company was troubled by snipers from haystack O.36.d.6.9. all morning. Artillery fire was brought to bear on them and though only one direct hit was observed it had the effect of stopping the sniping.

Movement.

1 Cyclist seen on road at U.6.b.9.5. During the day movement of individual men were seen at the farm O.36.d.6.9.

Flares.

At 10-30 p.m. enemy put up flare breaking into two yellows and soon afterwards barraged the AMIENS Road on O.29. & O.30 with 77m.

Our Activity.Artillery.

18 pdrs and 4.5 hows were busy all day. During afternoon 4.5's shot about 15 rounds at Farm on O.36.d.6.9. 1 hit was observed and others went close to target.

M.G.

Quiet, though bursts were fired at Momment House at intervals

Aeroplane.

Quiet.

T.M's.

Gave preliminary bombardment in our stunt but their shells mainly fell short.

Movement.

Nil.

Patrols.

The ordinary programme of patrolling was not carried out due to operations against farm, but line companies sent out small listening patrols in front of their sector.

Disposition.

Our extreme right post (O.36.c.9.3.) was pushed forward 150 yards whilst attack against farm was in progress.

1.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT to 6 a.m. 3.5.18.
-----Enemy Activity.Artillery.

2.5.18. 3 a.m. enemy put down a light barrage in reply to our Artillery fire. 2 direct hits on company H.Q. at O.30.c.95.35.

4 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Quiet with occasional shells.

3.25 p.m. - Line of ranging shrapnel put along our line also ranged on Company H.Q. at O.30.c.95.35.

9 p.m. - Considerable shelling but no barrage.

M.G.

Active. One position believed to have two guns located at P.31.a.5.5.

Aeroplanes.

8-30 a.m. - 1 plane dropped phosphorus signals and 15 minutes later enemy artillery registered.

10-55 a.m. - Phosphorus signal dropped at O.30.d.34. No action observed.

11-50 a.m. - 2 planes brought down in flames, about U.6.a.

Snipers.

Less active and only half light from direction of aerodrome.

Flares.

At 4 p.m. enemy sent up numerous flares, single red, double red, single green, double green, and yellow clusters but no artillery followed.

Movement.

7-50 a.m. Saw five groups of about 16 men each appearing to carry light M.G. Did not open fire as light was dull and we were not sure of their identity owing to result of stunt. Movement was from line running from P.31.a.4.2. to P.31.a.6.8. in an easterly direction.

Our Activity.Artillery.

3 a.m. 2.4.18 - Barrage on enemy line.

205
Our Activity.
Artillery.

6 a.m. to noon - Intermittent shelling.

Aeroplanes.

11-55 a.m. - 6 planes attacked 4 enemy and brought 2 down in U.S.a.

General.

Our T.M. and Artillery active with good effect on buildings in O.36.c.&d.

The above report comes from 2 companies attached to 47th Battalion.

Report from 2 companies (O.34.d.29 - O.28.c.54.) - Quiet day, no casualties, shelling slight.

From 8 p.m. shelling in this area increased and continued heavy. Our 2 companies were ordered to take up positions vacated by the 48th Battalion as they moved forward and at 12 p.m.

"D" & "A" Coy moved into new position situated - Right flank O.34.c.99. Right flank - O.34.d.67.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

3.5.18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 4.5.18.

Dispositions.

Out two companies attached to 47th Battalion were relieved - ~~by~~ "B" Company by 49th Battalion and "C" Company by 16th Battalion. Relief occurred without casualties and our two companies took up their new position in trenches at O.34.d.29 to O.28.c.54.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

2-30 a.m. 3rd. - Barrage put down in reply to yellow clusters followed by single red.

3 a.m. to noon. - Firing active paying special attention to house at O.30.c.83.

12 noon onward - Quiet.

Aeroplanes.

Across line frequently during day. Three balloons drifted across our lines dropping pamphlets at 4 p.m. Enemy noted to be using triplanes in one formation which came over.

Pigeon.

Movement.

Four pigeons flew from enemy's line towards VILLERS-BRETONEUX. All day enemy were observed in distance to the right of railway line.

S.O.S.

Enemy registered on O.36.d.59 to O.30.d.93. Ranging was poor on O.36.d.59 as one shell fell just to the right of haystack where green flare was sent up. Range lifted 50 yards.

Our Activity.

Artillery.

Active all day.

2-15 a.m. 3rd. Put down barrage on right.

1-30 to 3 p.m. - Bombardment by heavies on about O.36.d.88 to O.36.d.73.

Aircraft.

5-30 a.m. 3rd. - Ground flares (red) lighted all along our line in answer to our claxton horn.

5 p.m. - 4 bombs dropped on haystack and farm at O.36.d.59.

Large formation of our planes engaged enemy formation. 32 planes overhead.

Gas Shells.

Enemy sent over 50 gas shells in vicinity of our "A" & "D" Coys at 9 p.m. Action was taken to prevent casualties occurring.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion

4.5.18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 10.5.18.

Relief.

This Battalion relieved the 15th Battalion in the front line on night of 9/10th relief being completed without casualties.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

Between 10 and 10-30 p.m. enemy put over about 30 gas shells (thought to be blue cross and had high explosive burst) at approx. O.24.d.4.7. Companies passing through were slightly affected, the gas causing the men to sneeze frequently. This was reported at once by 15th Battalion.

205
Enemy activity.Artillery.

Apart from this enemy artillery was quiet on forward positions.

M.G.

Enemy gun kept up frequent bursts of indirect fire which fell near "D" Coy H.Q. and ration dump (O.30.b.35.60.)

M.G. firing from right of front post of right company was stopped by our retaliating with 3 No.36 Mills Grenades.

Movement.

Nil. Parties of enemy heard calling to each other. Action - 2000 rounds fired during night in direction of sounds.

Our Activity.

Artillery.

Active all night. At 2 a.m. heavy fire put down on enemy's front positions during which his white flares were thrown up continuously. Our guns active on BOIS de VAIRE.

M.G.

Quiet.

Patrols.

Liasson patrols were put out between units and battalions., lateral communication being maintained between ourselves and the 48th and 56th Battalions.

Listening posts were also sent out from all posts of left company. Listening Post on extreme left being out 70 yards from post.

Bombing.

No.36 Mills Grenades were fired at positions from where enemy M.G.'s appeared to be firing, also from where flares were thrown. This had the effect of keeping one gun quiet. (see enemy activity M.G.)

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

10.5.18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 11.5.18.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

Quiet at 4-30 p.m. 20 shells 4.2 calibre were fired on road near O.24.c.4.8.

M.G.

Intermittent fire. Enemy does not appear to have fixed positions for his M.G.'s in the line but moves them from spot to spot. M.G. fire was quieter than previous night due to our bombing M.G. positions with No.36 Mills Grenades.

Aeroplanes.

5 a.m. 10th - Two planes over our front line for a short period. At intervals during the day they were across our front line but were quickly driven off by our formations or A.A and M.G. fire. Our aircraft predominates in this sector.

Movement.

8 p.m. - Enemy observed moving in rear of BOIS de VAIRE from AUROCHE WOOD, apparently a night garrison, artillery was called for and directed on them, causing a hurried scatter. One party of about 20 received a direct hit, 8 being seen to run back, 2 forward and the remainder lay still. No further movement was observed.

At 4-30 a.m. 10th. - 3 stretcher parties were seen carrying wounded from the rear of BOIS de VAIRE. Shortly afterwards they returned. Possibly a R.A.P. in wood.

At 9-45 a.m. a party of 20 odd men carrying what appeared to be timber or wiring stakes were seen coming along sunken road (P.20.a. & b.) thence overland for some 200 yards where they jumped into shallow trench. Point of observation - P.19.d.90.65. Action - Opened Lewis gun and rifle fire but no definite hits were observed.

At 6-45 p.m. enemy guns opened fire from rear of hangars in P.31.b.98. approx. There appear to be 2 guns and their position is just in rear of the furthest hangar.

At 8-35 p.m. our guns fired 5 salvos, shooting observed was good, range being correct but shells need to be put 150 yards to the right.

The enemy has no wire in front of his outposts opposite our right company, but is wiring what appears to be a trench system some 200 yards from our line. The enemy when digging is throwing all earth to the rear, no parapet at all appearing to be made.

205
Enemy Activity.
Miscellaneous.

At 5 p.m. large volume of smoke seen well behind enemy line
 Possible a dump has been hit.
 Our Bombers, Lewis Gunners and snipers have been very active
 on the point from which any enemy fire comes, with the
 result that the enemy has been quieter today than he was on
 the first day.

Our Activity.
Artillery.

Active all day. Special points being BOIS de VAIRE road be-
 tween P.25.d. and P.26.d. also along railway at V.1.
 At 3-5 a.m. 11th inst. 3-20 a.m. 15 of our 4.5 shells fell
 short, falling near P.25.a.4.4. Brigade was notified of this
 at once.

Aeroplanes.

Active and offensive, being up in large numbers all day.
 4 planes were brought down but it was too far away to recog-
 nise if they were ours or theirs.

M.G.
Patrols.

Active.
 1 man went out in daylight from right company sector taking
 advantage of crop, crept up to within 15 yards of enemy post.
 There was no wire in front of post. He was observed by
 enemy, but got back safely.

Liason patrols between units and Battalions flanks were
 maintained during the night. Also listening posts were
 again placed out in front of posts. Talking could be heard
 behind enemy's lines. Flares were quieter than in previous
 evenings.

Working Parties.

Work was done deepening C.T. from reserve to support line.
 The support line is being extended to link up with 56th Bn.
 support trench. A C.T. has been commenced forward from
 supports to C.H.Q., right half company.

Patrol.

1 Officer (Lt. Pleasance C.M.) 4 O./R.

Time of departure - 1-30 a.m.

Place " " P.25.b.5.7.

Report. - Patrol moved out 70 or 80 yards in front of post
 and thence turned left working N.E. in front of our posts.
 Owing to the extreme darkness of night and the entire lack
 of landmarks out in front progress was slow. Enemy could be
 heard talking and appeared by the sound to be wiring. The
 enemy line appeared to be strongly held.

Time of return - 3 a.m.

Place of return - P.19.d.90.65.

(sgd) W.E. Pleasance 2/Lt.
 I.O. 46th Battalion

11.5.18.

 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 12.5.18.

Enemy Activity.
Artillery.

During morning VILLERS-BRETONNEUX was again shelled inter-
 mittently. At 7 p.m. enemy shelled gully in P.23.b.00
 putting over from 50 to 80 shells in quick succession. Our
 front and support lines have so far received very little
 attention from enemy artillery.

M.G.

Active at night firing short bursts along our front. One
 M.G. fired from hangar or just in rear of S.W. corner P.25.d
 90.15.

T.M.

Between 8-45 and 9-15 the enemy fired 6 fish tail bombs on
 the right of our right company. Bombs all fell to rear of
 trench. We retaliated with Mills No.36 grenades.

Aeroplanes.

At 2-45 p.m. two enemy planes flew over our front and support
 lines for 15 minutes. L.G. fire was opened but it was not
 effective in causing them to retire. At 5-45 p.m. enemy
 plane was overhead, flying high.

Movement.

1-30 a.m. - Working Party at P.20.d.

4-45 a.m. - About 100 men seen moving back to trench in P.26
 central. L.Guns were fired causing party to scatter.

5 a.m. - Small party in P.20.d fired at causing them to get
 under cover.

5-30 a.m. - About 50 men in sunken road at P.21, apparently
 fatigue party returning. Not a good enough target to open
 fire on.

205
Enemy Activity.
Movement.

6 a.m. - 6 to 12 men moved from trench and went into old farm or mill at P.26.a.75.85.
 7 to 8-15 p.m. Party trickled into VAIRE Wood from AUROGHE Wood, about 100 strong. 30 men passed this party in opposite direction. At 7-15 artillery was phoned for, but was too late in replying. Parties of men moving in this same spot at same time yesterday.
 7-50 p.m. A salvo of 18 pdrs caught party of 20 and drove them to earth. Could not see if casualties occurred.
 9-30 p.m. to midnight - Enemy working parties active. Bursts of Lewis Gun fire were sent in direction of sounds. Enemy working parties are busy digging on our left front and fresh earth could be detected on his outposts.

Miscellaneous.

Alongside a heap of earth that apparently covers mangles, there is a place very much trodden down as if it were a M.G. or H.Q. position. It is situated at P.26.a.13 approx. During night enemy working parties digging opposite our right company. They appear to be joining up their outposts. At P.26.b.15.65 what appears to be camouflaged gun emplacements were observed. Length about 50 yards.

New Earthworks.

A similar affair about 10 yards long was noted at P.26a 75 85 From P.21.c.64 to and connecting old series of trenches at P.26.b.25.90 to form a continuous front line switch or C.T. By amount of earth thrown up it appears to be a well constructed trench. At P.20.d.6.4. a series of potholes to hold from 6 to 8 men have been dug. This completes a series from about P.21.b.8.4. to P.26.a.75.85.

An old boundary or the remains of one at P.26.a.75.85 is thought to be used as an O.P. by the enemy. There appears to be a trench (shallow) running from P.20.d.0.7. to about P.26.a.75.85. A M.G. position was located at P.20.d.0.7.

Our Activity.
Artillery.

Active all day and night, barrages being put down on BOIS de VAIRE, HAMEL Wood and MONUMENT Wood. Targets given by us were also engaged with good results. The number of ~~shots~~ shorts fired is still large. Officer in charge of working party digging C.T. from front line to support line in P.25.a. reports that barrage that opened up at 12.45 a.m. caused his men to cease work and take cover, two shells hit the trench where they were working and shrapnel was bursting over their heads. Between 3 and 4 a.m. 11th 6" howitzers fired 20 rounds very short, shells falling in P.25.a.10.20. to P.25.a.80.20. All these cases were reported immediately.

Aeroplanes.

Very quiet compared with previous two days. This gave the Hun a chance to come across, which he did, flying very low and obtaining good information.

Patrols.

No fighting patrols went out, but listening patrols were pushed further out, there being three out on each company's sector. Liason was maintained with units and Battalions on our flanks.

Snipers.

Our snipers busy accounting for 5 during the 24 hours.

L.G's & Grenades.

Our L.G's and No.36 grenades are very active switching on to any enemy M.G. as it fires, or on to flare kings. This policy, it is noticed has kept the enemy very quiet.

12.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
 I.O. 46th Battn.

 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 13.5.18.

Enemy Activity.
Artillery.

Quiet during morning. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. enemy fired a few shells on support line, then reserve line, thence back to areas in rear. Enemy appeared to be ranging. Calibre - 4.2 and 5.9 guns. At 5-50 p.m. and at 10 p.m. Enemy shelled VILLERS-BRETONNEUX lightly.

M.G.

Quiet. 1 M.G. position behind a magel heap 350 yards from No.3 right company post was blown out by our artillery fire P.25.b.5.2. approx.

Enemy Activity.M.G.

Indirect M.G. fire again active on road running N.E. & S.W. in O.24.c.

T.M.

Pineapple bombs were sent over in reply to our No.36 grenades these all fell short and in 48th Battalion sector P.25.d.3.8.

Aeroplanes.

Very active towards evening. At 6 p.m. 2 squadrons of 7 planes each were over our lines. Our A.A. guns appeared to have very little effect on them. 1 plane was over our lines several times between 3 p.m. and dark.

Balloons.

At 5-30 p.m. balloon was observed to rise from direction of V.18.d. and remain up till dusk.

Patrol.

Enemy patrol of 4 men was seen at 10-5 p.m. from our post at P.25.b.0.2. they were fired on by Lewis Gun and were not seen again.

Flares.

Appear to be fired from further back than usual. Flares not so numerous tonight owing to working parties.

Movement.

6 a.m. - Eight parties of stretcher bearers were seen carrying wounded out along track behind BOIS de VAIRE.

A man on bicycle was seen riding along WARFUSE-ABANCOURT road in direction of BOIS de VAIRE.

8-30 p.m. - Enemy observed in shell hole 200 yards from No.5 post P.19.d.90.65. Fired three grenades and saw no further movement.

10 p.m. Enemy working party in front of left company fired at by M.G. fire without result. Artillery called for and ~~the~~ they were effective in stopping work.

During afternoon trains were seen running from the front of GILLANCOURT to about WEINCOURT then returning. In front of No. 5 post P.19.d.90.65 about 600 yards to the left freshly dug earth in front of trench could be noticed. Enemy is working during night and has connected some of his outposts into a continuous trench (front posts opposite "B" Coy) Enemy is thickening his wire in front of his main line well to left of our sector about 600 to 800 yards away.

Our Activity.Artillery.

During the day artillery was active on enemy forward positions using chiefly shrapnel. BOIS de VAIRE and HAMEL Wood were again shelled.

At 7-30 p.m. our heavies shelled back areas. What appears to be a dump was set alight near WEINCOURT. Flares lasted several minutes.

Aeroplanes.

Quiet all day, but between 6 and 8 p.m. they were active over forward positions. Between 10 p.m. and midnight our planes could be heard over the enemy territory.

Our men were active all day sniping when opportunities occurred and firing No.36 grenades at his trenches.

Patrols.

Liason and listening patrols were out during the night.

 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 14.5.18.

Relief.

The 48th Battalion relieved our right company in line without casualties, relief being completed by 1-45 a.m. - for particulars see Disposition Report.

Enemy Activity.Artillery.

His activity in our sector has increased these last 24 hours. During the day he fired intermittently on our support and reserve positions and also in rear. He fired a single gun at a time and appears to be registering. At 5-15 a.m. 13th enemy opened up a bombardment on our left at P.14.a and c. It lasted for 1½ hours. The battery sounded just over the ridge in P.22.c. Between 5 and 6 a.m. on 13th enemy shelled freely gully in O.23.

M.G.T.M.

Quiet.

At 5-30 a.m. 13th three pineapples fired from enemy front line at P.25.b.6.2. (approx) fell near No.1 post (P.25.b.57) grenades fell short.

Aeroplanes.

Between 3 and 4 am 13th Mayx enemy planes were over our rear positions bomb dropping. His planes were quiet

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Enemy Activity.
Aeroplanes.

during day.

1 flight of 7 planes were up very early morning of 13th. Note:- As a guide a searchlight and a suspended light were put up to act as a bearing or guide for bombing planes, well in rear of enemy's lines as they were put out when planes returned.

Patrol.

At 2 a.m. No 3 listening post in front of P.19.d.15.15 reported enemy patrol about 20 strong 60 yards in front of post moving south. Lewis gun was fired and dispersed them. During early hours of morning of 13th considerable movement of enemy was heard and he was very noisy. At daylight it was seen that a line of pickets had been laid along some 300 yards of front some distance in front of the trenches. Lewis Guns had been firing over this position freely during night. These stakes were in front of No.5 post. 4-50 to 5-10 a.m. enemy troops about 50 strong trickled along over P.15.c. and d. This is a regular occurrence about the same time each day.

Movement.

Enemy trains again observed to day near factory and station in V.8.d.60. Trains stop here awhile and then some of them go in as far as WEINCOURT.

Our Activity.

Artillery.
Aeroplanes.

Active on enemy forward positions all day.

Bomb dropping planes were over enemy territory between 2 and 4 a.m. on 13th. During the day our planes were less active than usual.

Patrols.

Liason patrols and listening posts were maintained during the night. Listening posts are pushed forward from 20 to 30 yards in front of each post at night.

Snipers.

Our snipers were again active keeping enemy very quiet during the day.

14.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
 I.O. 46th Battalion.

 INTELLIGENCE REPORT to 6 a.m. 15.5.18.

Relief.

Our Battalion was relieved in the front line on night of 14/15 May by the 47th Battalion. Relief being complete by midnight and without casualty. Our Battalion returned to area vacated by 47th Battalion (see disposition report)

Enemy Activity.
Artillery.

Active all day firing on VILLERS-BRETONNEUX, reserve line in O.18 d., road running N.E. and S.W. through O.24.a and c. Area about O.15 d. and O.21.b. and also searching for our batteries. From 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. he shelled with ~~22~~ 5.9's area in O.15.d. and O.21.b. Whilst this was on he must have fired some gas shells though they were not seen or heard in this vicinity. About 11-30 p.m. the smell of gas was first noticed and it was at once reported to Brigade. Men were warned but no effect other than watering of the eyes and irritation of the throat were noticed. Between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. enemy was again active on O.15.d. and O.21.b. many shells falling in this area.

Aeroplanes.

During morning and evening the enemy monopolised the air over our sector and his machines were continually overhead. They were engaged by Lewis Gun fire with very little effect. During afternoon our planes were up with result that enemy planes much quieter.

M.G.

Quiet. Occasional bursts over outposts. Indirect fire on ration dump in P.30.b.2.8.

Balloons.

Enemy had from 5 to 8 balloons up at various intervals during the day.

Our Activity.
Artillery.

Active during 24 hours. Artillery Observation Officers are more careful in watching results of shooting with result that no shorts were reported yesterday.

Aeroplanes.

Were quiet during morning and very active during afternoon and evening causing enemy planes to retire to their own lines.

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Our Activity.
Patrols.

Usual liason patrols between units on flanks were maintained and during relief covering parties were placed out in front.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

15.5.18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 16.5.18

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

Enemy's helling still shows signs of increased activity. During the day his principal targets were the village of VILLERS BRETONNEUX, and the valley, and river, slopes of hills looking for gun positions. Locations shelled in our vicinity, - 0.17 18 a. & b. 0.19.b & d. and 0.15.c. (slightly)

Aeroplanes.

Aerial activity was much greater by both sides, the day being a good one for observation. All the flying was done at a great altitude and in several engagements which took place it was impossible to tell friend from foe. One enemy plane was brought down at 8-30 p.m.

Balloons.

Enemy used his balloons all day, 5 being seen from our location as various intervals during the day.

Anti-Aircraft.

We have established 3 Lewis Gun posts at 0.23.d.8.5., 0.23.a. 6.5., 0.16.d.9.2. to deal with enemy planes in our area.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion

16.5.18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 17.5.18.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

During morning enemy's guns were quiet, but for the remainder of the day he was active shelling different localities in turn at intervals. 5.9 and 4.2 guns fired on 0.15.d.0.2, along the railway embankment in 0.26. and 27, in vicinity of "C" Company 0.23. b. and d. and in 0.16.c. Shrapnel was also used over road running N.E. and S.W. through 0.16.c. and b.

Aeroplanes.

Enemy again active coming over our lines on many occasions. Several engagements and during the day two enemy planes were brought down, one ~~xxxx~~ in direction of CORBIE and one at 10-45 a.m. over 48th Battalion area.

Balloons.

The visibility being good enemy made use of his balloons today 3 being seen from our sector.

At night enemy had two bomb dropping planes overhead, both dropping their load of bombs in what appeared to be the direction of the Chateau 0.26.b., shortly afterwards it was noticed that one of our ammunition dumps had been set alight in the same direction.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

17.5.18,

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 18.5.18.

Enemy activity.

Aeroplanes.

Enemy planes were again active. Enemy planes were over our front at 9-30 a.m., 10-20 a.m., 11 a.m., 11-15 a.m., 1-15 p.m. 3-40 p.m., 5-15 p.m. and 8-25 p.m. They were engaged by our planes or by A.A. and M.G. fire and one of their planes was brought down at 11 a.m. by our planes. This plane fell near our "D" Company and a guard was at once placed over it and all papers etc. forwarded to Brigade H.Q.

Balloons.

Three enemy balloons could again be observed from our sector, and when these balloons are up all movements in Battalion area are noticeable

Artillery.

More quiet than yesterday.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion

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SUMMARY (INTELLIGENCE) to 6 a.m. 19.5.18.

APPENDIX. 6²⁵

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

A considerable reduction in his gun firing was noticeable today. In our area no enemy shells fell during the morning and during the afternoon his guns were still very quiet.

Aeroplanes.

At 1-15 a.m. 2 enemy planes overhead bomb dropping. Also very quiet, one enemy plane only patrolling our front line at 7-30 p.m.

Our Activity.

Artillery.

Our guns active throughout the 24 hours. At 11-35 a.m. on our left heavy gunfire by both sides continued for 1½ hrs.

19.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 20.5.18.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

Quiet during morning but increased activity during afternoon. Spots in our area to which most attention was paid were gun positions in O.15.b. and d. and gun positions and road in O.16 central. At night enemy activity was normal.

Aeroplanes.

8-10 a.m. - 1 enemy plane patrolled over O.16. It was driven back by A.A. guns.

8-45 a.m. - Plane patrolled our line in P.25.

10-20 a.m. - Enemy planes shot down one of our planes in O.17 and were fired at with M.G. and A.A. guns.

11-45 a.m. - 1 enemy plane over VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

12-40 p.m. 2 planes overhead at O.21.

During afternoon enemy was quieter. At 4-30 p.m. 1 enemy plane brought down in direction of O.30. 7 p.m. - enemy plane overhead.

Our Activity.

Artillery.

Very active during 24 hours. Our planes were busy all day and several engagements took place with one enemy plane being brought down at 4-30 p.m.

20.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY to 6 a.m. 21.5.18.

Enemy Activity.

Artillery.

Enemy's guns were only normally active throughout the day. Their principle target appearing to be our batteries in O.16 a & b.

Aeroplanes.

Both sides again active throughout day, enemy planes coming over our lines at intervals and being driven off again by our M.G. and A.A. fire. At 9-30 a.m. one enemy plane was brought down.

Our Activity.

Artillery.

Active throughout the day and very active at night.

Aeroplanes.

1 plane brought down in flames about 10 a.m. near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

21.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion

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46th BATTALION.

WORKS REPORT.

11.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R.	Where Worked.	Nature of Work.	Amount Done	Hours From To	Remarks
2 70	Support Line in P.25.a. towards 56th Bn. on left.	Digging Trench.	150 yards 5½ ft deep, 5 ft wide fire steps placed at suitable intervals.	11 pm 4 am	
1 38	C.T. at P.25.c.	Digging Trench	35 yards 4½ ft deep.	12 mn 3-30 am	

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adjutant 46th Battn.

WORKS REPORT.

12.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work.	Amount Done.	Material Used.	Hours Worked From To
1 60	P.25.a.	Widening, deepening & making better positions in trench.	130 yards dug 3 ft deep.	Nil	1 pm 5 pm
1 60	Support Line towards 56 Bn.	Digging Trench	60x trench deepened 4 feet.	Nil	11 pm 4 am
7	P.25.a. 80.10	Digging C.T. between Coy H.Q. & front line	30x 2 feet dug 3 feet wide.	Nil	11 pm 2 am
1 31	P.25.c.	C.T. from Support to front line.	40x 2 feet deep. 30x old trench cleared.	Nil	11 pm 1 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Capt.
Adjt. 46th Bn.

WORKS REPORT.

12.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work.	Hours From To	Remarks
34	From Ration dump to front line.	Carrying rations & ammunition.	9-30 pm 12 mn	
24	From Ration dump to front line.	Do	2-30 am 4-30 am	
34	From Ration dump to Support line	Carrying rations	9-30 pm 11 pm	
24	Do	Do	2-30 am 4 am	

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adjt 46th Bn.

WORKS REPORT.

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13.5.1918.

Strength	Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount Done.	Material Used.	Hours worked From	To
1	30	P.25.b.3.4	Deepening C.T. between posts.	90x deepened from 1" to 3½"	Nil	11 pm	2 am
1	50	Support Line.	Deepening Support Line	120x deepened & fire positions made.	Nil	2 pm	6 pm
1	80	P.19.c.6.2	Digging trench to Support Line with 56th Battn.	150x trench dug 4".	Nil	8-30 pm	4 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adj. 46th Battn.

WORKS REPORT.

13.5.1918.

Strength	Off. O/R.	Location	Nature of Work.	Amount Done	Material Used.	Hours Worked From	To
7		Old strong points.	Salvage	14 rifles 14 boxes bs 5000 rds SAA 7 full sets equipment.	Nil	3 pm	5 pm
36		Ration dump to front line.	Carrying Rations	-	-	9-30 pm	12 mn
26		Ration dump to front line	Do	-	-	2-30 am	4 am
26		Ration dump to front line.	Carrying ammunition	9000 rds SAA 2 cs. Hales Grenades 60 1" Very Lights.	-	9-30 pm	12 mn
36		Ration dump to Support line.	Carrying rations	-	-	9-30 pm	12 mn
26		Do	Do	-	-	2-30 am	3-30 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adj. 46th Battalion.

RATIONS DESPATCHED TO COMPANIES 13/14th MA 1918.

"A" Company.	9-30 p.m.					
Petrol Tins -	Cocoa & Milk	12		Petrol Tins -	Water -	3
Fantassies -	Stew	3		Boilers -	Stew	1
Dry Rations -	Sandbags	9		Box Butter		1
"B" Company.	9-30 p.m.					
Petrol Tins -	Cocoa & Milk	10		Petrol Tins -	Water	3
Fantassies -	Stew	3		Hot Box -	Stew	1
boxes -	Fried pudding	4		Dry rations -	sandbags	8
"C" Company.	9-30 p.m.					
Petrol Tins -	Cocoa & Milk	12		Petrol Tins -	water	3

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<u>"C" Company. 9-30 p.m.</u>			
Boxes - Fried Pudding	6	Hot Boxes - Stew	8
Dry rations - sandbags	9		
<u>"D" Company. 9-30 p.m.</u>			
Petrol Tins - Tea	10	Petrol tins - water	3
Fantassies - Stew	3	Boilers - stew	1
Boxes Fried pudding	2	Dry rations - sandbags	9
<u>"A" Company. 2-30 a.m.</u>			
Petrol tins - tea	12	Box Boiled ham	1
Rum Box (1 Gal)	2		
<u>"B" Company. 2-30 a.m.</u>			
Petrol tins - tea	10	Sandbags boiled ham	4
Rum Box (1 Gal)	2		
<u>"C" Company. 2-30 a.m.</u>			
Petrol tins - tea	12	Sandbags boiled ham	6
Rum Box (1 Gal)	2		
<u>"D" Company. 2-30 p.m.</u>			
Petrol tins - tea	12	Box boiled ham	1
Rum Box (1 Gal)	2		

WORKS REPORT.

14.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work.	Amount Done.	Material Used.	Hours	
					From	To
34	Rations to front line	Carrying from ration dump.	2 Coy's rations	-	9-30 pm	11 pm
26	do	do	do	-	2-30 am	4 am
34	Rations to Supports.	Carrying from ration dump.	-	-	9-30 pm	11 pm
26	do	do	-	-	2-30 am	4 am
22	Ration dump to front line (2 trips)	Carrying T.M. ammunition to front line	42 cases T.M. amm.	-	9-30 pm	12 mn
9	Ration dump to front line	Carrying SAA to front line	4 boxes SAA	-	9-30 pm	11 pm

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
 Adj. 46th Battn.

WORKS REPORT.

15.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount done	Material Used	Hours	
					From	To
13	Support Line P.19.d.2.3. (approx)	Deepening C.T.	25x deepened.	Nil	9 pm	10-15 pm
1	90 Support Line	Deepening and improving trench.	120x deepened and improved	Nil	1 pm	7-30 pm

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
 Adj. 46th Battalion.

WORKS REPORT.

APPENDIX.

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Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount Done	Material used.	Hours From	To
1 20	O.27.c.	Burying dead horses.	2 horses buried.	-	9 am	12 md 2 pm 5 pm
3 143	C.T. between supports and reserves	Deepening trench etc.	completed trench (200x) to 5x5x3.		10 pm	2 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adj. 46th Battalion.

WORKS REPORT.

19.5.1918

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount done	Material used	Hours From	To
3 48		Tunneling	3 shifts 8 hrs each	Nil	24 hours	

WORKS REPORT.

20.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount Done	Material used.	Hours From	To
3 48		Tunneling	3 shifts 8 hrs each.	Nil	24 hours	
2 150	C.T. between reserve and support line	widening & deepening trench etc.	Trench completed 7 bays put in.	Nil	10 pm	2-30 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adj. 46th Battalion

WORKS REPORT.

21.5.1918.

Strength Off. O/R	Location	Nature of Work	Amount done	Material used.	Hours From	To
4 156	C.T. between support and reserve.	Cleaning up and finishing C.T.	185x - Islands 4'x/3'x2'. 250x - levelling and throwing parapet back 6" 10 yards - deepening to 5'x5'x3'.		10 pm	2 am

(Sgd) G.S. Vanstan Captain
Adj. 46th Battalion.

46th BATTALION.

REPORT ON SUPPORT LINE AND COMMUNICATION TRENCH.

Sheet 62d.

DISPOSITION OF TRENCHES.

Communication Trench - This runs from VILLERS Line at O.30.b.2.2. for a distance of approx 600 yards where it enters the support line at O.25.a.30.35. This trench is only partially dug and it requires deepening by another 3 feet before it could be freely and safely used.

Support Trench - The portion at present occupied by "A" Company (P.25.a.3.3. to P.19.c.5.1.) is in good condition, being deep and having fire steps, also good shelters for garrison. There is no wire in front of this portion of the support line. From this point P.19.c.5.1., trench runs to P.19.c.9.7. and this length of trench is very shallow and requires a lot of work before it would be in a proper defensive condition.

From P.19.c.9.7. to P.19.b.20. there is no trench, but this line has been taped out ready to link up with right flank of 56th Battalion support line at P.19.b.2.0. This length is between 400/500 yards.

There is a belt of single apron wire running in front from P.19.c.9.7. to P.19.b.2.0. and this continues round in front of 56th Battalion support line, which runs along east side of road running N & S through P.19.b.

The support line also joins up with the 48th Battalion front line on the right. It is shallow for the most part and is not in a prepared fighting state.

I have not reconnoitred this last portion personally but have obtained this information from "A" Company Officers who have been over it. I will go over it today, however and fix its exact location on the map.

(sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

11.5.18.

REPORT ON TRENCH SYSTEM HELD BY 46th BATTALION.

RIGHT COMPANY. - Front Line.

This company is in a continuous trench and is held by 3 posts.

No.1 Post is the right post and is connected by good trench with 48th Battn. whose left post is only 15 yards away. This post is about 80 yards from nearest enemy post. There is no wire in front - it has an excellent field of fire. It varies from 4½ to 6 feet deep and has good shelter for its garrison.

No.2 Post. Depth of trench here varies from 6 to 8 feet. Its communication with posts on right and left are good though more is still in progress deepening trench between posts. No barb wire in front - good field of fire.

No.3 Post The left post of the right company is from 4 to 6 feet deep. It is connected by trench with No.2 post the distance being 80 yards apart and this trench requires deepening. It is 30 yards distant from "C" Company's right post and these posts are connected only by means of tape. Nearest enemy post 100 yards & barb wire can be seen another 100 yards back. Field of fire - excellent.

LEFT COMPANY. - Front Line.

No.1 Post This post is not connected with the adjacent posts they being from 20 to 30 yards away with tape laid to keep direction. It is 6 ft deep and is 45 yards long. The nearest enemy is about 150 yards away. The hun appears to have a continuous trench with a little barb wire in front.

No.2 Post has a listening post dug 20 yards in front of it. No 2 Post has a good field of fire and has wire in front. Depth 5 to 6 feet and accommodation for 20 men.

No.3 Post This post is also isolated the distance from No.2 post being 70 yards and from No.4 post 50 yards. Field of fire - good. Accommodation for 16 men. Depth of trench - 5 feet. Distance from enemy 250 yards.

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 No.4 Post Isolated post, No.3 Post being 60 yards away and No.5 Post 120 yards away though there are two listening posts posted between 4 and 5. Depth of trench - 5 to 6 feet. Accommodation - 25 men. There is a little light wire 18 inches high in front of post.

No.5 Post Trench 5 feet deep and in good condition and is capable of holding 40 men. The post is an isolated one. No 4 being 100 yards away and the right post of 56th Battalion being 70 yards away. This is the left post of left company. There is a listening post dug out in front. This post has a double apron fence in front of it. Field of fire - excellent.

Distance of enemy - 300 yards. Enemy strong posts are only manned by night and no barb wire is to be seen.

Support and Reserve Companies are in a continuous trench respectively (see disposition report for locations) The support line is not wired but reserve line is. Accommodation is good in both cases.

11.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
 I.O. 46th Battalion.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY 46th BATTALION WHILST IN
THE LINE.

- SUPPORT LINE. On taking over from 15th Battalion the amount of trench fit for occupation and holding as a defensive position was approx. 400 yards in P.25.a. (Sheet 62d.) Running north, the trench for some 450 yards was very narrow, having an average depth of 1 foot. The remaining 250 yards were only taped, joining up in this manner with 56th Battalion Support Line. The following work was done on this position portion of the trench whilst in the line.
- (1) The occupied trench was improved and strengthened.
 - (2) Accommodation was made for a further 130 men by digging T head saps to the rear of the trench, 30 T head saps approximately being dug.
 - (3) 550 yards approximately of traversed trench was completed to a depth of 6 feet having fire steps.
- "A" Company did this work, supplying a party averaging 1 Officer and 80 Other Ranks for 5 hours nightly and a similar party for 4 hours daily.
- RIGHT COMPANY. Communication Trench at P.25.c. There being no communication between Company H.Q. and Platoon H.Q. in the right sector, a sap was dug connecting these points, we taking advantage of some isolated trenches already there. Amount of work done - 80 yards of trench to a depth of 4 feet.
Time taken - 2 nights working 2½ hours per night.
Party employed - 1 Officer and 35 Other Ranks.
- (2). Deepening of communication trench between posts. The three posts in this sector were joined up by means of very shallow C.T.'s. Each night work was done deepening these until they were all a depth of 5 feet forming now a rigid line which only needs fire steps to be dug, to make it a fighting trench.
Amount of C.T. deepened - 520 yards. The outposts themselves were also deepened and strengthened, men working by day and night when available.
This work was done by "B" Company.
- LEFT COMPANY. On night of 13/14th inst a new post was dug between the old No 4 and 5 posts. The post was dug having a length of 80 yards and a depth of 5 feet. Fire steps were put in also. A party of 2 Officers and 45 Other Ranks completed the task in 3 hours.
Work was also done each night by the men of each post extending their trench on either flank, and generally improving trenches. No work could be done during the daytime. Listening posts between No. 4 and 5 posts were also dug and improved.
- RESERVE COMPANY. Supplied carrying parties of all descriptions. Parties of 34 and 24 took rations to the forward companies between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. each night and the same parties were supplied between 2 and 4 p.m. each morning.
Parties carrying ammunition, bombs, T.M. shells etc. were supplied nightly to line companies and parties were sent out salvaging during the day.
A party was supplied on two nights to improve C.T. from support line to right company. This trench had several patches and two open spaces of 30 yards approx each. Work was done deepening these bad patches and one of the open spaces was dug making a shallow trench of it.

15.5.18.

(Sgd) W.C. Pleasance 2/Lt.
I.O. 46th Battalion.

BATTALION A.I.F. DURING MA. 1918

On the 1st May two of the companies which occupied the front line were relieved by the 47th Battalion. On the 30th April, the R.A.P. used by the R.M.O. of the 47th Battalion was inspected by me in anticipation of my taking it over. There was sleeping accommodation for the M.O. and his staff, but all wounded had to be dressed out in the open. This area where the support Battalion was entrenched, was under constant shell fire, great difficulty would have been experienced in tending wounded at night. Both delay caused by darkness and exposure as a result of no cover would only have increased the shock to the patient. In view of the disadvantage, I decided to remain in the Quarry where I had built an R.A.P. when the Battn. first took over the line. This quarry lay on the left flank of my Battn. now that they were in support and was on the line of evacuation and therefore really the best site for an R.A.P. The quarry was situated on the western outskirts of the village of Villers-Bretonneux. The R.A.P. which my A.M.C. staff had taken so much trouble and pains to build, was handed over to the R.M.O. of 47th Battalion on May 1st. and a smaller less comfortable building was put up by my men about 30 yards away. Though small there was room for a stretcher case and the wall against which it was erected gave good protection against enemy shell fire. As already stated the bearers had to carry to left flank, a matter of 50 yards from nearest company and 800 - 1000 yards from furthest company. On the morning of the 3rd the 48th Battalion attempted an advance on our right. The heavy counter barrage of the enemy inflicted only a few casualties.

The total number of casualties from 1st to 7th which passed through the R.A.P. was 3 officers and 12 other ranks, but this included the casualties from the raid on the night of 30th April.

The number of casualties sustained by the unit during this period was 3 Officers and 16 Other Ranks.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining rations and by this time plenty of shell dressings and medical comforts were forthcoming. The men suffered little from soreness of feet and all signs of trench feet were absent. Plenty of foot powder was taken up by me when the Battalion took over the line. Though I was never short of this article the Battalion Q.M. and 4th Field Ambulance inundated me with fresh supplies without any demand for them from me.

On the night of the 7th the Battalion left the forward area for a reserve line at BLANG-TRONVILLE. The A.M.C. Corporal was sent on ahead to help secure good billets for A.M.C. and Rest Billet if we were to be there any time. The Battalion remained out of the line for two days only. The men lived under ~~small~~ trench shelters in trenches. The men visited the Divisional Baths near LAMOTTE and were supplied with clean underclothing. Word was received on the 8th that 46th Battalion would relieve the 16th Battalion to left of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX on the 9th. On the afternoon of the 8th I walked up to the R.A.P. of the 15th Battalion and investigated the position and nature of dug-outs one of which would admit a stretcher case. It was covered with a roof made of 5 layers of sandbags and its walls were thick enough to prevent a machine gun bullet from entering. The position was about 1500 yards from the front line and there were few shell holes in the vicinity. An attempt had been made to camouflage the dug-outs by grass sods. The 15th R.M.O. had his R.A.P. well stocked. Arrangements were made with him for an early relief the next evening. Accordingly I left BLANG-TRONVILLE on the afternoon of the 9th at 4-30 p.m. and marched my men to the forward area to take over from the 16th R.M.O. The relief was complete by 6-30 p.m. The Battalion occupied the front line from the 9th to the 15th and the support line from the 15th to the 20th. During this period things were very quiet. The casualties passed through the R.A.P. numbered 11 Other Ranks and the total number of unit wounded amounted to 13.

On the night of the 20th the Battalion marched to GLIS. The men lived under trench shelters in the woods close by the town. The R.A.P. was formed in the town and provided ample accommodation for A.M.C. personnel and a Rest Billet. As soon as the Battalion entered on its well earned rest, the men requiring dental treatment were ordered to parade sick and were then sent on to the dentist of the 11th Field Ambulance close by. Arrangements were made with the 11th Field Ambulance to evacuate all cases through them. On the 24th all men were closely examined for scabies - 15 men were found to be infected. 60 men marched in from 47th Battalion as Reinforcements on the 26th. They

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 were well built and fine sturdy men. Of these 3 men were infected with scabies.

A billet was arranged in the town for these men suffering from scabies. Arrangements were made with Staff Captain of 9th Brigade for these men to visit the baths each morning at 9-30. After the bath they were to rub on sulphur ointment which they took with them. This was carried out on the 26th and 27th but the men were refused a bath on the 28th. On getting into communication with the Staff Captain 9th Brigade he stated that A.D.M.S. 3rd Division would not allow these men to use the baths because of their scabies but he was quite willing to give them a change of underclothing each day in exchange for those that they were wearing. A large tub and boiler were discovered at Headquarters billets and were soon got in motion for the use of the scabies patients. They were given a hot bath each night for the next three nights after which the sulphur ointment was well rubbed in. In the morning the men were marched down to the river and went in swimming. The men have greatly benefited by this course of treatment and I can definitely state that all are now free from scabies except two who were very bad cases. During the spell out of the line only a limited amount of training has been done. The men have been encouraged to swim in the river. A clean new suit of underclothing was supplied to every man. A limited number of new towels were also distributed amongst the men. On the 30th Aquatic Sports were held which served the double purpose of cleaning the men's bodies and interesting their minds.

With regard to the Sickness of the unit; 261 reported sick during the month an average of 8 per day.

16 men only suffered from Diarrhoea during this time.

Sick evacuations for month numbered 35. Of these no less than 12 of these were sent away diagnosed as N.D. Pyrexia which were probably cases of Trench Fever. Included in the 35 are 2 officers.

A Rest Billet has been run, while the Battalion has been out resting. It has been most useful for men with light ailments, 21 men have been treated at Rest Billet, of which 7 have been returned to duty and 4 evacuated.

In conclusion I might state the general health of the troops for the month has been very good. The issue of lime juice should tend to reduce the number of cases of boils which were so prevalent last month.

(Signed) A. Braby Captain.
 R.M.O. 46th Battalion.

QUARTERMASTER'S DIARY FOR MONTH OF MAY.

- May 1st Battalion in the line. Rations left the Cookers at 1 a.m. and 8-15 p.m. Rations issued for that day - 1/3rd issue of bacon. Vegetables light. Rations otherwise fair.
- " 2nd Two companies were relieved from front line by 47th Battalion. The two companies came back to support in trenches in rear of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Breakfast for these two companies was delivered to them in new position at 5-30 a.m. In the evening the remaining two companies came back in rear of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The evening meal and dry rations was delivered for all companies at 9-30 p.m. Rations for this day were poor - 1/2 issue of bacon and fruit in lieu of jam. Vegetables light.
- " 3rd Meals left Cookers at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. per limber, dumping same within 100 yards of companies. Rations - medium. Oranges in lieu of Vegetables. 1/2 issue cheese.
- " 4th Received 13 cases of Cocoa & Milk, 5 cases of Chocolate and 2 60 lb cases of Tobacco, 1 case of cigarettes from Australian Comforts Funds. The chocolate, cigarettes and tobacco were issued to the men; each man receiving 1 plug of tobacco, 1 packet of cigarettes and 6 packets of chocolate. The Cocoa & Milk was kept to be utilised in hot drinks when the unit again went into the line. Rations went up to the companies at the usual times, the same being a good issue, vegetables only being light.
- " 5th Meals at usual times. Rations good except that vegetables were light.
- " 6th Meals at usual times. Rations fair - bacon 1/2 issue. Oranges in lieu of vegetables.
- " 7th Meals went up at usual times. Rations poor. Bread - 1 loaf to 5 men. Bacon 1/2 issue.
- " 8th Battalion was relieved from support, coming back to trench position just in front of BLANGE TRONVILLE. Cocoa & Milk was issued to all ranks on reaching new position at 11-15 p.m.
- " 8th Three meals were issued to men at ordinary hours, viz., 7-30 a.m. 12-15 p.m. and 4-30 p.m. As many boots as possible were repaired. Shortages were taken for box respirators, only 6 being required. The loss of equipment and fighting stores was practically nil. Rations - excellent.
- " 9th Rations - good. Fruit in lieu of vegetables. Battalion relieved by 15th Battalion in line on extreme left of Division. Hot meal and dry rations was issued to the men before leaving.
- " 10th Breakfast was sent up in limber to the line reaching there at 2-30 a.m. A ration dump was established on bank of trench occupied by reserve company, who acted as carrying parties to companies in the front line. The rations were fair. The evening meal with dry rations occupying 2 limbers reaching ration dump at 9-30 p.m. Food containers were handed over by out-going unit; 16 in all. The latter augmented by small hot-boxes constructed regimentally were more than sufficient to keep all supplied with hot food. The hot-boxes were used for shell hole posts, where the number of men was only small. The larger containers were ~~used~~ utilised for men occupying continuous trenches. Placed indents with D.A.D.O.S. for clothing, so as to be able to clothe men as soon as the unit moved back.
- " 11th Rations - good. Meals at usual times to line. Nucleus consisting of 6 Officers and 97 Other Ranks reported to Transport with no rations excepting 2 tins of preserved meat and 1 lb biscuits which was supposed to constitute 48 hours rations..

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- May 12th Rations - fair. Meals at usual times to line. Also issue of tobacco and cigarettes, but no matches. A.S.C. stated that unit was overdrawn in vegetables consequently light issue. Rations were late up to the dump on account of the enemy shelling the track.
- May 13th Rations - excellent. Vegetables light. Rations were sent up to Battalion at usual times. Day very quiet but wet. Still no leather at D.A.D.O.S.
- May 14th Rations - fair. With the exception of "D" Company the Battalion was relieved from the line by the 47th Battalion. Three Companies and H.Q. came back to reserve taking over from the 47th Battalion. "D" Company's rations sent up so as to reach them at 9-30 p.m. and 3 a.m. The rations for rest of unit delivered at 1 a.m. when relief was complete. Drew from advanced Brigade, Anti-Gas appliance and forwarded same to ration dump, viz., chloride of lime - 5 drums, Rattles - 11, Farit A.G. - 30.
- May 15th Rations - good. Bacon $\frac{1}{2}$ issue. Rations for "A" "B" & "C" Coys left cookers at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. "D" Company breakfast at 2 a.m. wet and dry rations at 8-15 p.m. Water cart was sent to "A" "B" & "C" Companies to enable men to fill their water bottles.
- May 16th Rations - fair. Fruit in lieu of jam. "D" Company's rations (breakfast) left cookers at 1 a.m. Breakfast for "A" "B" & "C" Companies left at 6 a.m. Rations wet and dry were sent to all companies at 4 p.m. "D" Company's rations were dumped at "C" Company's dump, and then taken on from there by carrying party from "D" Company. This enabled all companies to have tea at 5-30 p.m. and dry rations issued. Water cart was despatched to enable men to fill waterbottles. Weather warm. Each man received 1 2 oz plug of tobacco and 4 bars chocolate.
- May 17th Breakfast for all companies left at 6-30 a.m. Water cart sent to "A" "B" & "C" Companies at 8 a.m. Weather very warm. Leather available at D.A.D.O.S., and drawn (i side) also (grindery) (soles 50 pairs). Supply wagon late on account of not loading and parking overnight. A.S.C. previous day holding sports. Rations - good. Received from Brigade - Rattles Anti-Gas 7. Refills - 16. Oil and flannelette was sent to companies. Rations wet and dry left for all companies at 4 p.m. Water cart sent to "A" "B" & "C" Companies at 5 p.m.
- May 18th Breakfast left for companies at 6 a.m. Sgt Bootmaker and assistants repaired and issued boots to companies in support trenches. Weather very warm. Water Cart filled and sent to I.M.C.A. The I.M.C.A. supplied men of unit on fatigue with Cocoa & Milk at night time. Water Cart also sent to Battalion. Rations - fair. Bread - 1 loaf to 4 men. Rations for all coys (wet and dry) left at 4 a.m. reaching companies at 5 p.m. Lime juice $\frac{1}{2}$ issue received and sent to Battalion. Drew Ordnance stores consisting of jackets S.D., Breeches, Puttees. Horse Rugs returned to D.A.D.O.S.
- May 19th Rations - good with the exception of bread which was very much broken. Tobacco and cigarettes, but no matches on issue. Rations sent to Battalion at usual times. Water cart sent to "A" "B" & "C" Companies. Bootmaker repaired and issued boots to companies in support trenches.
- May 21st Rations - good and sent to companies at usual times. Bought vegetables to augment supply. 1 bag of green onions on issue. Water cart sent to three companies at 9 a.m. Issue of lettuce - 1 per man and green onions with boiled beef. Battalion relieved by 35th Battalion in support trenches, relief complete at 4-30 pm 22.5.18 and moved back to trenches in GLISE Line. Cookers moved from position N.24.a.8.6. (Sheet 62d) to GLISE Reserve line. "A" & "B" Coy. Cookers with companies at N.31. (Sheet 62d)

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- May 20th ✕ Rations Good. Fruit in lieu of vegetables. Rations sent to all companies at usual hours. Water cart sent to "A" "B" & "C" Coys at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.. Weather very warm. Bootmakers repaired boots in support trenches.
- May 21st
(cont) "C" & "D" Companies Cookers with Companies in N. 21 (Sheet 62d) The cookers commenced to move at 6-30 p.m. and were in position by 8 p.m. Water carts with right and left half Battalion.
- May 22nd Rations - fair. Jam $\frac{1}{2}$ issue. Fruit in lieu of balance of jam. Lime juice on issue. Rations delivered to companies per limber.
- May 23rd Rations - fair, they arrived at Battalion H.Q. at 4-30 p.m. A.S.C. Dump moved to RIVER. No coal. Bacon $\frac{1}{2}$ issue. Fruit in lieu. Shortages of companies taken.
- May 24th Rations - good. Issued clothing equipment etc. to companies.
- May 25th Rations - good with exception of bread which was only 2 loaves to 7 men. French margarine on issue. Bought vegetables to augment supply. Issued clothing drzwn previous day from Ordnance. Packs were drawn from Brigade Dump and issued to the men. Blankets issued to "C" and "D" Coys. 75 O/R from 47th Battalion joined unit. 800 sets of clean underclothing delivered to store from Brigade at 10 p.m.
- May 26th Clean underclothing issued to men. Blankets delivered to "A" and "B" Coys. Rations - good, bacon $\frac{1}{2}$ issue. Tobacco, cigarettes and matches on issue also lime juice. Deceased Officers kits gone through ready for depatch. Targets and ammunition drawn from Brigade. 3 Officers and 14 O/R joined from the 47th Battalion.
- May 27th Rations - good. Balance of clothing issued. Kits despatched to railhead. Unserviceable clothing returned to D.A.D.O.S.
- May 28th Rations - good. Cabbages on issue. After inspection of Companies' Box Respirators 19 were found to be unserviceable.
- May 29th Rations - good. Two parcels of reading matter received from Australian Comforts Funds per A.S.C. Dirty clothing returned to Div. Baths, RIVER. S.A.A. issued to companies to complete 220 rounds per man.
- May 30th Rations - good. Matches were issued to the troops. Vegetables were on issue. The following goods were received from the Australian Comforts Funds. - 12 cases of Cocoa & Milk. 1 bag sugar. 4 bags oatmeal. 2 cases Battalion gifts (Tobacco & cigarettes.) Battalion Sports were held in the afternoon and in the evening a concert was held outside the Q.M. store. The enemy dropped a number of shells quite close during the entertainment. Weather warm. Drawn from Ordnance today - Leather, sides 3. Box Respirators 6. Boots, pairs 2. Bootmakers repaired Company boots and the tailors visited Coys.
- May 31st Rations - fair. Issued a number of Box Respirators to replace unserviceable ones. Waether warm.

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APPENDIX. // 38

Postal Service.

	<u>Despatched.</u>	<u>Received.</u>
Letters	11,314	34,911
Parcels	199	463
Registered	70	115
Packets	119	276
Cables	23	-
Papers	-	1,978
Official	129	203
Cash (handled)	640 Frs.90 Cts.	

Clothing.

	<u>Drawn from D.A.D.O.S.</u>	<u>Issued to Companies.</u>
Jackets S.D.	207	207
Breeches D.S.	180	148
Puttees Pairs	200	202
Hats felt	52	49

Boots.

	<u>Drawn from D.A.D.O.S.</u>	<u>Issued to Coys.</u>	<u>Retd. to DADOS</u>	<u>Repaired.</u>
Boots ankle prs	124	115	96	281

Fat.

Amount in lbs despatched to Railhead - 249 lbs.

(Signed) W. Jackson Lt.
Q.M. 46th Battalion A.I.F.

During this month the Transport has been located on the road from CAMON to LAMOTTE.

The standings are good and plenty of good water not a hundred yards away. The animals were able to be grazed on ground allotted to them, this greatly helped them to shed their old coat, and at the present time all animals are looking very well.

One H.D. horse was killed by shell fire on the 3rd and a mule was evacuated to 4th Mobile Vety. Section. These animals were replaced from the Remount Section.

On the 1st rations were carted to the cookers in bank between BLANGY TRONVILLE and DAOURS from transport lines and from their meals were taken twice in the night to the CRUCIFIX in VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. From the 2nd to the 6th the Battalion were in close support and meals were carted to them twice daily, and a water cart also going up to Coys in gully between VILLERS BRETONNEUX and BOIS ABBE. Two pack animals carted meals from cookers to B.H.Q. for "B" Section. While Battalion was here Transport were carting ammunition for Brigade, and also carting for Y.M.C.A. and Canteen.

On the 7th Battalion came to a line near BLANGY TRONVILLE and while here meals were carted to them thrice daily, the cookers being still in the same place.

On the 9th the Battalion relieved the 15th Battalion in the front line. Two limbers were used to cart in Lewis Guns and magazines and another two for tools and Signaller's gear. These were dumped at Battalion H.Q. and at dump near support company (Lone Tree Dump). While the Battalion were in the line meals were carted twice nightly to O.24.d.l.2. Lone Tree Dump at 9-30 p.m. and 2 a.m. This dump was constantly shelled and played on by machine gun fire but only one driver was slightly wounded and remained on duty.

On the night of the 14th the Battalion came back to supports being relieved by the 47th Battalion. Lewis guns etc. were carted back by limbers and a meal carted to companies on their arrival at new position. The Cookers remained in same place and rations were delivered to them in same manner. Meals were carted to companies twice daily at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and a water cart went up twice daily. While cookers were in this position four teams and drivers and two pack animals with Corporal in charge were left there, these drivers and teams were changed every third day.

On the night of the 21st the Battalion moved back to ~~BLANGY TRONVILLE~~ GLISY. The Q.M. Store and cookers were moved in the afternoon the store going to GLISY and the cookers to their respective companies. All packs, blankets, valises etc. were carted from Transport Lines to GLISY, taking 3 G.S. Wagons to shift packs. Rations were carted to coys and water carts carted water to cookers from GLISY stand pipe. Clothing from baths, D.A.D.O.S. and stores from BERTAUCOURT were drawn by transport for Battalion.

Battalion and transport remained in same position till end of month.

The fodder for the month has been good, with the chaffcutter we have been able to feed four times a day.

The vehicles are in good repair but a few wheels will need to be changed on account of the warm weather which we have had for the whole month.

We are badly in need of heavy draught horse shoes, these it appears are difficult to obtain.

(Signed) Donald B. Payne Capt.

DECORATIONS AWARDED.....

Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has awarded the following decorations. (Authority - 4th Australian Division R.O. 484 dated 6th May 1918.)

MILITARY CROSS.

Captain G.E. Milne
Lieut. L. Bull
" S.R. Goldsmith M.M.
2/Lt. L. Byrne
Q.M. & HON Capt. R. Outhwaite

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

2865 Pte G.R. Bowditch
1316 L/C D. Hanna
1890 Cpl J.J. White
3098 Sgt F.O. Neilsen

The Army Corps Commander has awarded the following decorations to the undermentioned. (Authority - 4th Australian Division R.O.483 of 2nd May 1918.)

BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.

1904a Pte Driscoll T.W.

MILITARY MEDAL.

2923 Pte C.H. Williams
4560 " D.W. Johnstone
4620 " D.G. Scarborough
3520 " E.S. Cheeseman
2699a " O.H. Joseph
2441a " W.J. Jinks
1884 " L.H.J. Burden
2343 L/C C.R. Hildebrand
2856 Pte G. Andrews
3205 " J. Samwell
2761 " R.E. Nicholls
3133 " W.W. Robertson
4726 L/C T. Adams
2481a Sgt C.D. Plant
2361 Pte J. Walker
4902 " A. Poole
3794 L/C G. Johnstone
2668 Pte J.E. Pickrill
2288a " E.J.H. Berryman
2466 L/C G.S. Elmore
2429 Pte E. Haycraft
1954 L/C G.W. Haskings
3797 Cpl W.H. Johnson
4789 " W. Dolan