

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/18/13

**Title:** 1st Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/18/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1st  
2nd Aust Bn  
452 Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIGHT ON TRENCHES 1st Bde Section	11/11/16	0800	Day quiet. Rainy during the morning. Notified by 1st Bde HQ. of relief to take place tonight of 1st Bn. by 3rd Bn. At 0800 the CO. 3rd Bn visited us and arranged details with CO. for this relief.	
		0700	1st Bde Order No. 45 received containing instructions for an attack to be carried out before the 3rd inst. to straighten out the reculant NW of GEUDE COURT to facilitate a main operation to take place on 3rd inst. - Preparations put in hand at once. The enemy shelled CHEESE R., FLARE ALLEY and GRASS LANE at intervals during the 24 hours. - Our artillery heavily bombarded HILT. trench and LARD trench at 0700 and 1100 and the enemy front & communications opposite us steadily during the day & night.	
		1300	The weather cleared during the afternoon and the visibility was good. - Our aircraft were active.	
		1810	The front trenches are very wet and muddy - in some parts 3' deep in mud. Though all instructions regarding care of feet being carried out, 14 cases of trench feet were evacuated. C.O. and Sn. Maj. reviewed position to be attacked and the ground to be advanced over.	
			Relief of 1st Bn completed by 3rd Bn at 1910. - A+B Coy proceeded by FLARE ALLEY to DELVILLE WOOD and C+D Coy to trenches near DELVILLE VALLEY. 1st Bn H.Q. and HQ details to FLERS village quartered in dugouts and cellars.	
			a little work was carried out, as follows: - Renovation of Saps, front line and communications. - During the night rain was heavy.	
RIGHT RESERVE 1st Bde Section	2/11/16	1900	Heavy rain during the morning. - C.O. and Sn. Maj. reconnoitered position to be attacked. Message from 1st Bde HQ. notifying us of postponement of operations, but all preparations to continue. - Weather fine during the afternoon.	1

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RIGHT RESERVE 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Section	3/11/16	1200	Weather fine for greater part of the day, and good visibility. at 1200 a rehearsal of the zero barrage (at half rate) for the minor operation to be carried out by this Bn was given and viewed by all officers participating in the operation. It was well placed. Our own and enemy aeroplanes were active during the afternoon. - Flers was shelled at frequent intervals.	
		1530	Received 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Order No. 46 containing instructions for the carrying out of the main operation.	
		1600	LT. LANSER, H.M. and 10 men rejoined from LMG. School. 54 OPR reinforcements received and were distributed to companies. - Work carried out extension and deepening of CHALK LANE. - A LEE. CH. evacuated sick to hospital.	
	4/11/16		Bn. operation order (for minor operation) issued. Coy (No. 6) attached. Weather fine during the day.	
		1000	Conference held at Bn H.Q. of Disc Coy, LMG, Bombing and Intelligence Officer with C.O. to arrange all details in connection with the minor operation.	
		1100	Message from Bde H.Q. instructing that the operation will take place tonight. Zero time is fixed at 00.30 on 5 <sup>th</sup> inst.	
		1400	C.O. conferred with C.O. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn at 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn H.Q. to arrange details regarding the cooperation of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn on our right by a bombing attack on HARD trench, as instructed in 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Order No. 45. - arranged with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. to clear HARD trench only and to establish a strong point at about N 20 D 3 9 1/2. - Arrangements also made for the relief of this unit by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. as soon after the completion of the operation as the situation permits. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. to return to present position on relief.	
		1700	BAYONET, HILT and HARD trenches were bombarded by our heavies from 1300 till 1500	

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RIGHT RESERVE 1st Bde SECTION	4/11/16	1600	<p>A 1/2 speed rehearsal of the zero barrage for the minor operation was carried out. Enemy's positions on our front continuously shelled by our heavies and 18 pr. HE. and shrapnel. The ground and communications in rear of the 1st Bde front system are wet and muddy but improving in the fine weather.</p>	
		2100	<p>Move to the position of assembly commenced in the afternoon by the departure of the Bombers and Lewis Machine Gunners for the line.</p>	
		2200	<p>The C.O. and H.Q. moved to the battle head at N7629 in CHEESE ROAD, and arrived at 2200. Slight rain was then falling. At 2300, as companies were getting into position, very heavy rain commenced and it was very cold.</p>	
		2325	<p>Companies were in positions of assembly at hours as follows:—</p>	
		2305	<p>C and D the assaulting Coy, in the assembly trench 150' in front of right battalion firing line, at 2325 and 2305 respectively.</p>	
		2352	<p>B Coy, in support, in shell holes immediately in rear of this trench, at 2352.</p>	
		2320	<p>A Coy, in reserve, in trench in CHEESE ROAD, at 2320.</p>	
		2330	<p>At 2330 several "golden shower" rockets from HLT trench. This was followed almost at once by a light barrage from the enemy artillery over our position.</p>	
		5/11/16 0030	<p>From this time on the enemy fired an abnormal number of flares from our objective, creating great difficulty for our Coy. who were getting into position. Our guns opened a heavy shrapnel barrage on a line 50' short of the enemy's front line. — C and D Coy pushed forward under it as far as possible, and advanced as the barrage crept forward. The barrage moved too fast for our men as the going was very heavy and the men were tired already by their long push through the mud to the position of assembly. After our advance had proceeded</p>	

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	5/11/16		<p>between 100° and 150° the enemy opened heavy rifle, Machine Gun and bomb fire. The trenches were strongly held. C &amp; D Coys were not able to secure a footing in the trench, and retired to the assembly trench. A few men entered the trench. C &amp; D were instructed to reorganise and attack again. <del>with M.G.</del> A Coy was also sent up and instructed to participate if in time. — A Coy did not arrive in time.</p> <p>0104 The second attack, by C, D and B Coys, was launched at 0104. This attack was met as before by heavy rifle, M.G. and bomb fire, and was again forced to retire. We suffered many casualties during these assaults.</p> <p>In the meantime no information was to hand regarding the bombing operation against the SUNKEN Bunker under Lt. FINLAYSON. — Heavy bomb fire was heard in this direction during the first assault by men on the right of the first attack.</p> <p>The enemy's artillery fire was not accurate or intense. He shelled his own line with 5.9 H.E. during each of our assaults. — 1<sup>st</sup> Bde H.Q. was informed of the result of our two attacks. About 0200 the assembly trench being packed with B, C &amp; D Coys including many wounded. C and D Coys were ordered back to the old front line and to take back with them as many wounded as they could carry. The line was thus thinned out and held by A and B Coys. Parties were sent out to search for and bring in wounded men. This task was difficult owing to continuous bursts of enemy M.G. fire and sniping and the proximity of many of the badly wounded to HLT trench.</p> <p>0218 Runner reported that 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde bombing parties had attained their objectives.</p> <p>0235 Message rec'd from 1<sup>st</sup> Bde H.Q. — am sending forward Company of 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde.</p> <p>0255 Lt YATES and 2<sup>nd</sup> OP sent to the gun pits to obtain any information possible of hitting FINLAYSON and his bombers.</p>	

For details

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RIGHT Bn. trenches 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Section	5/11/16	0330	<p>Lt YATES returned and reported no trace to be found of Lt. FINLAYSON. His operation was not successful. Several bombers had passed through the dressing station at the gun pits, wounded, and reported very severe handling, and very heavy losses inflicted by the enemy on the Bombing Platoon.</p> <p>0345. Recd instructions from 1<sup>st</sup> Bde HQ. to withdraw to position occupied before proceeding to the position of assembly.</p> <p>Cops. were instructed to withdraw to their previous positions, and moved independently from 0400. A+B Cops to DELVILLE WOOD. C+D near DELVILLE VALLEY and Pn HQ. and details to FLERS. 1 officer + 12 OR were left to remain and search for and rescue wounded. All settled in these positions by</p>																													
RIGHT RESERVE Bn 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde Section	6/11/16	0700	<p>0700. Our casualties during the operation were as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Officers.</td> <td>Killed in A.</td> <td>Missing</td> <td>OTHER RANKS</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt MCINTYRE. J.H.</td> <td>Lt FINLAYSON RB.</td> <td>5 Killed in action.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt LANSER HM</td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt MULLARKEY. N.J.</td> <td>81 Wounded.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Wounded</td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt PHILLIPS. F.S.</td> <td>71 Missing.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Capt RIC. MACGREGOR</td> <td>Wounded + Missing</td> <td>1/2 of slightly wounded remained on duty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt HURT EC</td> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt STEEL. A.V.</td> <td>bandaging our wounded near their parapet.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lt SOMERSET. W.H.R.</td> <td></td> <td>A written report by the CO. on the operation was forwarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Bde HQ. (Copy attached.)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Enemy stretcher bearers were seen during the morning. A written report by the CO. on the operation was forwarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Bde HQ. (Copy attached.)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Bde HQ. to be relieved by the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn tonight, and to proceed on relief to BERNARFAY WOOD and to come under the command of the GOC. 3<sup>rd</sup> Div Bde.</p> <p>0700 Sd. Maj. 11<sup>th</sup> Bn arrived and arranged details with regard to the relief. Flers was shelled during the morning. At 1600 the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn advance party arrived.</p>	Officers.	Killed in A.	Missing	OTHER RANKS		2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt MCINTYRE. J.H.	Lt FINLAYSON RB.	5 Killed in action.		2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt LANSER HM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt MULLARKEY. N.J.	81 Wounded.		Wounded	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt PHILLIPS. F.S.	71 Missing.		Capt RIC. MACGREGOR	Wounded + Missing	1/2 of slightly wounded remained on duty.		2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt HURT EC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt STEEL. A.V.	bandaging our wounded near their parapet.		Lt SOMERSET. W.H.R.		A written report by the CO. on the operation was forwarded to 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde HQ. (Copy attached.)	
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BERNAFAY CAMP.	6/11/16	1600	Relief of 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. commenced at 1600 and was completed at 1905. Companies proceeded as relieved to Camp at BERNAFAY WOOD, the taking over of which was reported complete by this Bn. to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde H.Q. at 2030. — Bn. to proceed to POMMIER CAMP tomorrow morning at 1300.	
		2030		
POMMIER'S CAMP	7/11/16	0930	Advance party proceeded to POMMIER CAMP to take over and allot. The 9 <sup>th</sup> Bn arrived at 1000 at BERNAFAY CAMP to take over from us. Our instructions from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde H.Q. were to leave at 1300 but as the weather was cold and wet, asked for permission to leave for POMMIER CAMP at once. Permission was given and we proceeded at 1130 to POMMIER CAMP. We were settled there at 1345 and reported to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde H.Q. to that effect. — It rained heavily during the day.	
		1000		
		1130		
		2000	Instructions from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde H.Q. detailing 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. for fatigue duty under R.E. supervision at FS c63. (MAMETZ)	
8/11/16	8/11/16	0800	Day cold and wet. The Bn. proceeded to FS c63 at 0800 and worked on repairs to MAMETZ LINK, returning to Camp at 1615. Right dry canteen reestablished.	
		1615	1000 lbs of goods bought in ALBERT & brought back by motor lorry sent by D.H.Q.	
9/11/16	9/11/16	0700	A SPARKE sent to FRICOURT bath to arrange for the Bn. to bathe.	
		0800	The Bn. proceeded to MAMETZ LINK to continue fatigue work on road. Parties of 75 under an officer were despatched every hour until the whole Bn. had bathed.	
		1615	Returned at 1615. Training was carried out by L.M.G. D <sup>15</sup> and HQ. & Coy Signaller during the day.	
10/11/16	10/11/16	0800	Bn. proceeded to MAMETZ LINK on fatigue. — Corps Cleaning Station and Field Ambulances searched for traces of our "missing" officers & men without result. 43 reinforcements arrived and were allotted to Coy. —	

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BOMMIERS CAMP	11/11/16	0800	Bn. proceeded on fatigue to MAMETZ LINK less LMG D <sup>ts</sup> + HQ + Co Sigs. who carried out training in camp.	
		1240	Message from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde at 1240 to prepare for move on morning of 12 <sup>th</sup> inst.	
		1615	Bn. returned from fatigue.	
		1715	Final instructions regarding move received from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde HQ. Bn. movement order issued (Copy attached).	X4
	12/11/16	0700	Billeting party under Lt YATES despatched.	
		1130	Bn. moved by march route to DERVANCOURT. Road being congested by traffic retarded progress. We arrived at 1530 and went into billets.	
DERVANCOURT	13/11/16	0800	Billeting party under Lt YATES sent to BUIRE to arrange billets.	
BUIRE		1100	Moved by march to BUIRE and arrived at 1140. We went into billets. Weather fine. Lt LEE CH. rejoined from hospital, posted to A. Co. Casualties prepared for despatch. Various rucksacks of 8 <sup>th</sup> C. Coy. details in conference with Co. Sigs <sup> Maj</sup> regarding interior economy and training to be carried out while in rest.	
	14/11/16	0130	Order rec <sup>d</sup> from 1 <sup>st</sup> Div HQ through 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde regarding fatigues to be supplied by 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 1 <sup>st</sup> Bns on 14 <sup>th</sup> inst. at MEUILTE and DERVANCOURT. Instructions forwarded to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn. at 0250. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn supplied 2 lbs. for 149 <sup>th</sup> Co RE. but were wrongly instructed as to destination by the message and returned. Training carried out.	
		0230	LMG D <sup>ts</sup> under Lt WEBB, appointed Lt LMG O, and the Bombers under Lt YATES to act as bombing officer. Casualties, values + rucks. despatched from Albert.	
	15/11/16		Training. Lts WALKER W.L., MOFFATT H.H. and BUCHAN Y.J. returned for duty from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army school of instruction. Lt Walker to A Co, Moffatt to B and Buchan to D Co.	

1000/20/21/16



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BOIRE	16/11/16	0900	Under instructions from 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde transport moved at 0900 to march with 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde transport by two stages to FRÉMONT. Training proceeded with.	x
FRÉMONT.	17/11/16	1100 1430 1600	Bn. movement order prepared + issued - Cofy attached - Bn. moved by buses to FLESSELLES Station, arriving at 1400, and moved at 1415 by march route to FRÉMONT arriving at 1430. Here we went into billets. Lt YATES sent to ST SAUVEUR to discover if more suitable village to billet the Bn. It was found to be more suitable.	x
ST SAUVEUR	18/11/16	0700 1300	Billeting party proceeded to ST SAUVEUR to allot billets. We marched to ST SAUVEUR, arrived at 1420 and went into billets. - Training programme prepared and issued - Cofy attached - a/c QMS. FITZ PATRICK and Sgt. CHAMPION B.W. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. appointed to rank of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. (AIF list 116). former attached to A. Coz, latter to C. Coz.	x
	19/11/16	0700 0900	Lt. H.E. A'BECKETT and 20 OR proceeded to AMIENS to do duty as town picquet. Training as per syllabus. -	
	20/11/16	1600	Training. - Lt Col. J. HEANE D.S.O. and Lt + adjt. J.C. BOOTLE proceeded to ENGLAND on leave. MAJOR P.S.S. WOODFORE assumes Command temporarily of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn. during the absence on leave of Lt Col HEANE. Lieut L.N. EDGLEY to act as adjutant during absence on leave of Lt BOOTLE.	
	21/11/16		Training. -	
	22/11/16		- Do - Lt LEE CH. went to 1 <sup>st</sup> Div. School of Instruction.	

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S SAUVEUR	23/11/16	1000	<p>Brigadier General A.M. SMYTH, VC, CB, inspected the transports, and spoke later with Co. A+B Coy about points to be followed in the training, and on interior economy.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Bn mining platoon was organised in accordance with the Brigade Commander's personal instructions. — consisting of 25 OPR under the pioneer Sergeant temporarily for training purposes.</p> <p>Ct SPARKE proceeded to 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC LMG School. Lt H.E. A'BECKETT and 20 OPR returned from picquet duty in AMIENS.</p>	
		1600	<p>May. H.G. VINEY, <sup>1<sup>st</sup> Lt</sup> inspected the transport.</p>	
	24/11/16		<p>Training. — 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt W.M. BLAKE and 9 OPR reinforcements arrived from Base. Lt BLAKE posted to A Coy the 9 OPR allotted to all Coys.</p>	
	25/11/16	0215	<p>Instructions rec<sup>d</sup> from 1<sup>st</sup> Bde. to despatch the 2 transport Companies to MEAULTE and VIVIER MILL for work on Communications. These Coys. to be rationed by Coys troops Supply Column, and to be administered by Coys.</p>	
		0700	<p>3 ladders, 1 watercart and 2 Cooks (A+B Coys) left by march route for MEAULTE under RQMS. BLUNDEN 1<sup>st</sup> Bn to be attached to A+B Coys.</p>	
		0800	<p>A+B Coys under the command of Capt. C. JACKSON proceeded by bus to MEAULTE and VIVIER to work on Communications.</p>	
		2000	<p>lieut SOMERSET CWHR. returned from LMG School LETOUQUET. 20 OPR reinforcements arrived &amp; were allotted to Coys. Sgt CASSIDY RALPH &amp; TRICHARDS and DINGLE 1<sup>st</sup> 70 and appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants to this Bn., attached to D, A+B Coys respectively.</p>	
	26/11/16		<p>Training — 14 OPR reinforcements from Base allotted to Companies.</p>	
	27/11/16		<p>Do</p>	

*R. Woodford*

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St SAUVEUR	28/4/16	1400 1600	Training. — All Box respirator gas helmets inspected by 1 <sup>st</sup> Div. Gas NCO CO. and Coy officers + NCO <sup>s</sup> of mining pl. attended lecture on depot construction at FLESSELLES.	
	29/4/16		Training. — 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt BOARDMAN H and FITZPATRICK. W.L. and 7 NCO <sup>s</sup> proceeded to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. School of Instruction. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde. Order rec <sup>d</sup> instructing transport to move on 30 <sup>th</sup> inst by march route in two stages to RIBEMONT, with 1 <sup>st</sup> Bde transport under Lt H. WELLS 1 <sup>st</sup> .	
	30/4/16	0800	Transport moved off to the starting point BERTANGLES. Training. —	

As Woodford Messin  
2/CO 7/1/16  
out

Relief Order. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn

- ① The Bn will be relieved on night 1/2 Nov by 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn
- ② Relief A Coy will relieve A Coy 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn near Delville Wood
- ③ " B " " " C " " " "
- " C " " " B " near Bde HQ
- " D " " " D " " " "
- ④ Advance parties of Specialists - M/Gs - Intelligence - Bombers - Messengers - Signallers will relieve in small parties during the day - no party to be larger than 3 and 75 yards apart and not to close up
- ⑤ Small parties similar to para 3 will also be relieved as far as possible during the day
- ⑥ One officer per Coy one NCO per platoon will proceed alone to new quarters to take over quarters and any stores etc - also to act as guides for the units on coming out of the line.
- ⑦ All trench stores Maps photos - documents orders or information with operations will be handed over to incoming units - day receipts to be taken and sent to Bn HQ immediately afterwards
- ⑧ On relief. Code word Dixie to be phoned thru - On taking up new position Code word Macquarie to be phoned thru to Bn HQ
- ⑨ One guide per platoon to be at Bn HQ at 1600 to guide incoming units to their positions
- ⑩ All troops will carry their 220 rounds 5 AA + 2 bombs and 2 sandbags and if they have not got them they must be made up at once.

- 10) Coy Commanders must special, warn all parties not to struggle but to keep close to cover as much as possible as it will only mean fire
- 11) All work to be pressed on and full particulars to be handed over to incoming units - also all information about trenches and No man's land
- 12) The Road to Detrills Wood will be along a line of duck boards from west fence from Bed H & - This line to be recommended as it is considerably shorter & better than along the road
- 13) All fatigue as far as possible is to be spared to the men in view of the operation to be carried out
- 14) All picks and shovels that can be saved during the day is to be saved

1/11/16 -

J. S. Haug  
Lieut Col  
C. O. B.

SECRET

Not to be taken into the trenches.

Copy No. 6.

OPERATION ORDER by 1<sup>st</sup> BN.BN. Hd. Qrs 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1916.Reference Map. GUYDECOURT to SARAUME.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition - 1/10 000.

1. The enemy are in BAYONET-HILT + LARD trenches. There is a fair amount of wire concertina in front of our right flank + also a strong point called THE TRIANGLE. Our Artillery have bombarded these trenches daily. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade will clear up situation in N-20. Central.

2. In order to assist the general operation the 1<sup>st</sup> BN. will attack BAYONET HILT, the 3<sup>rd</sup> BN. Co-operating on the right.

3. ARTILLERY SUPPORT The Divisional Artillery will bombard the trenches during the preceding days at stated intervals. The assault will be carried out under a creeping barrage.

At ZERO, Artillery barrage will commence on the objectives + on a line 50 yards short of the enemy's front line.

The Infantry will immediately leave their positions + get as close under the barrage as possible.

At 03, the barrage will creep forward.

(2)

1- the rate of 50 yards per minute until at 011 it will have reached the line 150 yards beyond the trenches where it will halt until 013.

At 014 the barrage passes over the objective - the infantry will enter the trenches.

During the attack, the Howitzers + Heavy Artillery will engage the enemy's artillery, commencing at ZERO.

Table of Artillery Tasks + map showing barrage will be furnished later.

4. a) 'C' + 'D' Coys. will attack the trenches from N. 20. D. 2. 3 1/2 to N. 20. A. 8. 3 in two waves of half companies, the waves to be 10 yards apart.

'C' on the right, 'D' on the left, the frontage to be divided by Coy. Commanders, Coy. Bombers in the front line and Lewis Guns in the second line.

'B' Coy. will form the Supports and will take up position in the jumping off trench on its being vacated, + in similar formation. 'A' Coy. will form the Reserves in

At 2-30 'C' + 'D' Coys. will be in position in the assembly trenches, 150 yds. in front of present firing line. 'B' Coy. will be in shell holes or lying on the ground

(3)

20 yards in rear of assembly trenches, ~~and~~ <sup>over</sup> 4 D Coy. will leave these trenches, "B" will at once occupy & improve them with support trenches, pushing forward saps to link up with the trenches to be taken & also linking up with our pits. "B" Coy. will also push forward Lewis machine guns to forward positions which will cover the high ridge in front of trenches to be taken.

At 02 D Coy. will leave the trenches at 2500 when artillery opens & will get as close under barrage as possible.

At 03 the barrage will creep forward at the rate of 50 yards per minute until at 04 it will have reached the wire 150 yards beyond the trenches, where it will halt until 0.13.

At 04 the barrage passes over the objective, & Infantry will enter the trenches. The two waves must keep separate in required distance until the trench is reached.

2a) On occupying the captured trenches D Coy. will at once put them into a state of defence digging trenches to approximately 6ft. deep from top of parapets, the parapets



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(H)  
 earth to be thrown well forward.  
 The trench to be about 2' 6" wide.  
 Traverses to be built.

(D) D. Coy. to arrange a defensive left flank + a strong point with L.M.G. + Bombers near the flank, which will not be made into the valley.

(C) Close touch will be kept between the advanced Coys. + that in support, and reinforcements will be ready to go forward directly they are required.

(A) In the trenches being taken 6" & D. Coys. will at once push forward Lewis Gun standing Patrols into favourable positions in shell holes in advance of trenches linking them up afterwards with Saps, with the paradoses with kept flat to avoid showing.

(S) Patrols will also be pushed well forward to keep watch for counter attacks which may develop directly after the attack.

As soon as possible the line will be linked up by a trench with a strong Post to be constructed by 3rd Bn. at N. 30. D. 3. 4 1/2.

(B) Two sections of Bom. Bombers will be detailed to guard VC Coys. right flank, + to bomb the Sunken Road surrounded by wire in front of Gun Pits, attacking from the South, under Lieut. FINLAYSON.

5

- (c) C Coy. will detail a special patrol  
 of 1 officer + twelve (12) men to take  
 up position near exit of SUNKEN ROAD  
 to prevent any escape of garrison  
 who should be called upon to surrender.
1. a) All men will carry at least:  
 2 bombs, 2 sandbags, 1 flare.
- b) Each man in second wave of  
 each force will also carry either - bag  
 of bombs, pick, shovel, Lewis gun -  
 bag of L. G. Magazines, petrol tin of  
 water, 1 flare or signalling gear,  
 20 sandbags.
- c) All men will carry web equipment  
 250 rounds SAA - W.P. Sheet - 1 Iron  
 Ration, 1 hard ration if possible -  
 one waterbottle filled.
- d) Arrangements will be made that  
 on the event of a contact aeroplane  
 asking for position by Clacker Horn,  
 that flares will be let off in groups  
 of 3 at one yard apart, at intervals of  
 50 yards only in order of an officer.
1. e) C & D Coys. will each take out a  
 telephone & run wire to new trench.  
 There is at present laid in new trench  
 assembly trenches.
- F will also take on phone &  
 T has the wire already laid.

(6)

11. Dressing Stations: 1st BN. R.M.O. will be in Sun Pat No. 20. D. 2.3 and 3rd BN. R.M.O. in GRASS LANE. Boys will have their own stretcher-bearers.
12. 'A' & 'B' Coys. will arrange to stack blankets, overcoats, & spare gear in one position near present camp leaving 2 men in charge.
13. 'C' & 'D' Coys. will similarly deal with theirs.
13. As soon as trenches have been consolidated, Coy. Commanders will thin the lines as much as possible, the leading Coys. going back to assembly trenches & rear Coys. to old fire line & SUNKEN ROAD. (CHEESE ROAD).
14. Watches of Officers & Men will be synchronized at 0600-1200-1800 & 2400 on day of operation.
15. Reports to be sent to P.M. Hd. Qrs. which will be removed to the old Coy. Hd. Qrs. in SUNKEN ROAD, runners to be utilized if wires are cut & urgent messages by 2 runners, 10 yards apart.
16. Prisoners to be sent to P.M. Hd. Qrs.
17. Hd. Qrs. Hd. Signallers, Intelligence & 2 bombing sections will move to new Hd. Qrs. at time to be stated.
18. 3rd BN. Hd. Qrs. will be in the same dugout.

14. Coy. Commanders to make all the necessary arrangements & see that the above orders are carried into effect.

15. Picks, shovels & petrol tins are to be salvaged near present trenches occupied so as to avoid taking from dumps.

16. Officers commanding assaulting companies will detail bombing parties to bomb dugouts, particularly those in front of the right Coy.

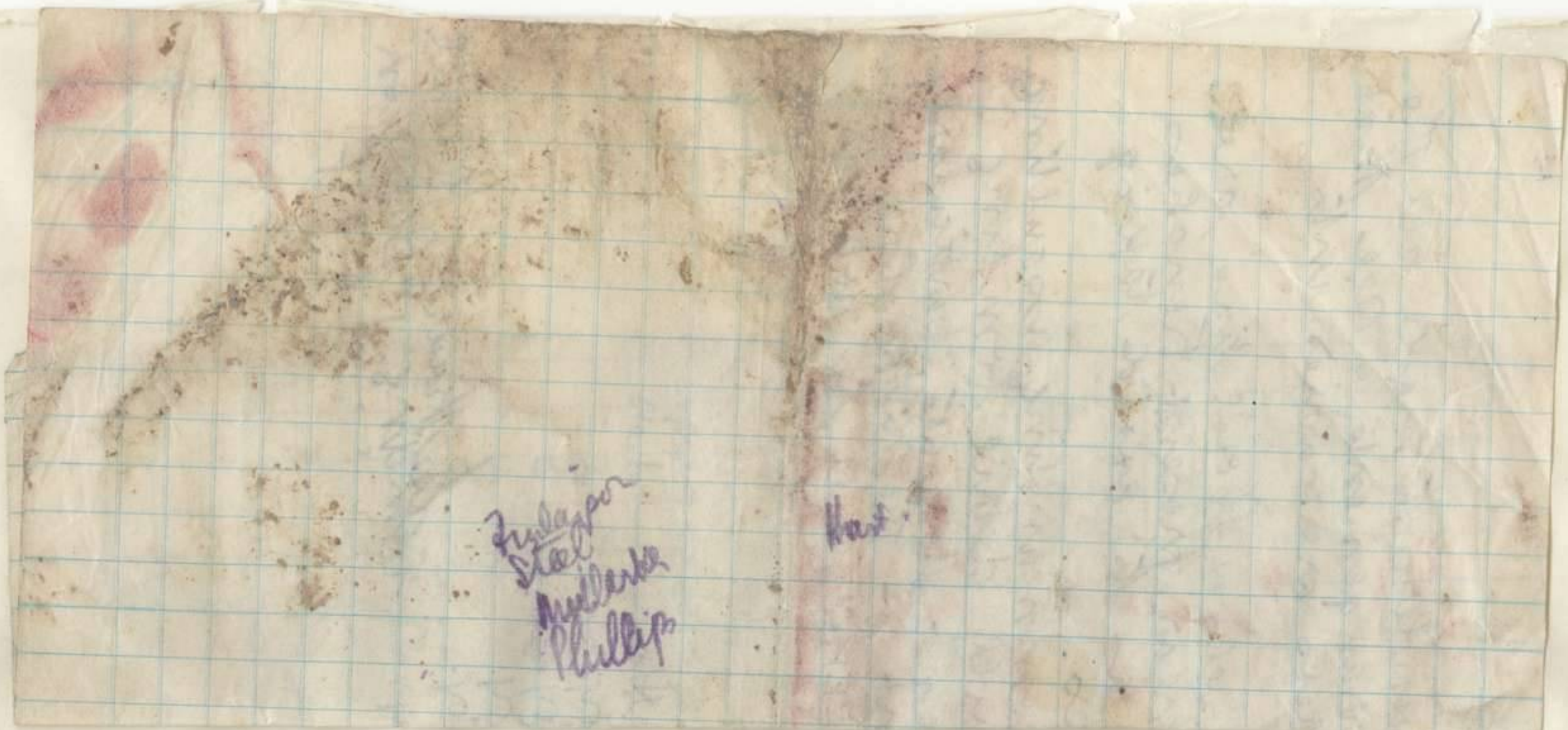
17. Date + ZERO will be notified later.

Copies issued:-

- No. 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Bde HQ.
- 2. C.O. A Coy.
- 3. C.O. B Coy.
- 4. C.O. C Coy.
- 5. C.O. D Coy.
- 6. War Diary
- 7. File
- 8. Spare.

*W. M. Mearns* Colonel  
Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion  
A.I.F.

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Fulgar  
Steel  
Muller  
Phillip

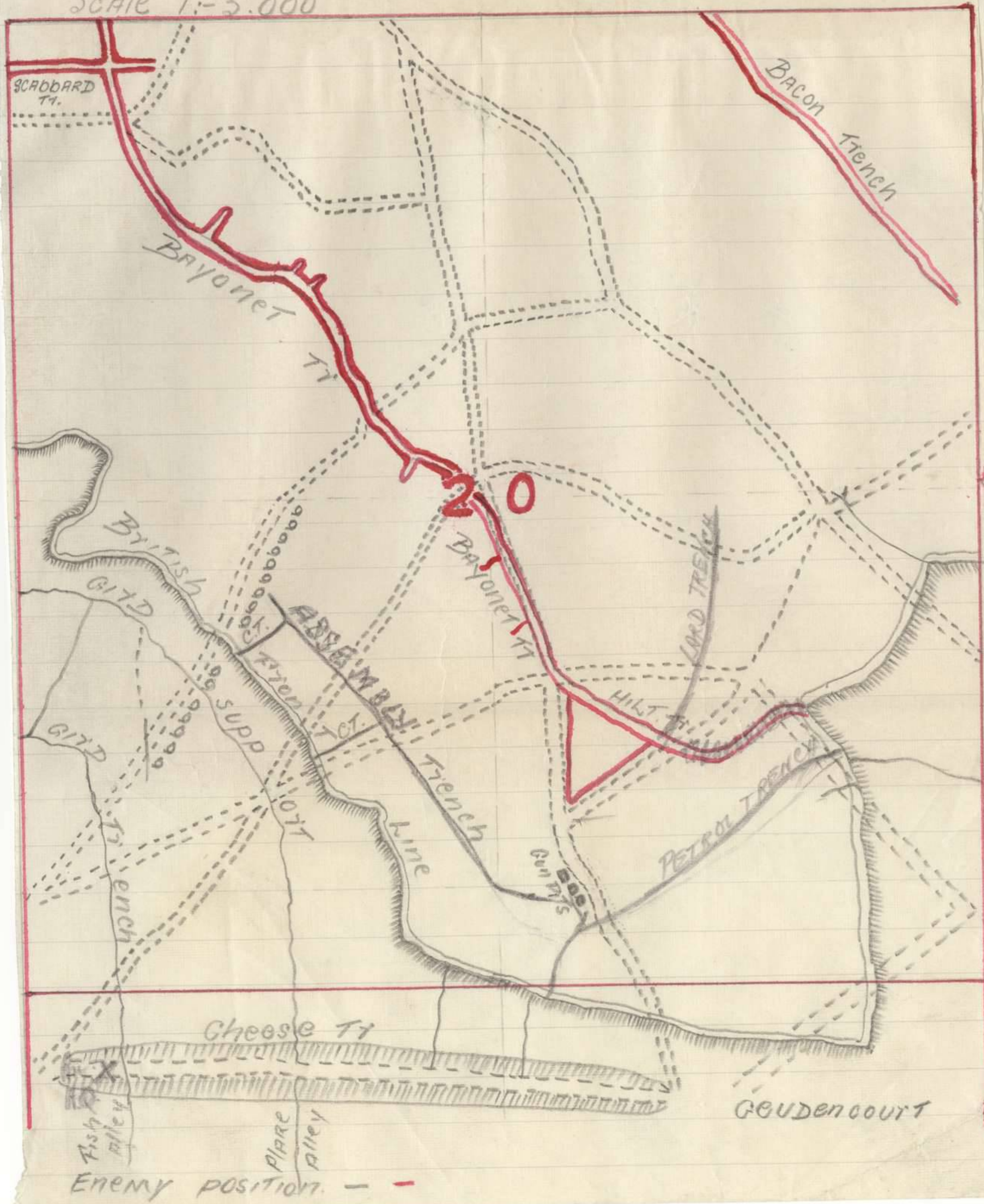
Hart

APPENDIX

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Sketch showing Sq. N. 20 (map Guedencourt  
BAPUME)

Scale 1:5,000



APPENDIX.

20

1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde.

Report as to minor operation  
carried out by 1<sup>st</sup> BN, on HILT TRENCH  
on night of 4/5<sup>th</sup> Inst.

1. As per my telephone message  
+ also personal interview this  
morning, I beg to report that  
the operation was a failure  
and am sorry that the record  
of the Brigade has been broken  
in that there is now a failure  
to the credit of this unit.
2. As per my Operation Order  
sent you, 2 Coys. "C" & "D",  
made the attack with "B" Coy. in  
support in Assembly Trenches,  
and "A" Coy. in Reserve, CHEESE ROAD.
3. I arrived at Hd. Qrs. CHEESE  
ROAD at 2200 - at 2352 all Coys.  
had reported that they were in  
position.
4. Communication telephone wires  
had previously been laid in to  
new Assembly Trenches for each  
of assaulting Coys. + laddered  
so as to prevent breaks  
interfering with communication.

2

"C" & "D" Coys. & "B" Coy. connected  
to wires when they got into position.

At 0030 "C" Coy. disconnected.

At 0031 "D" Coy. disconnected.

"B" Coy. was connected right-  
through the operation, & no  
interference occurred.

The line between the Test Station  
& Brigade was cut soon after  
operation started, & was not  
repaired until about 0205.

5. It is reported that "B" & "C"  
Coys. moving into position were  
seen by the enemy who put up  
seven starved rockets and at 2330  
put up a light barrage with  
big guns, & from thence on  
a shower of very lights making  
it impossible to get the men  
except one platoon, out into  
No Man's Land, before our  
barrage started.

6. At 0030 our Artillery started  
the barrage and the men moved  
forward in two waves as ordered.  
These moved forward under the  
barrage until the enemy wire  
was reached & the men appeared  
over the crest of the forward rise.



and commenced to move down.

It was here that they were met by machine gun fire from the front + from about N. 20. A. 6. H.

On reaching HILT TRENCH, they were met with a fusillade of bombs also rifle fire. A few entered the trench but the remainder retired themselves. Directly after, the men were back in the Assembly Trench.

I ordered 'C' + 'D' Coys. with 'B' to organize + attack again at the same time sending up 'A' Coy. who were to participate if in time.

At about 0100 the second attack was launched + went forward till met with Machine Gun + Rifle fire + bombs, when they again fell back.

Nearly all the men killed or wounded, were close to the German line. 'A' Coy. did not participate in the second attack - Capt. MACGREGOR was wounded in the wrist as soon as he arrived in Assembly Trenches.

There appears to be a general opinion that our barrage was

too short on the right. Captain <sup>4</sup>JACOBS mentions percussion bursts. This should be enemy fire.

### I. Bombing Platoon.

Two sections of this platoon started to work down the sides of the HOLLOW ROAD, but were both wiped out by machine gun fire from the first dugouts on the right and from the trench leading from the HOLLOW ROAD about 20 yards towards HILT TRENCH, forming the triangle. Other machine guns are also reported, but could not be located.

Lieut. FINLAYSON started just behind the left Squad & was last seen heading down the front of the trench. Sometime afterwards the sergeant led the two remaining sections out towards the Strong Point & started bombing - soon after some of the Infantry turned up, but the casualties were so heavy that all had to retire.

The trench leading up on the left of the road was seen to be full of bayonets. The wire round the HOLLOW ROAD & Strong Point was

5/

Strong + untouched.

The remains of this platoon state that the enemy were evidently prepared + waiting for them, the first two sections being wiped out in  $\frac{1}{2}$  a minute.

8. Before withdrawing, the Battalion the ground was well searched by patrols + all wounded men brought in. In addition, one officer + 12 men were left to continue the search until it was too light.

Arrangements were also made with C.O. 3rd Bn. to send out patrols to well search the ground again so as to preclude the possibility of men being left there, but as before stated the majority of the casualties took place close to the German trenches over the crest, + casualties occurred early this morning in men trying to rescue wounded men from here.

#### 9. REMARKS

① The enemy were evidently ready, being prepared by the two rehearsal barrages.

② Were put on the alert by the

appearance of "8+4" logs. 6.  
 getting into position.

- 3) That the trenches were evidently very heavily manned, probably much heavier than usual.
- 4) That there is very little wire along HILT TRENCH itself.
- 5) That the trench is well sited being below the crest line + unseen from the front and is untouched by our Artillery fire.
- 6) That the trench appears to be a good chalk trench.
- 7) That the point N. 20. Centras is evidently an enemy strong point also.
- 8) That our left of HILT TRENCH is commanded by SCABBARD TRENCH.
- 9) That the TRIANGLE + HOLLOW ROAD is a very strong point + not easily dealt with.
- 10) The long march on heavy ground up to the trenches, the heavy rain + long wait-while cold + wet evidently affected the men + took the sting out of their attack, + the heavy going in the assault made it worse.
- 11) That the barrage passed too

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- quicker for the pace of the men.
- (12) That the right Coy. evidently bunched towards the left.
- (13) That in bad weather, the attack should be made by troops manning the trenches.
10. I am of opinion that we should sap out and make a trench very close to HILT TRENCH from which success would be more assured -
- That positions could then be selected for the strong points to be dealt with by mortars.
11. It appears that an order to get back was passed down from the right. Confirmation of this comes from the bombers who stated that, and that they were in a very tight place, & that an officer gave the word to get back. This is being enquired into.
12. In addition to the reports of Capt. HOWELL-PRICE D.S.O., Capt. JACKSON, & Capt. JACOBS attached, I have made enquiries from other officers & a fair number of men from which the above

5.

points have been deduced.  
 13. I am very sorry to have to  
 put in this report as I consider  
 through various causes the Battalion  
 has not done what it should  
 have done but after due  
 consideration fail to see that  
 there was anything further which  
 could have been done to  
 facilitate success.

Further enquiries now being  
 made will probably reduce the  
 number of missing.

14. Attached.

Report by Capt. HOWELL-PAKE D.S.O.  
 Capt. JACKSON  
 Capt. JACOBS

Casualty Return.

15. As per your instructions the  
 Bn. was withdrawn from the  
 firing line & returned to previous  
 bivouacs, the last Coy. reporting  
 all in by 0700 this morning.

5/11/1916.

As Major L. Colonel.  
 Commanding 1st Bn. A.I.F.

1st Aust. Inf. Bde.

Appendix to Report as to  
Minor Operation carried out by <sup>1st</sup> P.M.  
OR HILL TRENCH on night of 4/5<sup>th</sup> inst.

1. In going through the <sup>1st</sup> P.M.  
part of the <sup>1st</sup> P.M. I must state  
the information sent through.

About 15 to 20 from Rifle bullets,  
the balance shown as Shell  
wound which include bombs.

Probably most of the dead  
which were near the enemy trenches  
were Machine Gun fire.

2. Left out of my report but  
included in Capt. HOWELL-PRICE'S,  
was the fact that the enemy  
either shelled his own line or just  
beyond it with A.F. On the  
occasion of each assault.

3. Every effort has been made to  
bring in the killed & wounded.  
Some 3 killed being brought in by  
the 3rd Bn. last night.

Two of the <sup>1st</sup> P.M. <sup>1st</sup> P.M. <sup>1st</sup> P.M. <sup>1st</sup> P.M.  
were all over the ground & looked  
in all shell holes, and Major  
WOODFORD examined all the ground.

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in front from various parts  
 this morning. I could not see  
 any bodies which could be brought  
 in, in safety.

x. Yesterday morning, the  
 Germans had stretch-bearers  
 in front of their lines carrying  
 in wounded & also bandaging  
 them; & these must have been  
 our men.

They worked well in front  
 of this own line & were  
 watched <sup>through</sup> with glasses both from  
 the gun pits & from GREASE  
 TRENCH.

W. H. H. H.

John Henry H. H. H.  
 Commanding Officer A.I.F.



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MOVEMENT ORDER

LIEUT. COLONEL J. HEANE D.S.O. COMMANDING 1st BATTALION A.I.F. 11/11/18

MOVE.

The Battalion will move by March Route via HANETZ to DENHACOURT tomorrow at 1130, in order "A" "B" "C" and "D" Coys.

Companies will fall in on respective parade grounds at 1115 ready to move off.

Details except the Signallers and Pioneers who will march in front, will march with Coys. to which they are attached.

Forward of PRIGOURT, platoons will march in single file at 25 yards distance, and 200 yards distance between Companies.

On reaching rear of PRIGOURT, Companies will close up and march in column of route at 200 yards interval. Connecting files will be detailed as required.

DRESS.

Full Marching Order less packs, Blanket rolled in waterproof sheet over left shoulder. Greatcoat will be rolled in waterproof sheet and carried between haversack and belt.

Reinforcements who have packs, will have Blanket rolled in waterproof sheet, and in horsehair fashion under flap of pack.

WATER.

Water bottles will be carried full.

OFFICERS

Officers' Valises and all spare gear will be packed in Linder VALISES, Etc. not later than 0900. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and properly labelled and are to be stacked in same place by 0900.

LINES.

Company Sergeants will ensure that all lines, mats, and tents are left scrupulously clean.

DISCIPLINE.

Strict march discipline will be maintained in accordance with Bn. Standing Orders. No man is to fall out without a written pass signed by an officer.

BILLETING.

Lt. YATES will act as Billeting Officer and will proceed with 1 R.C.O. per Coy. at 0200 to take over and allot Billets.

REPORTS.

Coy. Commanders will notify En. Hd. Qrs. immediately on taking over Billets.

ST RES.

All stores will be handed over to incoming unit, and duplicate receipts obtained, of which one will be forwarded to En. Hd. Qrs. on arrival at destination.

Sgd. J. Heane

Lieut. A/Adjt. 1st Battalion A.I.F.



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Copy No. 5

MOVEMENT ORDER

APPENDIX

By  
LIEUT. COLONEL J. HEANE D.S.O., COMMANDING 1st. BATTALION. A.I.F. 16/11/16.

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MOVE.

-----

The Battalion will move to the Training Area by Bus to-morrow the 17th. inst.  
Coys. will be formed up ready to move from billets at 10.30.  
All attached details will be with their Companies.  
On moving out, the Coys. will march in the following order:- A.B.C.D.  
A. & D. Companies will each detail a marker to report to the Adjutant at Battalion Headquarters at 1030.  
Marching out states will be forwarded to reach Battalion Headquarters by 0930.

Billets.

-----

All Billets, Billet yards, Latrines etc. must be in a clean and Sanitary condition by 0900, A statement to this effect to reach Battalion Headquarters by 0915.

Billeting

Certificates.

-----

Billeting Certificates in duplicate to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 0915 to the effect that there are no claims or complaints against the Troops.

Salvage.

-----

All salvage consisting of old clothes, socks etc., to be dumped as per instructions already issued.

Dress.

---

Troops will march out in Full Marching Order. 1 Blanket rolled in Waterproof Sheet to be in Horse-Shoe shape around pack.  
Water Bottles full.  
All men must be shaved, and in clean condition.  
The second blanket will be rolled in bundles of 10 and dumped as already instructed.

DISCIPLINE

-----

On getting into buses a senior N.C.O. will be in-charge of each bus.  
No one will enter, or being in bus dismount, without direct orders of an Officer.

16/11/1916.

*J. Heane*  
Lieut.  
A/Adjutant 1st. Battalion. A.I.F.

Distribution:-

- Copy No. 1. A. Coy.
- No. 2. B. "
- No. 3. C. "
- No. 4. D. "
- No. 5. War Diary.
- No. 6. File.

18th November 1916  
 Date of Payment 18th November 1916  
 Signature of the Officer making the Payment  
 In the Field.

HOOURS TRAINING

PHYSICAL TRAINING  
 All quick movements - Marching  
 Running - Doubling  
 Games in which all play

0630 and 1600 Sick Parade

0800 - 1130 Bayonet Fighting - Bombing - Musketry -  
 Rifle Drill - Extended Order - Saluting -  
 Attack from trenches - Company Drill

1400 - 1530 Route Marching, Battle Order - Bn. Drill

1600 - 1700 *Officers' class for lectures  
 all officers below rank of Capt*

Bombers under 2/Lieut. W. R. YATES.  
 Bn. and Coy. Signallers under Sgt. DEWAN.  
 Lewis Gunners under 2/Lieut. E. G. WEBB.  
 All Batmen and Coy. Details to be trained.

Short Lectures will be given to the men on :-

Work in Trenches. - Trench Feet. - Form of Attack. -  
 Consolidation of Trenches. - Care of Iron Rations. -  
 Care of Arms and Equipment. - Collection of Salvage.

Companies will pay special attention to the training of N.C.O.'s., and perspective N.C.O.'s.

All Officers must get acquainted with their NKK men, and will be held responsible, if anything is wrong.

Officers must read carefully General Sir W. BIRDWOOD'S letter and Memo, re Trench Feet, and act up to them.

The Training Ground is the ground to the East of the Village, where there are also trenches.

Kit inspections are to be held & kits to be completed without delay, & everything possible is to be done to smarten up the men.

In carrying out the above work, the hardening of the men, and smartening them up, is to be kept in mind.

*for W.V.*

18/11/16

Commandant Battalion

*Handwritten signature and initials*

ACQUITTANCE BOOK (ALL ARMS)

1916

