

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/26/40

**Title:** 9th Infantry Battalion

April 1918



AWM4-23/26/40

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

APRIL

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*B. Mansfield*  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*G. Swain* Lt-Col  
Commanding 9th. Battalion.

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<del>HOLLIBAKE</del>	1/4/18		Our artillery active. Enemy artillery very quiet. 140 Gas Bombs were projected into enemy position at LOCK 5.	<i>Mantel</i>
	2/4/18		Inter-Company relief carried out without incident. Nothing unusual happened on our front. Lieut. S. SHAW rejoined from U.K. Leave.	<i>Mantel</i>
LA CLYTTE	3-4-18		Relieved by 11th. Royal Scots, 12th. Royal Scots, and 5th. Cameron Highlanders, and returned to MURRUMBIDGEE CAMP, LA CLYTTE, arriving there at about 6 a.m. 4th. instant.	
CAESTRE	4-4-18		Battalion moved by Bus to CAESTRE on the afternoon of 4th. instant, the Transport Section moving independently by road. Battalion H.Q. now located in CAESTRE with Companies and Transport on the outskirts of the Town, billeted in Farm Houses, etc. Major (Temporary (Lieut./Col.) J. NEWMAN (from 11th. Battalion) assumed command of the Battalion on 4th. inst. Lieut. H. WILSON evacuated "Gassed" on 3rd. instant.	<i>Mantel</i>
	5-4-18		Today spent in re-organisation, bathing etc. Each man being supplied with a clean change of underclothing. G.O.C. 3rd. A.I. Bde. lectured to all Officers of the Battalion at 10 a.m. on style of warfare likely to be encountered during present SOMME operations and methods to be employed. The undermentioned Officers joined the Battalion:-  Lieut. (Hon. Capt.) W.G. PENROSE (Reinforcements) Lieut. E.J. CHESTER (from Hosp). Lieut. C.E. PICKFORD (from Hosp.) 2/Lieut. C.M. WRENCH from Cadet Bn. " T.J. SHEEDY do " J.J. CHAPMAN do  Lieut. C.O. THOMPSON (from the Bde. Mining Coy.) evacuated to Hospital. Capt. S.H. LAWRENCE D.S.O. evacuated to Hospital.	
CAESTRE AMIENS	6-4-18		Battalion entrained at CAESTRE at about 6.30 a.m. arriving at ST. ROCH Station, AMIENS, at about 4 p.m. A cup of hot cocoa was provided by the Y.M.C.A. for each man on detraining after which the Battalion, marched about 5 miles to ARGOEUVES. The majority of the Officers are billeted in the CHATEAU which was unoccupied and men are billeted in the Village.	<i>Crew #122</i> <i>Mantel</i>
	7-4-18 to 8-4-18		Occupied in training and reorganisation.	<i>Mantel</i>

# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLESSELLES	9-4-18		The Battalion moved at 1 p.m. by route march to FLESSELLES a distance of approximately 5 miles. The accommodation in this village is very limited and both Officers and men are somewhat crowded.	Order #124
	10-4-18		Tramping and organisation carried out.	* Training
	11-4-18		Training and organisation continued. The undermentioned officers joined the Battalion from Reinforcements -- 2/Lieut. THOMAS W.J. - 2/Lieut. FRANCIS C.W. - 2/Lieut. H.N. WALKER- 2/Lt. W.F. SMITH.	* Training described in Appendix # B.F. Cross country run of 2 miles from day C Company Order #125
	12-4-18		Left FLESSELLES at 11 a.m. and proceeded by route march to AMIENS, where the Battalion bivouaced on the outskirts of the Town. Enemy planes bombed the vicinity of the Bivouac but no damage resulted.	Order #125
	13-4-18		Left bivouac at 2 a.m. and proceeded towards ST. ROCH STATION where the Battalion was due to entrain at 4.47 a.m. Owing to breaks in the line caused by enemy bombing and the congestion of traffic, however, trains were leaving much behind times laid down. The Battalion therefore rested in BOULEVARD and park nearby and eventually entrained at about 11.30 a.m.	
HAZEBROUCK	14-4-18		After a slow journey arrived at HONDEGHEM siding, near HAZEBROUCK at about 3 a.m. and proceeded by route march to approx. D.6.A.3.5. (Sheet 36A Edition 6) east of HAZEBROUCK. The Battalion is now in Divisional Reserve. All ranks are under cover in Farmers houses which have been vacated by civilians and all are quite comfortable. The following Officers and 92 other ranks were to-day sent back to MOREBECQUE as Battalion Reserve and now form part of Bde. Nucleus Bn.:-  Major H. JAMES M.C. - Capt. J.F. McNAUGHT - Lieut. T.W. WALKER - Lieut S. SHAW - Lieut. B.L. PUMFREY - Lieut. E. GORDON - 2/Lieuts W.F. SMITH - H.N. WALKER, W.J. THOMAS C.W. FRANCIS - Major J. MAC BAIN (Chaplain). Lieut. E.H. BARTLEY joined from 1st. Div. Artillery	
	15-4-18		2 Parties each of 1 Officer and 12 men were detailed to collect stray cattle which had been left behind when the area was evacuated by civilians. Quite a number were got	Mantel Cath 20

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(A7833) Wt W809/M1672 350,000 4/47 Sch 52a Focus/C/2118/14

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or  
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	15-4-18		together in a fenced field and were eventually taken over by Military Police under instructions from A.P.M. Capt. H.T. YOUNG M.C. Evacuated to Hospital Sick. Nothing further of interest occurred during the day	<i>4 Limbers of clothing taken in farmhouse.</i>															
BORRE	16-4-18		Battalion changed position to BORRE (Approximately W.19C.9.8. - Sheet 27 - Edition 3) and is here responsible for the Divisional left sub-sector defences. Nothing of interest to report. Weather - Dull.	<i>Order 126</i>															
	17-4-18		<p><u>LOCATION:</u> BORRE. Sheet 27 - W.19.C.9.8.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Battalion Strength:</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Other Ranks.</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Present</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">621</td> </tr> <tr> <td>With Nucleus Bn.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black;">49</td> <td style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">817</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>ARRIVALS.</u> Nil      <u>DEPARTURES.</u> Killed - 4 other ranks. Wounded - 11 do Sick - 1 do</p>	<u>Battalion Strength:</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	Present	29	621	With Nucleus Bn.	11	96	Detached	9	100		49	817	
<u>Battalion Strength:</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>																	
Present	29	621																	
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	49	817																	
			Enemy shelled BORRE incessantly from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Taking into consideration the number of shells fired the damage done was slight and the Battalion was fortunate inasmuch that only 15 casualties were sustained - 4 killed and 11 wounded. The remainder of the day was fairly quiet. Our own artillery in the vicinity of BORRE was active throughout the day.																
	18-4-18		Companies engaged on construction of defensive works. During the day our artillery was very active, while the enemy's was only normal. Snow fell during the night. At 9 p.m. a composite Brigade (the 92nd.) of the 31st. Division took over our defences and we remained in same billets waiting orders for a move forward																

*[Handwritten signature]*

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BORRE	19-4-18		Early this morning the enemy shelled the billets occupied by "A" - "B" and "D" Companies making it necessary for all ranks to vacate billets for open fields. Lieut. YOUNG was wounded and evacuated. Lieut. R.H. BROWN was evacuated sick.	
METEREN-BECQUE			The Battalion left BORRE about dusk marching by companies via ROUGE CROIX - FLETTRE to relieve the 321st. FRENCH REGIMENT in the support system of the METEREN-BECQUE front. Relief was completed without incident. After relief an extension of trench was dug and completed and camouflaged by daylight. The Battalion is accommodated in trenches ready for action while a few details are living in farmhouses and barns. Map location of Battalion H.Q. X.2.C.2.3. - Sheet 27. "A" and "B" Companies are in forward positions from X.8.C.2.3. to X.8.B.9.5. "C" and "D" Companies are in supporting positions from X.7.B.7.8. to X.2.C.8.3. The transport lines are at Q.25.C.1.8.	Order 127
	20-4-18		Owing to enemy observation all movement is restricted by day, the men being allowed to sleep. Improvement to defences and wiring is carried out during the night. Hot meals are served at 8.30 p.m. and 3.30 a.m. Tea is provided at midnight. This is carried from a rear cook-house under company arrangements. In daylight there are no fires so men subsist on dry rations. Our artillery fairly active today. Enemy artillery showed a slight increase shelling and firing farmhouses in the back areas. Weather- Cloudy but not cold. Our planes very active during the day.	
	21-4-18		Work continued on defensive systems during the night. Weather- Cool and cloudy. All ranks are methodically treating their feet for prevention of trench foot.	
	22-4-18		Our artillery active. Enemy very quiet. Both our planes and the enemy's took advantage of the very clear morning and were very active for some hours, although they had to fly high on account of antiaircraft guns. Tonight our front system was extended to the BECQUE at X.13.B.1.1. so as to cover the Brigade front. "A" Company now occupy from X.8.C.7.4. to X.13.B.1.1. while "B" Company extend from X.8.B.4.6. to X.8.C.7.4. At about 9 p.m. very heavy artillery barrage on our left, probably that part of the line held by the FRENCH. While this was in operation enemy shelled roads behind our support line - Casualties 5 other ranks wounded.	M. H. ...

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
METEREN- BECQUE Sector	23-4-18		A very clear day which was the cause of general activity. Enemy aeroplanes flying fairly low over our lines during the morning. At about midday enemy suddenly opened up intense bombardment on open field between our front and support system. No damage was done although several shells fell on our support line and close to rear billet occupied by Bn. H.Q. details. Hot meal arrived at 8.30 p.m. and immediately afterwards companies moved forward to relieve the 12th. Battalion. During relief enemy shelled incessantly with light guns causing 11 casualties in other ranks. Relief completed at 11.55 p.m. At 12 midnight the two flank companies moved out in accordance with orders, "D" Company getting on to the RED line and keeping in touch with the left flank battalion.	Order #12
	24-4-18		"C" Company in the centre were unable to immediately gain their objective on account of the great number of Machine Guns posted in houses, hedges etc. where it was difficult to dislodge them. The O.C. asked for heavy barrage but it was considered inadvisable on account of the close proximity of our own troops. Stokes guns were used with satisfactory results. "B" Company on the right had to keep its left flank back slightly until "C" Company came up at about 2 o'clock. At this time we were well over the red line at all points. "A" Company on the extreme right moved out at 2 o'clock to connect with 10th. Battalion on the far side South of METEREN, but had only gone about 30 yards when they were under cross fire from enemy machine guns. At this stage orders came through from Brigade to establish red line as the mopping up parties in the town had not been as successful as expected and that the day was beginning to dawn. <u>Casualties-</u> killed.	Order #130
			<u>Killed</u> 11 O.Ranks	
			<u>Wounded.</u> 32 Other Ranks.	
			Lieut. A.W. WHEATLEY	
	25-4-18		Battalion Strength now as follows:- Present with Unit-29 <u>Officers</u> 484 <u>O. Ranks.</u> Detached (including those with Nucleus Bn.) 18 47	231 715.
			Very misty until about 11 a.m. when it became quite clear. During the early morning "B" and "C" Companies withdrew their forward protective posts slightly and reorganised new posts to make a continuous line.	

*[Handwritten signature]*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
	25-4-18		<p>Received message from 1st. Divisional Headquarters conveying greetings to all comrades of peninsular days. Replied reciprocating. At 9 a.m. enemy opened up heavy barrage round "B" H.Q. and "C" Coy's front system of posts. Only 3 other ranks wounded which was very light for such a heavy barrage.</p>													
	26-4-18		<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Battalion Strength-</u></td> <td><u>Officers</u></td> <td><u>Other Ranks.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present with Unit</td> <td>30</td> <td>511</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td>19</td> <td>251</td> </tr> </table> <p>Lieut. H. FINTER M.C. (from Hospital Gassed) and 32 Other Ranks marched in from Base. Lieut. H. FINTER remained with Nucleus Battalion and the party of 32 other ranks were sent forward to the line under 2/Lieut. W.F. SMITH.</p> <p>Misty up till about midday. At about 8.30 a.m. the O.C. "B" Company from behind a hedge saw a man walking behind the line in the mist and waited until he approached to within a few yards, when he noticed him to be a German Officer. He at once halted and captured the German who explained that he had been patrolling and had lost his way in the fog. Apparently he entered the line on the next Brigade frontage <sup>on our right</sup>.</p> <p>Front very quiet until 3 p.m. when enemy commenced searching for 18 pounder battery near cookhouse. One casualty. About 4 p.m. a short gas bombardment by the enemy over our lines. All precautions taken. No casualties.</p> <p>Another attempt to capture METEREN was intended tonight, but cancelled.</p>	<u>Battalion Strength-</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	Present with Unit	30	511	Detached	19	251				
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	27-4-18		<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Battalion Strength-</u></td> <td><u>Officers</u></td> <td><u>Other Ranks.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present</td> <td>30</td> <td>512</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td>19</td> <td>230</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>49</u></td> <td><u>742</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Very misty again this morning. Enemy aeroplane flying very low over our lines for about half an hour. Our A.A. Lewis Guns drove him off. This plane evidently intended to bomb our line because as he flew away he dropped a bomb about 10 yards from one of his own outposts. All quiet until 6 p.m. when the enemy shelled Battalion H.Q. but fortunately we had no casualties. Our Intelligence Officer and artillery O.P. had had some rare shooting at the Chateau with a special 4.5 howitzer. The shooting was excellent and after demolishing the chateau which was a very strong enemy machine gun post, a number of rounds were dropped right on to different parties of Huns who were taking cover behind hedges in the vicinity</p>	<u>Battalion Strength-</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	Present	30	512	Detached	19	230		<u>49</u>	<u>742</u>	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
	27-4-18		of the Chateau. Our snipers had excellent shooting while this was on. During the night all was particularly quiet, especially about the Chateau which is usually particularly active with Machine Gun fire. Light rain fell from about 8 to 9 p.m. Representatives from 3rd. Aust. Infy. Battalion arrived at about 9.30 p.m. as Advance party for relief.													
	28-4-18		<p><u>Strength of Battalion.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Officers</u></td> <td><u>Other Ranks.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present with Bn.</td> <td>30</td> <td>506</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td><u>19</u></td> <td><u>228</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>49</td> <td>734</td> </tr> </table> <p>Several targets were engaged through us by Howitzers and Trench Mortars during the morning. First company of the 3rd. Battalion arrived at about 11 p.m. the delay being caused by the enemy shelling and setting fire to the village of COURTE CROIX with incendiary shells.</p>		<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	Present with Bn.	30	506	Detached	<u>19</u>	<u>228</u>		49	734	
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	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>														
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	30-4-18		<p>Another cloudy day.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Battalion Strength -</u></td> <td><u>Officers</u></td> <td><u>Other Ranks.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Present with Bn.</td> <td>30</td> <td>505</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached</td> <td><u>19</u></td> <td><u>219</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>49.</td> <td>724</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Battalion Strength -</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>	Present with Bn.	30	505	Detached	<u>19</u>	<u>219</u>		49.	724	
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(A7883) Wt W8c9/M1672 550,000 4/17 Sch 52a Forms/C/2118/14

*Manuel...*

**WAR DIARY**  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOUTH BORRE	30-4-18		<p>Company Commanders devoted the morning to reorganising platoons. The whole Battalion went through the newly erected baths where they all had a clean change of underclothing. During the last three days all officers have reconnoitred ground covering defence scheme.</p> <p>At 5 a.m. this morning the enemy commenced shelling the billet and surroundings occupied by the Regimental transport and Q.M. personnel. At about 7.30 a.m. a direct hit was made, 7 other ranks being wounded and evacuated.</p> <p>The shelling ceased about midday and transport and Quartermaster's store moved to new locations.</p>	

*Mansfield*

WAR DIARY  
of  
9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION  
For  
APRIL

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	<u>Subject.</u>
1.	Battalion Secret Order dated 3rd. April, 1918.
2.	Battalion Secret Order No. 123.
3.	Battalion Secret Order No. 124.
4.	Battalion Secret Order No. 125.
5.	Battalion Secret Order No. 126
6.	Battalion Secret Order No. 127
7.	Battalion Secret Order No. 129
8.	Battalion Secret Order No. 130
9.	Battalion Secret Order No. 131

SECRET.

## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,  
3rd. ~~area~~, 1916.

April

## Map Reference:-

Sheet 26. 1/40,000.

1. The 1st. Australian Division is being transferred by rail to the 4th. Army.  
Entrainment of the Brigade group will commence on the 5th. inst., in accordance with programme to follow.
2. 9th. Battalion less Transport Section will move by Bus to CAESTRE Sub Area to-morrow, 4th. inst.  
Companies will be divided into parties of 25 and be ready to move from this camp to Embussing point Canada Corner at 1.30 p.m. in the following order:-  
  
H.Q. "A", "B", "C", "D", Coy's.
3. Officers will be distributed on the lorries throughout the Column.
4. Battalion embussing officer - Lieut. R.H. BROWN, M.C.
5. Transport of the Brigade will move by road to-morrow 4th. inst. under the Brigade Transport Officer in the following order, passing starting point, Cross Roads in LA OLYTTE at N.7. Central at 10 a.m.  
  
11th. Battalion, 12th. Battalion, 3rd. M.G. Company,  
9th. Battalion, 10th. Battalion, Brigade Headquarters.
6. Dress: Full marching order.
7. Officers valises, mess gear, etc. will be dumped near road adjacent to this camp by 9.30 a.m. It is essential that these should be dumped at time stated as transport must move in Brigade Column.
8. Cookers will be ready to move by 9.30 a.m.
9. The following distances will be maintained on the march:-  
  
(A) Between Companies, Unit Transports, and between Transport and its Units when Brigaded - 100 yards.  
(b) Between Bus - 500 yards.
10. The following Billeting party/will assemble at Battalion H.Q. at 8.30 a.m. will report at the embussing point (Canada Corner) at 9 a.m., 4th. inst and proceed on first two lorries of first column.

Hdqs. Company	-- Lieut. S. SHAW Sgt. OVERELL.
"A" Company	-- Lieut. A.G. AVERY Cpl. DEVRIES.
"B" Company	-- Lieut. J.S. YOUNG Sgt. BRYCE.
"C" Company	-- Capt. F.J. BIGGS Sgt. HIRST
"D" Company	-- Lieut. WALKER Cpl. LANG.

On arrival in CAESTRE this party will report to Lieut. J. FOWLER, Assistant Staff Captain who will probably be at ~~the Area~~ the Area Commandant's Office, arrange billeting, and meet the Battalion at the Debussing point, Sheet 27 M.3.0.4. ( just out side CAESTRE - ~~the Area~~ on the CAESTRE - FLETE Road).

- 11. Marching out States will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 7.30 a.m. on the 4th. inst.
- 12. Emergency issue rations will be issued to-morrow to be carried on the man. These are on no account to be consumed.
- 13. The camp must be left thoroughly clean and tidy. Certificate that this has been done to be handed to the Adjutant by 1.30 p.m.
- 14. Acknowledge.

*J. Fowler*

..... Lieut.,  
A/Adjutant 9th. Battalion.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION. ORDER NO. 123.

Battalion Headquarters,  
5 - 4 - 18.

1. The Battalion will entrain at CAESTRE on 6th. April as set out hereunder (para 10.)
2. Brigade Entraining Officer - Capt. R.R. AGNEW, 9th. Battalion.  
Detraining Officer - Major C. RUMBLE, M.C., 10th. Bn.
3. Captain BIGGS in conjunction with Captain MCINTYRE will act as entraining Officers and will report to Brigade Entraining Officer 3 hours prior to entrainment of the Battalion.
4. Trains are made up as follows:-  
1 Officers Coach.  
30 Covered trucks.  
17 Flat trucks  
2 Brake vans.  
Each covered truck will carry 40 men or 8 L.B. Horses or 6 H.D. Horses.  
Each covered truck will take on an average 4 axles.  
No personnel or stores will be allowed in brake vans at each end of train nor on roofs of trucks. No covered trucks will be used for baggage.
5. The Brigade Mining Coy. will act as loading party at the entraining station.  
The C.O. 12th. Battalion will detail one Company to unload trains at the detraining station. This Company with cooker will proceed by the first train.
6. Infantry transport will arrive at the entraining station 3 hours before time of departure of train.  
Infantry personnel will arrive at the entraining station 1 1/2 hours before departure of the train.  
Company Commanders will reconnoitre the best route from their respective billets to entraining point and move off independently reporting to the Adjutant and Entraining Officer with parade state.
7. Officers valises, signalling stores will be ready stacked in a dump at Company Headquarters at 5 p.m.
8. Meals for to-day will be as usual.  
All meat for tomorrow's consumption to be issued this afternoon and to be carried on the man. Cookers (excluding "B" Coy.) will be ready to move at 7.30 p.m. tonight 5/4/18. Two cooks per Company will move with cookers and prepare tea ready for troops on arrival at entraining point.

9. Entraining Station - CAESTRE - Detraining Station - St. ROCK.

Train No.	Serial No.	Unit	Departure.
16	LA34	"A", "C", "D" & H.Q. and Transport less 1 Cooker & team.	6.25 a.m. 6/4/18
25	LA34a	"B" Coy. with Cooker and team.	3.25 p.m. do

*[Signature]*  
..... Captain  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

SECRET

COPY NO.....

## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 124

Battalion Headquarters,  
9th. April, 1918.Reference:  
AMIENS 1/100000.

1. The Battalion will move today, 9th. instant to FLESSELLES.
2. Battalion Starting Point. Cross Roads near ARGOEUVES CEMETERY, North of High Street.
3. Head of Battalion Column will pass Starting Point at 1.15 p.m. - Companies marching out in the following order: Headquarters, "C", "D", "A" and "B" Companies. Transport will move in rear of the Battalion.
4. Dress: Full marching order, plus blankets. Steel helmets will be worn.
5. Distances on the march will be maintained as under:-  
Between Companies, Unit Transport and between Transport and its Unit - 100 yards.
6. Pumps for Officers' Valises will be formed at CHATEAU where valises will be stacked by 11 a.m.
7. Companies will arrange for midday meal at noon and Companies will be ready to move out at 12.45 p.m.
8. Marching out States and Certificates of cleanliness of billies and horse lines will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. by 12.30 p.m.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Edward*  
Lieut.  
Adjutant, 9th Battalion.

Issued at 8 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. Commanding Officer | 2. Quartermaster.      |
| 3. Second in Command           | 4. File                |
| 5. "A" Company                 | 6. "B" Company.        |
| 7. "C" Company.                | 8. "D" Company.        |
| 9. H.Q. Company.               | 10. Transport Officer. |
| 11. R.M.O.                     | 12/14 War Diary        |
| 15/17 Spers-                   |                        |

-----:~::~~::~~::~~::~~::~~::~:-----

SECRET.

COPY NO. ....

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 124Battalion Headquarters,  
11th. April, 1918.

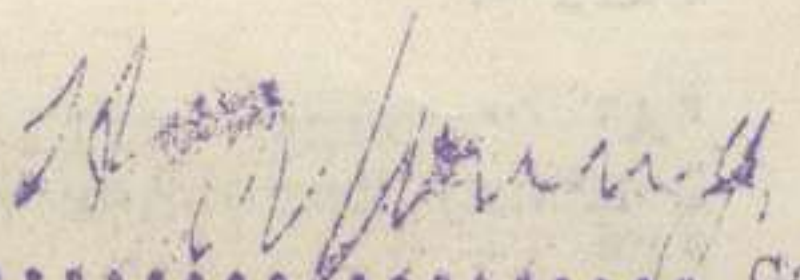
1. ROUTINE FOR TOMORROW - 12/4/18.

Reveille	7 a.m.
Sick Parade	8 a.m.
Breakfast	7.30 a.m.
2. OPERATION ORDERS. The Battalion will move from FLESSELLES by march route to bivouac position.
- ORDER and TIME OF MARCH. Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", "D" Companies, Transport Companies will be ready to move in above order from Cross Roads in FLESSELLES at 11 a.m.  
Cockers will be ready to pull out from billets by ~~8.30~~ 8.30 a.m.  
*X: (Low 4 cockers)*
4. DRESS Fighting Order - Steel hats to be worn.
5. Packs with blankets rolled and attached to each in manner laid down for Full Marching Order will be stacked near Q.M.'s store by 10 a.m. in Company Camps.
6. O.C. "C" Company will detail 1 Officer to take charge of party of eight other ranks to act as loading and unloading party and guard, and proceed with packs.  
The medical Officer will nominate the eight other ranks to report to O.C. "C" Company by 9 a.m.
7. Water will be available at water carts between 8 and 9 a.m. and Company Commanders will see that all ranks have water bottles filled.
8. "A" Company will act as loading party at ST. ROCH. This Company together with Cooker and team will entrain at ST. ROCH "B" at 7.47 a.m. on 13/4/18. This Company will report for duty to the Brigade Entraining Officer at 6.30 p.m. on 12/4/18.
9. Cookers will leave FLESSELLES at 9 a.m. Lieut. SHAW with bicycle will be in charge of cookers and will arrange with one of his billeting N.C.Os. to find bivouac position and guide cookers thereto.  
The Sgt. Cook will arrange that hot tea is available for the Battalion on arrival and that a hot meal is served at a reasonable hour after arrival.
10. Entraining Officer -- Capt. R.R. AGNEW, 3rd. In.  
Detraining Officer -- CASSEL, Capt. B.J. ANDREW, 12th. Bn.  
-- HONDEGHEM, Major A.H. DARNELL, 11th. In.  
Capt. F.J. BIGGS is appointed entraining and detraining officer for this Battalion, and will report to the Brigade Entraining Officer 3 hours prior to the entraining of the Unit.
11. Infantry transport will arrive at the entraining station 3 hours before the time of departure of the train.  
Infantry Personnel 1½ hours before the time of departure of the train.
12. Entraining States showing the number of Officers, other ranks, horses H.D. or L.D. the number of 4 wheeled vehicles and 2 wheeled vehicles, bicycles, will be handed in by Companies and Transport Officer to the Adjutant not later than 1 hour after arrival at Bivouac Position.



- 2 -

13. O.C. "B" Company will detail 2 Lewis Gun Teams for duty on train, who will report to Lieut. BAILEY at least one hour before time of departure of train. Lieut. BAILEY will make necessary arrangements for installing guns on the train.
14. Battalion, less "A" Company with Cooker and team entrains on Train No. 24 at ST. ROCH "B" - time of departure of this train 4-47 a.m. 13/ 4/18.
15. Lieut. S. SHAW will be Battalion Billeting Officer and will proceed by train No. 19. ST. ROCH "A" - time of departure 9.47 p.m. 12/4/18. This Officer will report to Lieut. TERRY at Detraining Station HONDEGHEM. Company Commanders and Transport Officer will each detail one N.C.C. to report to Lieut. SHAW, at Cross Roads in FLESSELLES at 8.45 a.m. to receive instructions.
16. Major H. JAMES M.C. will act as Battalion Reconnoitring Officer for Bivouac position. He will meet the Brigade Major at Cross Roads at E in POULAINVILLE at 10.30 a.m. on 12th. inst.
17. Os.C. "C" and "I" Companies will each detail a train guard of 1 Officer, 2 N.C.Cs. and 10 men to maintain train discipline.
18. Certificates of Cleanliness of Billets will be submitted by Company Commanders and Transport Officer to B.O.R. by 10.30 a.m. tomorrow 12th. instant.
19. Officers Valises will be ready for loading onto transport outside Officers' Billets by 8.45 a.m.
20. ACKNOWLEDGE .

  
 ..... Capt.  
 A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

APPENDIX 5

50  
Operational

ORDER EX.

COPY NO. 10

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 126.

Battalion Headquarters,  
16th. April, 1918 .

The 9th. Battalion will relieve the 12th. Battalion on the Left Sub-sector of the Brigade front, tonight. Time to be notified later.

Following will be the order of relief:-

"A" Company	relieving	"A" Company	- 12th. Battalion.
"B" Company	"	"B" "	do
"C" Company	"	"C" "	do
"D" Company	"	"D" "	do
H.Q.	"	"H.Q." "	do

Companies will relieve independently, taking over all Trench Stores, S.A.A., etc.

Company Commanders will obtain all information regarding works, which will be carried on with.

Signalling Officer will take over by mutual arrangement.

The nearest routes to be chosen by Companies. Formations to be platoons, not less than 50 paces distance.

Cookers will move with the Companies .

Limbers and pack animals will be located where 12th Battalion transport now is.

Officers' valises to be stacked in a convenient place for removal at once.

Billets to be left in a clean and sanitary condition and Certificates to that effect forwarded to B.H.Q. as soon as Companies move out.

Company Commanders will notify Battalion H.Q. on completion of relief.

*M. J. ...*  
..... Capt.  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

Issued at 5 p.m.

Distribution.

- 1. Commanding Officer.
- 2. "A" Company.
- 3. "B" Company.
- 4. "C" Company.
- 5. "D" Company.
- 6. H.Q. Company.
- 7. File.
- 8/10. War Diary.

SECRET.NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 127.

Map Reference Sheet 27 S.E.  
1/20,000 .

Battalion Headquarters,  
19th. April, 1918.

The Brigade will take over front line, support and reserve positions tonight as under, Time to be notified later.

12th. Battalion on the right with 11th. Battalion on the left.

From X.20.C.8.8. to X.11.A.70.05. inclusive.

The 10th. Battalion will be in support in vicinity of FONTAINE HOUCK-HAUTE PORTE FARM area

The NINTH Battalion in PHINGBOOM-LA BESACE Area.

Battalion will move by road route ROUGE-CROIXLEBEURRE FLETRE X.7.D.2.5. crossroads, the order of marching being H-

H.Q.  
"B" Company  
"A"     "  
"B"     "  
"C"     "

Headquarters Company will pass starting point at W.19D.7.8. at 7.30 p.m. by platoons at 100 yards distance, companies follow in that order.

Each man will carry 220 rounds S.A.A.

Lewis Guns and Magazines will be carried with the companies ready for action.

Each Company will draw an extra Lewis Gun complete from the Lewis Gun Officer when new positions have been occupied.

Company Commanders will at once establish liaison both forward and on flanks.

Original sketches showing dispositions will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after relief.

On completion of relief B.H.Q. will be notified by runner.

*M. M. M. M. M.* ..... Capt.  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

SECRET.

COPY NO.....

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 129.

Battalion Headquarters,  
22nd. April, 1918.

9th. Battalion will relieve the 12th. Battalion on the  
Brigade Right on the night 23rd./24th. April.

Companies will take over as follows:-

- "C" Company on the right.
- "D" Company on the left.
- "B" Company in Support.
- "A" Company in reserve.

Company Commanders will arrange to reconnoitre positions  
tonight. They will also detail H.C.O's. to accompany patrol  
in order to act as guides for patrolling NO MAN'S LAND.

The Intelligence Officer will report to 12th. Battalion  
H.Q. to obtain all dispositions, numbers, etc.

Signalling Officer will get in touch with 12th. Battalion  
Signalling Officer regarding communication.

Time to be arranged by Commanding Officers.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Signature]*  
 ..... Capt.  
 A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

Issued at 6 P.M.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 1. Commanding Officer.
- 2. "A" Company.
- 3. "B" Company.
- 4. "C" Company.
- 5. "D" Company.
- 6. H.Q. Company.
- 7. Rear H.Q.
- 8. File.
- 9/11. War Diary.

SECRET.

COPY NO. 12

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 139.Battalion Headquarters,  
23rd. April, 1918.

1. The 3rd. Brigade has been detailed to take MEYEREN and establish a defensive line on the Southern and Eastern outskirts of the village on the following line:-  
 X.20.C.8.8. - X.21.A.3.3. - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ -  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ X.21.B.9.9. - X.16.C.7.6. - X.16.D.6.6. -  
 X.16.B. 9.2. - X.17.A.4.9. - X.11.C.3.7.
2. At midnight "B", "C" and "D" Companies will push the present line forward to X.20.C.8.8. - X.21.A.3.5. - X.15.C.5.0. - X.15.A.5.0. - X.15.A.7.5.
3. The 10th. Battalion will also operate on our left from Right Boundary as at present to X.16.A.9.2. thence to X.16.C.7.7. - X.16.D.7.8. - X.17.A.4.8. - to Cross Roads at X.11.C.3.9.
4. At 1.30 a.m. a mopping up party consisting of 2 Companies of 11th. and 12th. Battalions who will wear white cloth on their box respirators, will enter the town from West, North and East, and will clear the town of the enemy. Each party will be responsible for clearing the town to the inter-battalion boundary mentioned in following paragraph.
5. Inter-Battalion boundary will be as at present to X.15.B.0.4. thence along the line to X.15.B.5.0. - Cross Roads at X.15.D.6.7. - East of Cross Roads at X.15.D.80.65. - X.15.D.8.4. - X.22. Central.
6. At 2 a.m. when the present line has been pushed forward to the limits stated in para. 2, "A" Company will move through "B" Company and establish defences on the Southern Boundary of the Village on a line X.20.A.7.7. to the inter-battalion boundary at X.16.C.2.1. approximately, establishing liaison with the 10th. Battalion.
7. An Officer of the Light Trench Mortar Battery with four guns will cooperate with "C" and "A" Company Commanders and give assistance where required.
8. Artillery will shell the town of MEYEREN intermittently during the night until 1.30 a.m. S.O.S. Barrage line will from 1.30 a.m. onward be 250 yards in advance of the following lines:-  
 X.20.C.8.8. - X.21.A.0.2. - X.21.A.60.65 - X.21.B.0.9. -  
 X.16.C.0.0. - X.16.C.5.2. - X.16.C.8.7. - X.16.D.7.8.  
 X.16.B.95.10 - X.17.A.2.7. - to X.11.C.3.9.
9. Companies must at all times be ready to meet an enemy attack.
10. Pass-word for operation will be "DARLING" and countersign will be "DOWNS".
11. Companies will arrange to draw a proportion of picks and shovels before moving from their present location.
12. All ranks will wear white band on their right arm, the same being worn by the forward Company of the 10th. Battalion.
13. S.O.S. ground flares and bombs will be drawn under Company arrangements.

2.

- 14. Liaison • Companies will arrange for an Officer or N.C.O. to maintain liaison both within the Battalion and with Units on their flanks.
- 15. R.A.P. will be at K.20.A.9.9.
- 16. Report - Relay Post at "C" Coy's present H.Q. K.14.D.4.4. Battalion H.Q. at K.14.A.4.0.

Communicated to Company Commanders at conference at 5 p.m.

*[Signature]*  
 ..... Capt.  
 A/Majorant, 9th. Battalion.

Issued at 7 P.M.

Distribution.

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. "A" Company.   |
| 3. "B" Company.        | 4. "C" Company.   |
| 5. "D" Company.        | 6. H.Q. Company.  |
| 7. 10th. Battalion.    | 8. 3rd. A.I. Div. |
| 9. File                | 10/15. War Diary. |

SECRET.

COPY NO. 10

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 131.

Map Reference sheet 27 S.E.

Battalion Headquarters,  
28th. April, 1918.

1/20,000.

RELIEF.- The 9th. Battalion will be relieved in the line by the 3rd. A.I. Battalion on night 28th./29th. April, 1918.

Dispositions of Companies as already arranged.

On relief Battalion will move to approximately W.13.A. via CORTE CROIX, - Cross Roads W.17.B. and Cross Roads W.17.D.

Companies will move independently to new area a distance of 200 yards being maintained between platoons.

A limber will be at the Ration Dump to pick up Lewis Guns (not Panniers), which will be loaded as the Company pass.

Each man will carry 220 Rounds S.A.A. - Lewis Magazines to be full.

All trench Stores, maps, etc. will be handed over to incoming Unit and receipts in triplicate, obtained.

On Completion of relief these Bn. H.Q. will be notified in Code.

Rations will not be delivered on night of relief but hot meal will be ready for men on arrival at new area.

Company Commanders will ensure that all men have equipment made up before moving out.

I N.C.O. per Company to report to Lieut. BAILEY at Bn. H.Q. by 5 a.m. this morning. These N.C.Os. will guide their respective companies to billets on arrival.

Issued at 1 a.m.

*[Signature]*  
..... Capt.  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |          |      |                     |
|----------|------|---------------------|
| Copy No. | 1.   | Commanding Officer. |
|          | 2.   | "A" Company.        |
|          | 3.   | "B" Company.        |
|          | 4.   | "C" Company.        |
|          | 5.   | "D" Company.        |
|          | 6.   | H.Q. Company.       |
|          | 7.   | File.               |
|          | 8/10 | War Diary.          |