

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/41

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-23/25/41

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Duplicate

8th Battalion AIF

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
Front Line E.5.a.0.9. Sheet 36a	MAY. 1st	4 am	<p>Battn. defending that portion of Line from E.5.d. to E.6.a. in vicinity of STRAZEELE.</p> <p>Patrol of 1 Off. and 4 other ranks, under 2/Lieut. R.W. Dowling attacked an enemy strong-post and found same garrisoned by an Officer and 6 other ranks. The Officer and 1 man were killed and the remaining four brought back as prisoners. We suffered no casualties.</p> <p>Work of improving Battn. Defences pushed forward during night in accordance with general instructions attached.</p> <p>During daylight, our snipers effectually prevented enemy movement and claim four hits.</p> <p>Battalion Strength:-</p> <table><tr><td>Ration Strength</td><td>38</td><td>Officers</td><td>862</td><td>O.R.</td></tr><tr><td>Effective</td><td>42</td><td>"</td><td>961</td><td>"</td></tr><tr><td>Detached</td><td>4</td><td>"</td><td>99</td><td>"</td></tr></table>	Ration Strength	38	Officers	862	O.R.	Effective	42	"	961	"	Detached	4	"	99	"	Appendix 1
Ration Strength	38	Officers	862	O.R.															
Effective	42	"	961	"															
Detached	4	"	99	"															
	2nd	4.30a.m.	<p>Three officer patrols out in NO MAN'S LAND throughout hours of darkness, but reported enemy well within his own trenches and making no attempt at patrolling.</p> <p>Artillery put down preparation shoot at 4.30 a.m.</p> <p>Day fine. Our aircraft particularly active.</p>																
		11am	<p>Slight shelling of our front line took place at 11 a.m. but without causing casualty or damage.</p>																
	3rd.	4.30am	<p>NO MAN'S LAND patrolled throughout hours of darkness and enemy reported quiet and within his trenches.</p> <p>Artillery put down counter preparation barrage for 30 minutes. Spasmodic shelling by enemy with 77 c.m.'s during night.</p> <p>Wiring and deepening Strong posts pushed on throughout hours of darkness.</p>																
		9 pm	<p>Battn. Operation Order No. 25 in respect of projected relief by 12th A.I. Battn. issued. see</p> <p>Lieut. P.A. Waters, (M.C.) returned from hospital. Lieut P.G. Perkin proceeded to attend</p> <p>XV Corps Gas School.</p>	Appendix ii															
	4th	4.45am	<p>Patrols active during whole of night and found enemy quiet and in his own lines.</p> <p>Counter preparation put down for 10 minutes.</p> <p>Wiring & all necessary work pushed on during hours of darkness.</p>																
		2 pm	<p>Lieut. A.D. Temple (M.C.) proceeded to 12th Battn H.Q. with advance party to arrange billets for Battn. on completion of relief.</p>																
		9 pm	<p>12th Battn. troops arrived and relief in progress and progressing favourably. Enemy quiet.</p>																
		11.15 pm	<p>Relief complete and troops moving to new quarters in RESERVE in accordance with Operation Order, No. 25 - see Appendix ii.</p>	Appendix ii															

353 W.D. 254/454 700,000 5/53 D.D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
at-Line W. 13.a.2.8. Sheet 27 1/20000	4th		Troops were established in Tents and bivs. at W.13.a.2.8. 2nd/Lieut. L.C. McGinn wounded and remaining on duty.	
	5th	3.30p.m. 4.50pm	Troops resting during morning. Inspection of Arms & Equipment and Technical Stores. Violent rainstorm broke and rain continued heavily throughout the night. Church Parade cancelled on account of the weather.	
	6th	7 pm	Day clear. Party of 6 Officers and 200 other ranks proceeded to trench-digging operation in "C" Line under supervision of A.F.E. Officers. 2/Lieut. L.C. McGinn evacuated as result of wounds. Lieut. L.J. Vial resumed duty from 2nd Training Battn. Impromptu open air concert held in Camp.	
	7th	1.30pm 7 pm	Weather fine. Day spent in general cleaning and drying of clothes and equipment. Working party of 6 Officers and 200 other ranks proceeded to trench work on "C" Line defences. Impromptu concert held in Camp grounds.	
	8th	9 am	Weather fine. Working party cancelled. Warning order received that Battn. would be relieved by 92nd Imp. Brigade on 9th inst.	
HONDEGHEM Thursday V.12.b.9.9.	9th		Battn. moved from LE POUPLIER Area to HONDEGHEM. Coys. scattered and living in farms and tents. - 'D' Coy. living in Nisson Huts. Nucleus personnel rejoin Battn. Lieut. L.G. Pitt proceeded to attend XV Corps L.M.G. School; 2/Lieut J. Bourke proceeded to Musketry Course, 2nd/Lt. H.C. Dyer, M.M., to Infantry Course, and 2nd/Lt. R.W. Dowling to Gas Course at same school.	
HONDEGHEM Friday.	10th		Weather fine and warm. Parades carried out as per syllabus. Capt. Campbell, Lieuts. Temple, (M.C.) & Finlayson returned from XV Corps Rest House, St. Omer.	
HONDEGHEM Saturday	11th		Parades (smartening up, rapid loading) carried out. Weather fine and warm. Two footballs procured for men. Lieut. Johnstone, Battn Intelligence Officer went to Line (11th Battn) Battn. H.Q., - returned 9 p.m. C.O. held Orderly Room at 12 noon. Band and Pipe instruments returned from Brigade Dump, Ebblinghem. Lieut P. Perkin returned from Corps Gas School. WISQUES. Every firing long range shrapnel at Balloon near Battn. H.Q.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HONDEGHEM Sunday.	12th	10 am	Church Parade 10 a.m. Weather misty and little rain. (Battn Parade, plus 1 Coy. Aust. Engrs. Brass Band played during same.)	
		11 am	Brigadier Heane visited Battn H.Q. Coy. Commanders came to dinner and conference. 2nd/Lieut. S.W. Young, M.M., proceeded to XV Corps Signalling School.	
	13th		Weather dull. Orders issued for Battn. to move to Front Line in relief of 11th A.I. Battn	Appendix 111.
		1.30 pm	Nucleus personnel proceeded to position in Support in Farm at V.17.c.9.1.	
		2 pm	C.O's Orderly Room held.	
		7 pm	Battn. less nucleus, moved out en route to Front Line. Lieut. A.D. Temple, M.C. evacuated to Hospital. Relief completed without a hitch by 12 mid-night. Coys. disposed as follows:-	
Front Line		1 am	'C' Coy on Right from E.11.c.1.2. to Railway Line at E.11.a.9.7. 'B' Coy on left from Railway Line to E.6.c.00.95. (Railway inclusive to B Coy. 'A' Coy. in Support System from E.4.c.7.4. to E.5.a.2.4. 'D' Coy. in Reserve in billets in Area W. 27. d. Battn H.Q. at E.3.c.0.9. Reg. Aid Post at E.4.d.4.0. Enemy attitude fairly quiet. Trenches very wet and muddy owing to heavy rain. Reconnaissance Patrols under 2nd/Lieuts J. Kennedy and J. Evans, out during night and penetrated to a depth of from 600 to 700 yards, but failed to locate any enemy patrols. S.A.A. Dump established at Battn. H.Q. Brigade Dump in BORRE.	
	14th		Weather greatly improved and trenches drying well. Men in good spirits. Enemy quiet but alert and active with M.Guns. N Enemy pushing forward his wiring as quickly as possible. A large party of the enemy were dispersed during the day by our L.M. Guns on Right of our Right Coy. front. During night, usual protective and reconnaissance patrols patrolled 'No Man's Land' continually. Enemy planes bombed our rear areas.	
	15th		2nd/Lieut. R.W. Dowling returned from XV Corps Gas School. Lieut. F. Hickson, M.C. evacuated to Hospital - sick. Weather fine and warm permitting of good observation. Our planes particularly active over enemy's lines. During night, 2nd/Lieuts. J. Kennedy & J. Evans & D.W. Kennedy took out usual patrols and report enemy alert but not aggressive. Enemy wiring party located by these patrols was dispersed by L.M.G. fire. Rations continue to come forward excellently. Troops having tea, porridge & Bacon for Breakfast & tea and stew for evening meal. Clean socks came forward sufficient for a change for every man.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front Line	May 16th		<p>Day broke clear and warm. There was a slight increase noticeable in enemy's artillery fire throughout the night. Day passed very quietly with our planes always troubling enemy.</p> <p>During night the following fighting patrols went out from our lines with the object of gaining identification. On our Left, Patrol of 12 other ranks under 2nd/Lieut. D.W. Kennedy and on our Centre Front, similar patrol under 2nd/Lieut. J.G. Evans pushed out to a depth of 600 to 700 yards almost to Hun lines without encountering enemy patrols or outposts, but on our Right, a patrol of 12 other ranks under 2nd/Lieut. J. Kennedy after going out some 600 yards saw a German leave a post - evidently to proceed as liason to next post. Lieut. J. Kennedy's party lay in wait for the man but owing to the strong light he saw them whilst still some 20 yards away. The Hun attempted to make off when he was promptly shot at and killed. Immediately on this, firing, heavy Machine Gun fire was opened on the party who hurriedly obtained identifications from the man and withdrew. Papers showed the man to have belonged to the 53rd I.R.</p>	
	17th		<p>Weather still fine and warm. Enemy artillery still continues active.</p>	
	10 am		<p>G.O.C. Division visited Battn H.Q. during the morning. Aircraft particularly active both our own and the enemy's - enemy, as usual, flying very high. Enemy artillery got a direct hit on Battn. H.Q. but failed to inflict any casualties. Men in good spirits. With rations in the evening, were supplies of Cafe au Lait, Sweets and Cigarettes - gifts of the Australian Comforts Fund.</p>	
	11 am		<p>The 5th Battn after an intense bombardment raided enemy trenches and penetrated his Front Line but failed to gain identification.</p>	
	18th	1.10am	<p>Under cover of an Artillery Barrage ordered to create a diversion, two patrols left our lines - No. 1 party - 10 other ranks under 2nd/Lieut J.EVans and No. 2 - 10 other ranks under 2nd/Lieut. D.W. Kennedy.</p> <p>Orders issued covering relief of Battn. by 3rd A.I. Battn. on night of 19/20th inst.</p> <p>Remainder of day quiet. Usual protective and reconnaissance patrols out throughout night</p>	Appendix iv.
	19th		<p>Day fine. Enemy artillery fire again active. Our aircraft very active throughout the day.</p>	
	10 pm		<p>Relief of Battn by 3rd A.I. Battn commenced and being pushed on rapidly. Activity - normal.</p>	
V.11.d.6.4.	11.55 pm		<p>Relief complete, and Battn moving to new area at V.11.d.6.4. (Sheet 27. 1/20,000) near LA BREARDE. Whole of Battn in new camp by 1.45 a.m. Total casualties for tour of duty - 1 other rank wounded.</p> <p>Battn Strength:- Effective Strength 43 Off. 967 Other Ranks. Detached " 13 " 100 " "</p>	
2353 Wt. W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Fords/C. 2118.				



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
V.11.d.6.4. Sheet 27 1/40000	20th		Troops resting during morning. Afternoon devoted to Inspection and cleaning of Arms & Equipment. Weather very close. Battn. team met 101st How. Baty. at Cricket, winning the match by 4 runs. Troops in good health and spirits. Pay drawn (32,000 francs) and troops paid during afternoon and evening.	
	21st		Day very hot and sultry. Following working parties left Camp at 7 a.m. for work as under:- Party of 5 Off. 150 other ranks under Capt. G.E. Johnston proceeded to work on Defences at W.13.b.4.2. Party of 2 Off. 50 other ranks under Lieut. C. Kerr proceeded to work on Defences at V.30.b.9.8. Lieut. W.G.M. Claridge returned from Hospital - posted to 'B' Coy for duty. Inoculation of members of Battn, who had not been done during last 12 months, carried out.	
	22nd		Day close and muggy. Same working parties sent to same work as yesterday. Battn. used Baths at V.11.c.2.5. throughout day and all men bathed and received clean change of underclothing. Received advice of award to Lieut. I.G. Murdoch of Military Cross, also award of Military Medal to No. 5188 Pte F.H. Porter.	
	23rd		Wet, hot and dusty. Usual working parties at tasks as for two previous days. Lieut. J.H. Wicks returned from Hospital. 2nd/Lieut. R.E. Lowday returned from 2nd Training Battn. Two cricket bats and two balls received from Australian Comforts Fund.	
	24th		Weather fine. Working parties supplied as usual. The following officers proceeded to 2nd Army School. - Lieut. C. Kerr (Inf. Course) Lieut. C. Findlay (L.M.G. Course) and Lieut. F.D. Power (Musk. Course) Capt. A.B. Lodge, D.S.O. proceeded to England pending transfer to Indian Army. Orders issued for relief of Battn in SUPPORT POSITION by 12 A.I. Battn. to-morrow as per Appendix Lieut. J.H. Wicks and 40 other ranks proceeded to BORRE for tunnelling duties with Canadian Tunnelling Coy.	V.I.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 36 ^a 140000 SERCUS C.11.c.6.6.	May 26th		Weather fine. Battn relieved in accordance with Operation Order No. 26. March completed without hitch and troops in excellent condition - only two men falling out on 'Line of March' in spite of great heat. Troops billeted in tents at C.11.c.6.6. (Sheet 36a) near SERCUS. 4 bags Australian Mail received and distributed among troops. Strength - Present 34 Officers 889 Other Ranks " Detached 9 " 95 " "	Appendix V ^o
	27th		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus. G.O.C. Brigade visited Parade Ground during morning and afternoon. Capt. A.G. Campbell & 2nd/Lieut J.G. Evans proceeded to 2nd Army L.M.G. School, LE TOUQUET. Battalion Officers' Mess established.	Appendix vi.
	28th		Weather fine. Training being carried on as per Syllabus. Canteen Lorry made available for use of Battn, and proceeded to CALAIS. Pay (32,000 francs) drawn during morning and troops paid. Cinema Hall at SERCUS made available for Battn during evening - two houses, first at 4 p.m., second at 6 p.m.	
	29th		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus being carried on, less time spent for bathing. The following appointments & promotions appeared in A.I.F. List No. 335. Dated 24/5/18. <u>To be 2nd/Lieuts.</u> 3160 Sgt. J.V. Larkin Date 20/5/18 3105 Sgt. E.L. Gilmour M.M. 20/5/18 <u>To be Lieutenants.</u> 2nd/Lieut. A.R. McFadyen 6/5/18 " J.K. Sorrell " " L.C. McGinn " " T.H. Witherden " " A.C. Hall M.M. " " H.C. Dyer M.M. " " R.W. Dowling " " S.W. Young M.M. " " H.G. Whitton " " J. Bourke " " D.W. Kennedy " " J.G. Evans "	

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(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SERCUS	May.			
C.11.c.6.	29th		Divisional Baths were at disposal of Battn all day and troops all bathed - passing through at rate of 80 per hour.	
	30th		Weather fine. Whole of Battn engaged on Cable burying near SERCUS. Leaving Camp for task at 7.20 a.m., 1800 yards of Cable Trench was dug to depth of 6 ft., cable laid & trench filled in. Troops returned in time for midday meal at 12.30 p.m. Battn. Football team defeated 5th Battn team by 11 goals 18 pts. to 4 goals 11 pts.	
	31st		Weather fine. Brigade parade and March Past held during morning at C.9.b.3.6., G.O.C. Division taking salute. During afternoon, Brigade Sports were held on Battn Parade Ground - Battn taking part in same. G.O.Cs. Corps, Division, & Brigade attended at the Sports., - G.O.C. Brigade remaining for Concert in evening. Strength - Present 32 Officers 897 Other Ranks Detached 12 " 95 " "	

*Smithell - Lt-Colonel
Commanding 8th Batta A.I.F.*

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(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Headquarters,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
1st May, 1918.

WIRING. All line Coys must put out wire to-night in front of posts.

STRONG POSTS. The strong posts in front of 'B' Coy's left flank must be completed to-night and made habitable for men during day. This post, alike the forward Right post of 'D' Coy, must be occupied continually. Fascines and timber must be carried from the ruined building near 'B' Coy H.Q. to raise the trench floor sufficiently high to prevent soakage rising; timber may also be used to assist in raising the parapet.

PATROLS. Patrols will go out again tonight from each Coy. to gain touch with the enemy, and if possible, to inflict casualties. In each case these must be Officer's patrols and of picked soldiers, not more than 10 all ranks, they must take every care to guard against surprise, and will be dressed as laid down in General Instructions of 30/4/18.

WORKING PARTIES. Yesterday the G.O.C. Brigade came across a large working party of from 40 to 50 men working closely bunched up. On asking who was in charge, a 2nd/Lieut. of the Field Coy. stated that he was and afterwards an Infantry Officer said he brought the party over and handed them over to the Engineer.

Brigade Orders lay down that all working parties are to be under their own Officers, and the Engineers are simply for advice as regards the work.

Orders have also been given that men are only to work in small parties, and if an officer works his party, as the one in question yesterday, where heavy shelling was likely to occur, he is not fit to be an officer.

If large casualties occur to working parties and on enquiry being made, it is found that the officer is at fault, he will be Court-Martialed.

(Signed) J.W. Mitchell

.....Lt. Colonel.
Commanding 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copy No.	To whom	Time	Method
1.	C. O.	9 p.m.	Runner
2.	'A' Coy	"	"
3.	'B' "	"	"
4.	'C' "	"	"
5.	'D' "	"	"
6.	War Diary.		

OPERATION ORDER NO. 25.

Headquarters,
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
3rd May, 1918.

Reference Map: Sheets 27 S.E.
& 36a N.E., 1/20,000

RELIEF. The 8th Battn. will be relieved in the line by the 12th Battn. on night of 4/5th inst., completion of relief the 8th Battn. will move to position in Reserve evacuated by the 12th Battn.

ORDER OF RELIEF. The 8th Battalion is disposed in line as follows from Right to Left:
'A', 'B' and 'D' Coys. 'C' Coy. in Close Support.
The 12th Battn will take over the line as under from Right to Left:-
'A', 'C' and 'D' Coys; with 'B' Coy. in Close Support.

MOVE Upon completion of relief the 8th Battalion will move to position in Reserve vacated by the 12th Battn. at W.13.a.2.8.

ROUTE. The 8th Battalion will move as relieved by platoons each in charge of an Officer to above location, via the most direct route. The whole area is known intimately to all Officers, and no route will be followed should hostile shelling commence. STRAZEELE and PRADELLES must be avoided.

GUIDES. 1 Guide per Platoon and 1 per Coy. H.Q. will be supplied by each Coy. and will meet incoming units at N.28.a.4.3. at 9 p.m. and proceed from there overland direct to line positions avoiding roads. All guides must be chosen men and must be clear as to the unit of the relieving Battn. they are to guide into position.

TRENCH & AREA STORES. All Trench and Area Stores will be checked and handed over to incoming Unit and receipts taken in triplicate, these receipts to be handed into Battn H.Q. upon arrival at new destination. These stores consist of S.O.S. Signals, Ground Flares, S.A.A., Bombs, Rifle Grenades, Food Containers, Petrol Tins, Trench Covers, Picks and Shovels, etc.

MAPS. All maps and air photos of value to the incoming unit in connection with the enemy defences, his attitude, our attitude, artillery activity, work in hand, wiring, etc., will be given, and no officer will leave until he is absolutely certain that his relieving number knows all that he knows of the sector, and is satisfied with his relief.

PROTECTIVE SCREENS. A small protective screen will be put out in front of each post during relief to guard against surprise and will not be withdrawn until relief of each post is complete. All ranks must be warned of these screens out in front.

SILENCE. The utmost silence possible must be maintained throughout relief and no undue talking or rattling of equipment permitted - in many parts of the line the enemy is close to us, and any indication of relief conveyed to him, will certainly result in heavy casualties to our line. During the whole relief and move to and from the line men must ~~be~~ not be permitted to bunch unduly together.

TECHNICAL STORES. All Technical Stores such as Verrey Pistols, Cup Attachments, Periscopes, Telephones and all signalling gear, Machine Guns and Magazines will be brought out and carried by each Platoon. Each man will bring out 220 rounds of S.A.A.

COMPLETION OF RELIEF. Completion of relief will be wired to Battn H.Q. immediately relief is effected by using the code word "SERENE."

INSTRUCTIONS. Upon Battn moving into Reserve all ranks are to be warned that they are on no account whatever to move from the Camp allotted to the Battn. The Battalion is in Reserve and as such is liable at any moment to be called out to reinforce or to man the reserve positions. Alarm posts will be allotted, Gas and Aeropland Guards Posted, A.A. Lewis Guns mounted and manned, and Company Commanders will report in person to C.O. when this has been done.

ADVANCE PARTIES.

An advance party consisting of Lieut. TEMPLE, M.C. and 1 N.C.O. per Company and 1 f om H.Q. will proceed to location of new Camp at 2 p.m. to-morrow 4th inst. Lieut. TEMPLE will be responsible for the allotment of billets to Companies and the placing of N.C.O. Guides to direct Coys. to same. These N.C.O.'s must leave the line before daylight on the 4th inst. and will report at Battalion H.Q. for instructions.

MEALS .

A hot meal will be ready for all ranks upon arrival in new area. Blankets will be provided by the Q.M.

REVEILLE.

Reveille for the morning of the 5th will be at 8 a.m., and breakfast at 8.30 a.m.

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

(Signed) A.B. Lodge , Capt & Adjt.
8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copy No.	To Whom	Time	Method.
1	C. O.	9 p.m.	Runner
2	Adjutant	"	"
3	'A' Coy.	"	"
4	'B' "	"	"
5	'C' "	"	"
6	'D' "	"	"
7	Nucleus Battn.	"	"
8	Q.M. & T.O.	"	"
9	12th Battn	"	"
10	Lieut. Temple (M.C.)	"	"

Ref. Map sheets
27 S.E. & 36a N.E.

BATTN OPERATION ORDER NO. 26.

Headquarters.
8th Battalion, A.I.F.
May 12th 1918.

RELIEF. The 8th Battn will relieve the 11th Battalion in the line on night of 13th/14th May, 1918.

DISPOSITION. The disposition of the 11th Battn. at present is:-

Right line Coy	'B' Coy.
Left Line "	'C' "
Support Coy	'A' "
Reserve Coy	'D' "

The disposition of 8th Battn after relief will be
Battn. H.Q. at E.3.c.0.7.
Right Line Coy H.Q. at E.10.c.2.6.
Left Line Coy H.Q. at E.11.a.4.9.
Support Coy H.Q. at E. 4.c.9.8.
Reserve Coy H.Q. at W.27.d.7.5.
Reg. Aid Post at E.4.d.4.0.

GUIDES

Guides for Front Line Coys. will meet relieving Coys as follows
Right Coy. at Battn H.Q. E.3.c.0.8.
Left Coy at end of road E.4.d.4.8.
Reserve Coys. will march direct ~~thru~~ to their new positions.

MOVE.

Coys. will move by route march from present billets in the following order :-

'B'
'H.Q. ('
'C'
'A' and 'D' Coys.

300 yards interval between platoon and 10 minutes interval between Coys.

'B' Coy will move at 7 p.m.

ROUTE.

The following route will be used:-

From Coy. billets to V.15.d.1.5. to Cross roads V.16b.8.4. to V.23.d.1.6. to bridge at V.24.b.4.0. thence by track to farm at V.24.c.8.4. thence by road to E.1.a.0.5. to W.25.d.7.4. to E.1.b.8.7 to E.2.b.5.5. and thence across to country to position where guides have been arranged for.

RATIONS

Rations for 14th, will be drawn before they move from present position. Wet ration will be sent up on morning of 14th. Coy Cookers will be located as follow:-

'A' & 'B' - at farm E.3.b.4.5.
'C' & 'D' - at 'D' Coy H.Q.

Cooking will be done at night and rations will be sent up twice daily at approx. 2.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m.

Rations will be carried to front line Coys. as follow:

Right Coy by 'A' Coy.
Left Coy by 'B' Coy.

Dry rations will be made up by Q.M. Staff in sand-bags by posts, properly labelled and sent to Support and Reserve Coys. H.Q.

DRESS.

Each man will carry 170 rds. S.A.A. respirator, Great-coat, W.P. Sheet, 24 hours iron rations. Any surplus S.A.A. will be returned to Q.M. Store by 10 a.m. to-morrow.

BLANKETS & PACKS.

All blankets rolled in bundles of 10, properly marked, will be returned to Q.M. Store at 11 a.m. to-morrow. Blankets for 'A' & 'D' COYS. will be carried to Coys' H.Q. by ration limbers on morning of 14th inst.

Packs will be stacked at Coy. H.Q. by mid-day to-morrow.

REPORT.

Coys. will report completion of relief by wiring code word "SERENE".

WORK. Whilst the Battn is in the forward area, work will be allotted as follows :-

- (A) Line Coys. connecting and wiring front line post
- (B) Support and Reserve Coys. - Ration parties, connecting and wiring of support line posts.

STORES. All technical stores will be handed in.

All maps, plans of work, defence scheme, and information of value, all S.O.S. Signals, flares, trench and area stores will be taken over and receipts given. Two copies of these receipts will be sent to Battn H.Q. by dawn of 14th inst.

SKETCHES Coy. Commanders' Sketches of Disposition will be forwarded to Battn H.Q. by dawn on 14th inst.

GENERAL. All bandsmen will be attached to Reserve Coy. while the Battn is in the LINE. Instruments will be placed and packed at Battn H.Q. by 4 p.m.

Men selected for nucleus will be held ready to move from Camp at any time after 1 p.m. to-morrow, - On orders received from Battn H.Q.

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

(Signed) A.B. Lodge Capt & Adjt.
'8th' Battalion, A. I. F.

Copy No.	To Whom	Time	Method.
1.	C. O.	11.15 p.m.	D.R.
2.	Adjutant	do.	"
3.	'A' Coy	"	"
4.	'B' "	"	"
5.	'C' "	"	"
6.	'D' "	"	"
7.	2nd A.I. Bde	"	"
8.	11 th Battn A.I.F.	"	"
9.	Sig. Officer	"	"
10.	Battn Q.M.	"	"
11.	Transport Officer	"	"
12/14	War Diary	"	"
15.	File	"	"

OPERATION ORDER NO. 65.

Copy No.....

Ref. Sheets 27 S.E.
& 36a N.E. 1/20,000.

Headquarters,
8th Battalion.A.I.F
18/5/18.

- RELIEF.** The 8th Battn will be relieved in forward system by 3rd Btn. on night of 19/20th inst.
The 3rd Btn. Coys. will be disposed in same order as 8th Btn. Coys. 'C' Coy. Right Line. 'B' Coy. Left line, 'A' Coy support, 'D' Coy, Reserve.
- GUIDES.** Guides from each platoon post will meet 3rd Battn. Coys as follow
- to be at meeting point at 9.30 p.m.
B, D, and A Coys. at corner of road, E.2.b.5.5.
C Coy at Battn H.Q. E.3.c.0.8.
Guides to 'B' and 'C' Coys will be sent to 'D' H.Q. at daylight on 19th inst.
- RATIONS.** Dry rations will be drawn at new position. Evening meal will be sent forward as usual.
A hot meal will be provided at new position on morning of 20th inst.
- STORES.** All maps, photographs, defence schemes, plans of work, and documents of value to the incoming unit, all S.O.S. Signals, flares food containers, water tins, trench and area stores will be handed over and receipts obtained from advance parties of relieving Battn. Two copies of these receipts will be sent to Btn. H.Q. as they are signed by advance parties.
- COMPLETION OF RELIEF.** Completion of relief will be notified to this office by wiring the code word 'BLIMEY.'
- MOVE.** On relief, 8th Battn. will move to Camp at V.11.d.6.4. Coys. will move independently, with platoons at intervals. Guides to new position will be met at corner of road, V.24.b.9.2.
Coy. Commanders horses will be with L.G. limbers.
- LEWIS GUNS.** Limbers for Lewis Guns will be at position as follows:- They will move with Coys. under command of Coy. Commanders. 'A' & 'D' Coys. at Coy. Cookers. 'B' and 'C' Coys at E.1.b.8.7.
- BLANKETS.** 'A' & 'D' Coys. blankets will be carried on their L.G. Limbers.
- REPORTS.** On completion of move, Battn H.Q. will be at V.11.d.6.4. Coy Commanders will report in person when complete in new position.
- GENERAL.** The new Camp consists of tents and shelters, and is fairly comfortable. Baths will be available for Btn. on 20th inst. Details later.

(Signed)

A.B..Lodge.....Capt & Adjt.
8th Battalion, A. I. F.

Copy No.	To whom	Method
1.	C. O.	
2.	Adjutant.	
3.	'A' Coy.	D.R.
4.	'B' "	"
5.	'C' "	"
6.	'D' "	"
7.	3rd Battn	"
8.	1st Btn. K.O.S.B.	-----
9.	War Diary.	-----

SECRET.

Appendix V

OPERATION ORDER No. 26

APPENDIX. V

14

Ref. Sheet 27 & 36a

I-40000

25-5-18.

Headquarters.

8th Battalion A.I.F.

1. Batta. will be relieved from present support position to-morrow 26th inst by Batta of 3rd Bde. and will proceed by route march to Reserve Area taking over billets at present occupied by 12th Batta. A.I.F.
2. Batta. which will march in rear of Bde. H.Q. , will move in following order:-
 - H.Qrs.
 - "A" Coy
 - "B" Coy
 - "C" Coy
 - "D" Coy.
3. Batta. will pass starting point (V16 B.2.1.) at 2.p.m. Coys. are to be fallen in to move out of Camp at 1.15. p.m.
4. Batta. Transport will move in rear of Batta.
5. The following distances will be maintained between units on the march:-
 - Between Coys.)- 100 yards.
 - " Batts. - 500 yards.
 - " Unit and its Transport - 100 yards.
6. Halts will be of 10 minutes duration and at 10 minutes to each clock hour
7. Packs will be stacked by Coys. near the Main Road behind the huts of present camp by 8.50.a.m. ready for Motor Transport.
Orderly Officer will arrange to have a loading party of 20 men from Outy Coy. on hand to load same without delay.
8. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 and stacked with packs at same time.
9. Officers valises will be rolled and ready for transport by 10. a.m.
10. Dress for march will be Fighting Order with W.P. Sheet rolled on back of Belt. Water bottles to be filled before marching out.
11. "A" Coy will detail an N.C.O. and "B" "C" & "D" Coys. 1 man each to accompany packs on motor lorries, and act as guard and unloading party.
12. All Area Stores will be handed over to incoming unit and receipts in duplicate obtained for same.
13. During the morning all huts, lines and grounds in vicinity are to be cleaned up and Coys. will render the usual to Batta. H. Q. before marching out that Coy. lines are left in a clean and satisfactory condition.
14. "D" Coy. will detail a rear party of 1 Officer and 10 O/Ranks to march in rear of Batta. to collect ~~and~~ stragglers etc.
15. Marching Out States will be rendered to Batta. H.Q. by 12. Noon to-morrow.
16. Coys. will report to Batta. H.Q. when ready to move and also when established in new billets.

Distribution.

C. O.
 "A" Coy
 "B" Coy
 "C" Coy
 "D" Coy
 Q.M. & T.O.
 War Diary.

.....Capt & Adjt.
 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

(COPY)
SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR RESERVE AREA.

8th BATTALION, A. I. F.

Day	Morning 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Afternoon 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Evening.
1st Day	Inspection & Smartening up movements by Battn. Squad Drill & Handling of arms. Saluting Gas Drill. Short lecture by Platoon Commanders on 'Care of Arms' Guards and Sentries. <u>Musketry.</u> (Fire orders and control. 15 min. Rapid loading (exercises with dummies. Physical Training.	'A' Coy - Firing practice (Grouping & Application) on Range <u>Remainder of Battn.</u> Recreational Training.	Patrol practice by all H.Q. & Coy. Scouts after dark under Battn. Intell. Officer.
2nd Day	Inspection and handling of arms by Battn. Platoon Drill. <u>Musketry.</u> (Indication and recognition of targets (Muscle Exercises. 15 min. Rapid Loading (with dummies. Gas Drill. 'Sentry GO' Drill. Platoon Attack on Enemy Strong post.	'B' Coy.- Firing practice on Rifle Range.(Group. & Application)by <u>Remainder of Battn.-</u> Recreational Training.	Lecture to all N.C.C. by Major Traill, D.S.O. M.C. on 'March discipline & 'Night Marching.'
3rd Day	Inspection and Battn Drill. Route March (in fight. order) by Coys. During march, Coys. will be practised in forming artillery formation rapidly and also lining hedges, banks, etc. and opening fire.	'C' Coy.- Firing practice on Rifle Range (Group. & Application) <u>Remainder of Battn.-</u> Recreational Training.	Battalion Camp Concert.
4th Day	Inspection & Battn. Drill. Gas Drill <u>Musketry.-</u> Rapid loading, Aiming & Firing Exercises. Company Drill. Coy. attack practice. (One objective) (General & Special idea to be notified later)	'D' Coy- Firing practice on Rifle Range (Group. & Applic.) <u>Remainder of Battn.-</u> Recreational Training.	Lecture by Battn. Commander to all Officers on 'Battn. as Rear Guard.'
5th Day	Battn. Drill. - Bayonet Fighting. <u>Musketry.-</u> Judging distance. Loading aiming & Firing Ex. Coys. Route March, to conclude with Coy. attack practice. (Operation orders will be issued previous day.)	Firing practice for indifferent shots of all Coys. <u>Remainder of Battn.-</u> Recreational Training.	Boxing & Wrestling Competitions.
6th Day	Battn Drill. - Physical Training. Route March by Battn. & Battn Tactical Exercise. (Operation Order to be issued previous day)	Half-holiday.	Concert & Finals in Boxing & Wrestling Competitions

(signed) R.J. Wallis, Capt. & Adjt.
8th Battn, A. I. F.

(COPY)

Appendix 6
Headquarters,
8th Battalion, A. I. F.SPECIALIST TRAINING.

Lewis Gunners. Lewis Gunners will do all Battn. and Coy. Drill and also all Route Marches. They will devote all other parade hours to specialist training, carrying out Gas Drill and handling and firing of L.G. with masks on, under direct supervision of Battn. L. Gun Officer.

The Battn L.G. Officer will also take extra squads from each Coy. in turn and instruct them in elementary Lewis Gunne until every man of the Battn has a working knowledge of L.Gun

Signallers.

H.Q. and Coy Signallers will do Battn. Drill, Coy. Drill and Route marches with Battn., but all other parade hours will be devoted to Specialist Training under Battn. Sig. Officer. Gas Drill will also be done by Signallers under Sig. Officer.

Scouts.

Battn. Scouts will carry out training as per Brigade Syllabus, but will do Battn. and Gas Drill with the Battn.

Bombing.

A bombing class will be formed under a selected officer and Sergt. Arnott, G. Coys. will send a certain number of men by day to this class for instruction in the use of No. 36 Grenade and bombing generally. This class will carry on both morning and afternoon; and all other ranks of Battn. must pass through same during the 6 days' training.

Stretcher-Bearers.

Stretcher-bearers will parade for Battn. Drill and will afterwards carry on 'First Aid' Instruction under A.M.C. N.C.O. They will carry out as well Physical training daily from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. under P.T. instructor - to be detailed by 'A' Coy.

Signed - R.J. Wallis, Capt & Ad
8th Battalion, A. I. F.



TRANSPORT SUMMARY FOR MAY 1918.

At the beginning of the month, the Transport was situated near HAZEBROUCK - the battalion being in the line at the time.

On the 4th of May, the Transport moved to V.9.a. remaining there until the 26th inst, when it shifted to V.14.c.

Upon the brigade moving back to the reserve area, the transport accompanied the Battn. ~~th~~ to the present site near SERCUS.

During the month, we were constantly employed in carrying rations and water, and while the Battn was in the line, our S.A.A. wagons 'stood to' at the brigade dump.

A start was made to repaint the vehicles and a couple of limbered wagons have been completed.

Two heavy draughts were taken on strength from Mobile to replace those evacuated last month.

There were no animals evacuated during May.

31/5/18.

.....Lieut.
Asst. Transport Officer, 8th Battn.