

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/26/41

**Title:** 9th Infantry Battalion

May 1918



AWM4-23/26/41



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

Month of MAY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

*W. Hancock* Capt.  
Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. A. Bullen* Lt-Col.  
Commanding 9th. Battalion.



54

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BORRE South	1. 5. 18.		The Battalion supplied 8 parties of 50 for special defence works in the Divisional Sector. Parties left at 8 a.m. returning about 3.30 a.m. next morning. Casualties - 1 other rank wounded.	
	2. 5. 18.		The troops had breakfast about 4.30 a.m. and were allowed to sleep in till midday meal was served at 12.30 p.m. Cleaning of equipment and ammunition under cover. At 7.30 p.m. a very enjoyable camp concert was held being organised by Lieuts. RYAN & FRASER in the Y.M.C.A. All the items were given by members of the Battalion and we heard some very good talent.	
	3. 5. 18.		A raiding party of 12 other ranks from each Company was chosen from volunteers under Lieuts. GOWER & KNOWLES. They were to train as a self contained unit, and ration separately. Arrangements were made with Divisional Baths for for bath each morning after strenuous exercises and practices.	
	4. 5. 18.		Lieut. GOWER explained to all officers and N.C.Os. of the Battalion the new cup discharger for No. 36 Mills Grenade and afterwards gave a short demonstration. In the afternoon as many men as possible were given instruction in the use of this grenade cup. Very close during the day but inclined to be a little misty towards evening. Enemy shelled area in which camp is situated, 1 other rank being wounded, owing to a shell hitting one of our huts. The 9th. Battalion relieved the 6th. Battalion in reserve position on right of PRADELLES as per Order No. 13. We are now Counter-attack Battalion for the Brigade front on right of Divisional Front. METEREN - STRAZEELE.	Order No. 132.
METEREN- STRAZEELE				
	5. 5. 18		All officers and N.C.Os. reconnoitred forward ground in accordance with Corps Defence Scheme in event of a general attack by the enemy.	
	6. 5. 18		Heavy rain fell during the night and made the trenches in most places unsuitable. Company Commanders had most of their men in vacated houses and barns about the area. Strength of Battalion - Present with Unit - 29 Officers 625 O.Ranks. Detached - 20 " 184 "	

*M. J. ...*



BH

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7-5-18		Enemy apparently observed the activity of troops today, because he shelled the buildings for the first time causing one casualty.	
	8-5-18		The Battalion Moved to the left sector of Brigade Front to relieve the 11th. Battalion as per Order No. 133. Owing to the clear visibility we could not leave old position till 9.30 p.m. Enemy very quiet while we moved forward except for shelling round about our right Battalion front. Our S.O.S. was seen by us but apparently not by the artillery as none of our guns opened up.	
	9-5-18		Relief completed by 1 a.m. without anything unusual happening. After the 11th. Battalion moved out our dispositions in rear of front line were altered by "A" Company moving about 300 yards back to avoid enemy barrage line. This was done in accordance with Brigade Instructions. Battalion H.Q. now at W.18.D.1.5.. Very clear day with with rather warm sun. Enemy quiet as are own guns. Received Brigade Order regarding redistribution of Battalion frontages. Our Order issued as per Order No. 134 of this date. Owing to 10th. Battalion not being able to state definite time of taking over our posts we carried on as per memo to all Companies attached (marked Memo No. 1)	
	10-5-18		New dispositions completed at 1 a.m. We straightened our line on the left by digging two new platoon posts at X20096 and X20065 Owing to the former position being previously held by an enemy garrison we considered it advisable to have consolidating done as per Order No. 135.	
	11-5-18		The party on the left of this met with opposition but after a short bomb fight dispersed the enemy taking 4 prisoners (one wounded). The night was very dark and made this move very difficult. Casualties 2 other ranks wounded. Lieut-Col. L.M. MULLEN D.S.O. rejoined from Wounded.	

*M. Mulvaney*







# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 46

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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	15/5/18.		Weather very fine. Our 12 <sup>th</sup> heavies shelled enemy positions for about two hours. Enemy opened up heavy barrage in vicinity of 12 <sup>th</sup> Gun position. The gun was moved back about 1000 yards but returned to old position the next day.	
	16/5/18.		The whole morning was devoted to bathing in tubs at Company billets. We supplied 200 for Working parties on reserve trench system on right of PRADELLES. LIEUT R. PENMAN proceeded to rest Hostel ST OMER.	
	17/5/18.		Weather still fine. Enemy aeroplanes several dropped several bombs around "D" Company's billets at ROUGE CROIX but no damage was done. The same number was supplied for working parties as yesterday.	
	18/5/18.		The Battalion moved to SERCUS as per order No. 137 arriving about 5.30 p.m., although the day was very hot no man fell out on the march. Battalion Strength. With Unit - 39 Offs. 729 0/rs. Detached - 7 Offs. 96 0/rs.	
	19/5/18.		Captain T. W. FARMER and LIEUTS. E. H. MEYERS & B. NICHOLLS rejoined Unit from wounded (Seconded). Brigade Church parade was held under PADRE HAYDEN. GENERAL WALKER attended and the Brigade marched past in close column of platoons.	
	20/5/18.		LIEUT R. PENMAN rejoined from rest Hostel ST OMER. LIEUTS R. G. HAMILTON & G. M. WRENCH rejoined from Base. CAPT R. G. BRENNAN rejoined from O.T. Battalion. Training carried out as per Syllabi attached.	
	21/5/18.		Our A.A. Guns very active from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. against hostile aircraft. Very few bombs were dropped and none of them anywhere near the camp. Training was carried out as per syllabus during the morning. Sports being held in the afternoon.	
	22/5/18.		Erected a canteen in the camp but could not keep it supplied owing to the abundance of money in the camp. G.S. waggon went to ST OMER each day and returned full of canteen goods. Brigade parade was held to-day. The Brigade marched past in column of half Companies. The ground was very rough.	
	23/5/18.		Battalion Dinner. The Brigadier General, Brigade Major were present also Col ELLIOTT 12th Bn, CAPT NEWLAND 3rd A.L.T.M. Battery, and Lieut MAITLAND R.F.C. A very enjoyable evening was spent. Training was carried out as per syllabus.	

*Handwritten signature*







## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 48

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29/5/	18.	<p>Very clear day. Enemy shelled R.A.p. "C" Coy "H.Q." and Battalion Headquarters for about an hour causing casualties of 2 killed and 1 wounded. Pte HUGHES and MOONEY being killed and pte BARNES wounded. One enemy plane came a bit lower than usual and got into difficulties with our A.A. Guns for a time, but eventually escaped. The 10th Battalion advanced their line of posts on our right about 200 yards. During the operation they had a stiff fight, with about 60 casualties.</p>	
	30/5/	18.	<p>pte F J BELDEN was killed by Shell Fire and ptes PATTERSON, ALLAN, DEARDEN wounded by Shell Fire. Again very clear by day and night. Very difficult for our patrols to do any good work, owing to the clear visibility by night. Contact aeroplane picked up messages sent by our Signalling Officer at about 11 a.m. for practice purposes. Situation very quiet all night. A few heavy H.E. and Gas Shells thrown well back by the enemy delayed rations <del>sent</del> about an hour.</p>	
	31/5/	18.	<p>Another very clear sunny day, all very quiet until about 5 o'clock when an enemy Battery opened up with scattered fire. At about 11 a.m. one of our men 714a pte KNIGHT .R.P. in a centre post crawled out through the crops in front of him and entered an enemy trench, which looked to be un-occupied, but proved to have about 25 Huns in it. He promptly shot the first two and ran back to his post, hotly pursued by a number of the enemy <del>and</del> getting out of their trench. At 11 p.m. an inter Company relief took place. ptes WILLIAMS &amp; GILLIES killed by Shell Fire, LIEUT H.M. WALKER wounded by Rifle Grenade. Sgt THORLEY, pte FONTANA wounded by machine gun bullets and evacuated.</p>	



3H

18,000-12/17-8723.

7

# WAR DIARY

OF

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

FOR

Month of MAY

191 8

---

---

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Battalion Order No. 132.
2	Battalion Order No. 133
3	Battalion Order No. 134
4.	Memo No. 1.
5.	Battalion Order No. 135.
6.	Battalion Order No. 136.
7.	Battalion Order No. 137.
8.	Battalion Order No. 138.
9.	Battalion Order No. 139.
10.	Battalion Order No. 140.
11.	Syllabi of Training.



9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 132.

Ref: Sheet 27 S.E. 1/20,000.  
Sheet 36A. N.E. 1/20,000.

Battalion Headquarters,  
3rd. May, 1918.

1. The 3rd. Aust. Infy. Bde. will relieve the 2nd. Aust. Infy. Bde. in the Right Sub-sector of the Divisional Forward Zone on the 4th. and the night 4th./5th. May.
2. The line will be held -
  - (a) on a two Battalion frontage, each Battalion having 3 Companies in the line and one in Reserve.
  - (b) 1 Battalion in Support.
  - (c) 1 Battalion in Reserve.
3. 9th. Battalion will relieve the 6th. Battalion, at present in Reserve.
4. An advance party of 1 Officer per Company and 1 N.C.O. per platoon will proceed to and report to 6th. Battalion, tonight. They will obtain all information relative to trench stores, ammunition, cooking arrangements, etc. etc. This party will not stay there but return on completion of duty, Officers reporting to Battalion H.Q. on their return.
5. The Battalion will leave present camp at 8.30 p.m. tomorrow night, 4th. instant, Companies marching independently. Officers and N.C.Os. of advance party will guide companies to their respective destinations. Company Commanders will ensure that present quarters are left in a clean and sanitary condition and certificates to this effect rendered to Battalion H.Q.
6. DRESS: Fighting Order. Each man will carry 220 rounds S.A.A. also Reserve Iron Ration.  
Overcoats will be worn. Blanket rolled in waterproof sheet will be carried under Haversack.
7. All maps, Defence Schemes, Aerial photos, etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained.
8. All guards and duties will be taken over from Units to be relieved.
9. Main Roads will be avoided by using tracks as much as possible. The BORRE-STRAZEELE Road will not be used.
10. Details of relief, not herein provided for will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
11. Completion of Relief will be notified to Battalion H.Q. by special runner.
12. Units will interchange wagon lines with their opposite numbers of the 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. on the 4th. instant. Rear parties will be left to hand over.
13. Brigade Supply dump will be located at La BREARDE, V.5.C.5.0.
14. Quartermaster and Transport Officer will at once proceed to reconnoitre all roads to the forward area, taking note of gaps in the wire. The route selected for the delivery of rations of this Battalion, will be notified to Battalion H.Q. at earliest.

P.T.O.



Annex 1.

37

15. Regimental Aid Posts will be located as under:-

Right Line Battalion (12th.)	to be notified later.
Left Line " (11th)	W.19.A.4.8.
Support " (10th)	W.28.A.2.8.
Reserve " (9th.)	W.22.C.0.7.

A Bearer Relay Post is established at Sheet 27 - X.19.A.2.8.  
 Motor Ambulance posts are located at W.22.B.5.4. and W.24.a.3.8.  
 A.D.S. is at the Brasserie, BORRE.  
 M.D.S. is at CAESTRE.

Company Commanders will see that all ranks wash their feet and treat them with soap and powder before moving out. A quantity will also be drawn by each Company for use in the line.

16. Officers' Valises and all packs will be stacked (in companies) outside Q.M. Store by 3 p.m. tomorrow 4th. instant.

17. The 9th. Battalion will supply necessary transport for the move of Brigade Mining Company forward and rear H.Qs.

18. Receipts for Trench Stores handed over will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. as soon as possible after completion of relief.  
 Lists of Stores taken over will be checked and copies sent to Battalion H.Q. within 24 hours of relief.

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

Issued at 5.30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |          |       |                     |
|----------|-------|---------------------|
| Copy No. | 1.    | Commanding Officer. |
|          | 2.    | "A" Company.        |
|          | 3.    | "B" Company.        |
|          | 4.    | "C" Company.        |
|          | 5.    | "D" Company.        |
|          | 6.    | H.Q. Company.       |
|          | 7.    | Transport Officer.  |
|          | 8.    | Quartermaster.      |
|          | 9.    | Medical Officer.    |
|          | 10.   | File.               |
|          | 11/13 | War Diary.          |

079



311

✓ Appendix 2 10

SECRET.

COPY NO. 9..

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 133.

Battalion Headquarters,  
7th. May, 1918.

1. The 9th. Battalion will relieve the 11th. Battalion on the night 8th./9th. May, 1918 in the front line.
2. Companies will relieve the opposite numbers which will be "C" Company on left - "D" Company Centre - "B" Company on right, with "A" Company in support.
3. Company Commanders will detail the following to move forward with 24 hours rations tonight. They will make themselves thoroughly acquainted with everything concerning their Company's front.

- 1 Officer
- 1 Signaller
- 1 Runner
- 5 No.2 Lewis Gunners.

4. As many Officers and N.C.Os as possible will reconnoitre Battalion Front Line, tonight and obtain all information regarding posts, trench stores, cooking arrangements, etc.

5. Companies will move forward in the following order:-

- "C" Company.
- "B" Company.
- "D" Company.
- "A" Company.

The first Company will move at 8.30 p.m. by platoons at not less than 100 yards interval. They will move by the shortest road route to the CRUCIFIX, W.24.B.9.5. where they will be met by guides.

6. Receipts for trench stores taken over will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. as soon as possible, after relief.
7. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion H.Q. in code.

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

Issued at 7.15 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |          |      |                     |
|----------|------|---------------------|
| Copy No. | 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.          |



3H  
War diary

appendix 3 11

3

SECRET.

COPY NO. 10

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 134.

Battalion Headquarters,  
9th. May, 1918.

1. The following redistribution of the Battalion front will take place tonight.
2. "C" and "D" Companies will occupy the front line system - "B" Company in support with Headquarters at X.19.A.8.2. "A" Company in Reserve in present location.
3. The Battalion Right Boundary will be a line drawn through X.25.C. Central to W.23.C.6.6. - Battalion Left Boundary as at present.
4. The 10th. Battalion will take over Nos. 1, 2 and 3 posts from "B" Company.  
"D" Company will take over Nos. 4 and 5 posts from "B" Company. (No. 4 post is astride the Road at X.25.C.7.5. approximately)  
"C" Company will take over Nos. 9 and 10 posts from "D" Company.
5. Company Commanders concerned will make the necessary arrangements within the Battalion.
6. Time of relief will be notified.
7. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion H.Q. in CODE.

*L. Hancock*  
 ..... Capt.  
 A/Majorant, 9th. Battalion.

Issued at 8 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | Commanding Officer. |
| 2.          | "A" Company.        |
| 3.          | "B" Company.        |
| 4.          | "C" Company.        |
| 5.          | "D" Company.        |
| 6.          | H.Q. Company.       |
| 7.          | Rear H.Q.           |
| 8.          | 10th. Battalion.    |
| 9.          | File.               |
| 10/12.      | War Diary.          |

-----|||||-----



34

Appendix 4. 12

(SECRET)

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

DK

Memo No. 1

Battalion Headquarters,

9th. May. 1918.

Reference Battalion Order No. 134.

10th. Battalion advise they will not be able to take over our (3) three right posts before 11 p.m. Redistribution will therefore start from left to right, "C" Company taking over "D" Coys posts first.

When this is completed "D" Company will take over "B" Coys posts. "B" Coys right posts will then wait for 10th Battalion relief.

Company Commanders will make necessary arrangements with those concerned regarding guides, handing over of trench stores etc.

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





*4*  
*war diary*  
SECRET.

*5* *appendix 5.13*  
COPY NO. *9*.....

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 135.

Battalion Headquarters,  
8th. May, 1918.

1. The METEREN Baths are in possession of the enemy.  
Recent reconnaissance revealed the fact that they are garrisoned by a detached post of approximately 12 men with a Machine Gun.  
A small raid carried out last night is reported to have dispersed the garrison inflicting casualties.
2. This Battalion will capture and hold the position which will have the effect of shortening our line and bringing our left flank into closer liaison with the Battalion on our left.
3. A party of 20 Other Ranks under Lieut. H. COWER will capture and hold the baths until relieved by the garrison of No. 14 Post.
4. At Zero hour 6 inch. Newton Trench Mortars will open a bombardment for 5 minutes on the area occupied by the baths.  
At Zero plus 5 minutes the party will storm the position from the Northern and South Western sides.
5. O.C. Party will make all necessary arrangements to reconnoitre and gain all possible information regarding routes, etc.
6. At zero hour plus 5 minutes, O.C. "C" Company will push forward the garrison of No. 13 post who will establish a new position on the alignment between No. 12 post the South Western corner of the Baths at approximately X.20.C.8.5.
7. O.C. Raiding party will arrange for a guide to be sent to No. 14 Post when the Baths have been captured to guide the garrison forward with the necessary tools for constructing and wiring the position.
8. Protective screens will be ~~provided~~ <sup>pushed</sup> forward during the consolidation.  
Raiding Party will wear white band on the left arm.
9. Reports to Headquarters in CODE immediately the new positions have been established.

Zero hour to be notified.

*Handwritten signature*  
..... Capt.  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1. Commanding Officer.  
2. 3rd. A.I. Bde.  
3. "A" Company.  
4. "B" Company.  
5. "C" Company.  
6. "D" Company.  
7. H.Q. Company.  
8. File.  
9/11. War Diary.

.....



34  
SECRET.

6  
abbeudit. Co.  
COPY NO. ....

9TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 136.

Battalion Headquarters,  
13th. May, 1918.

Ref. 27 S.E. 1/20,000.  
36A N.E.

1. (a) The Brigade is being relieved by the 2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde. on the 13th. and night 13th/14th. May.  
(b) On relief the 3rd. Brigade will move into Divisional Support.
2. The 5th. Battalion will relieve the 9th. Battalion, the relief being made by opposite Companies.
3. (a) On Completion of relief the Battalion will take over disposition and duties of Battalion by whom it is relieved.  
(b) The Nucleus Battalion on relief will be disbanded, personnel reporting to their respective Battalions.
4. Advance parties of 5th. Australian Infantry Battalion are moving into the line on the night 12th/13th. May.
5. All maps, Defence Schemes, Aerial photos, etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained.
6. Details of relief not herein provided for will be arranged mutually between C.Os. concerned.
7. (a) Trench and Area Stores will be handed over complete and receipts obtained. THREE copies will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters on arrival in new camp.  
(b) Transport lines will remain in present location.
8. The O.C. Company at Nucleus will detail 1 Officer per Company to take over from 5th. Battalion. A guide will also be detailed for each Company and will meet this Company at Cross Roads, ROUGE CROIX.
9. Companies will move out independently after relief from Crucifix at W.24.B.8.5. to Crossroads W.17.D.1.2 - STRAZELLE - CAESTRE road to ROUGE CROIX, where guides will lead them into new positions.
10. Panniers will be stacked at the Crucifix as the Company passes. One man from each Company will remain and see them loaded. They will afterwards be dumped at new location. Lewis Guns will be carried.
11. Rations will not be delivered tonight but hot meal will be ready on arrival at new camp.
12. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion H.Q. in CODE.
13. After relief Battalion H.Q. will be at W.8.C.8.9.  
..... CAPT.  
A/Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

ISSUED AT 1.30 a.m.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No.	1.	Commanding Officer.
	2.	"A" Company.
	3.	"B" Company.
	4.	"C" Company.
	5.	"D" Company.
	6.	H.Q. Company.
	7.	Rear H.Q.
	8.	Nucleus Battalion.
	9.	File.
	10/12	War Diary.







3A

Appendix 8.16

SECRET.

COPY NO. ....

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 138

Battalion Headquarters,  
25th. May, 1918.

Reference Sheet - 27  
36A.  
1/40,000.

1. The 9th. Battalion will relieve the 7th. Battalion in Divisional Support Area at W.8.C.7.9. tomorrow, 26th. instant.
2. The Battalion will move to support area by the following route -  
Starting Point - CROSS ROADS C.11.A.5.4. - C.5.C1.5. CROSS ROADS C.6. Central - W.25. Central - W.25.A.8.8. - W.19.D.7.5. - W. 20.D.70.25. - W. 21.C.1.3. - W.20.B.9.8. - thence to Billets occupied by Companies on 17th. May.
3. The Order of March will be :-  
Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", and "D" Coys.  
Headquarters to pass CROSS ROADS C.11.A.5.4. at 8.30 a.m.  
A distance of 100 yards to be maintained between Companies.  
Transport to be 100 yards in rear of the last Company.
4. An advance party of 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. per Company will proceed to new area leaving this Camp at 7 a.m. They will take over all stores and see that the billets are in a clean and sanitary condition.
5. Officers' valises and blankets rolled in bundles of 10 will be dumped at Battalion H.Q. by 7 a.m.  
Cookers will be ready to move at 8 a.m.  
All Lewis Guns with the exception of Anti-aircraft guns now mounted will be packed and loaded this afternoon under Company arrangements..
6. Packs will be dumped at Cross Roads C.10.A.7.8. before 8 o'clock tonight. O.C. "C" Company will detail one man to act as guard over these packs until Battalion is relieved in the line. He will also detail a guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 to mount guard over the same packs until the Battalion is ready to leave this camp.
7. A party of six will report to R.Q.M. by 7 a.m. to act as baggage party. These men will be selected by the R.M.C. in conjunction with Company Commanders.
8. Marching out states and Certificates of Cleanliness will reach B.O.R. by 8 a.m.  
Marching in States will reach B.O.R. immediately on arrival.
9. Felt hats will not be put in the pack but into bags and handed into R.Q.M. Store by 8 p.m. tonight.

Issued at 1 p.m.

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

DISTRIBUTION.

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



9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 139.Ref. Sheets 27 SE. 1/20,000.  
36A N.E.Battalion Headquarters,  
26th. May, 1918. 9

1. The 3rd. Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade in the line on 27th. and night 27th./28th. May, 1918.
2. 9th. Battalion will relieve the 1st. Battalion in the line, LEFT SECTION on night 27th./28th. May, 1918.
3. Dispositions after relief will be :-  
"A" Company ( on the Right) - "B" Company ( on the Left)  
"C" Company (in Support) - "D" Company ( in Reserve).  
Battalion Headquarters will be located at W.18.D.1.5.
4. Advance parties of 1 Officer per Company and 1 N.C.O. per platoon will proceed to the line on the night 26th./27th. May, reporting to 1st. Battalion Headquarters en route.  
They will check and take over all stores, maps, documents, etc. and obtain receipts, which will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible after relief.  
"A" and "B" Companies will arrange guides for all front line posts.
5. The I.O. will get in touch with I.O. 1st. Battalion tonight and obtain all information relating to dispositions, etc. and will arrange for guides to meet Companies at (Junction Road) W.24.B.1.8.
6. As many Officers and N.C.Os. as possible will reconnoitre their Company positions on the night 26th./27th. instant.
7. Companies will leave present camp in a clean and sanitary condition, and will forward certificates to this effect as soon possible after relief, together with receipts (in triplicate), for stores etc. handed over to relieving unit.
8. Companies will move to their rendezvous in the following order tomorrow night:- "B", "A", "C", "D" and Headquarters.  
"B" Company moving out at 9 p.m.
9. DRESS - Fighting Order plus blanket rolled in waterproof sheet and carried under haversack, 220 rounds of S.A.A. and 24 hours rations.  
Overcoat will be worn - Box Respirator to be worn at the "ALERT".
10. ROUTE. via ROUGE CROIX Cross Roads - Cross Roads W.16.C.9.4. - W.17.D.1.2 - Guides will meet Companies at junction of road W.24.B.1.8.
11. Details of relief not provided for herein will be arranged mutually between Company Commanders concerned.
12. NUCLEUS BATTALION. All Officers and other ranks for Nucleus will be ready to move out by midday tomorrow under Capt. PENROSE  
Transport Officer will arrange to carry Officers' valises to Nucleus Battalion.
13. LIAISON. Capt. F.J. BIGGS will act as Liaison Officer with the Battalion on our Left.
14. Completion of relief will be notified to this office in CODE.

*B. J. Penrose*  
..... Capt.  
Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.



34

appendix 10/18  
COPY NO. .... 18

T.

9TH. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 140.

Battalion Headquarters,  
30th. May, 1918.

10

1. An Inter-Company relief will take place on night of 31st. May/1st. June, 1918.
2. Relief will be as follows:-  
 "D" Company will relieve "A" Company.  
 "C" Company will relieve "B" Company.
3. The Companies in front line being relieved will move to positions now occupied by their relieving companies.
4. Receipts for trench stores will be obtained by all Companies from Company they relieve. Os.C. "A" and "B" Companies will send necessary Officer, N.C.Os. and guides back at dusk to take over trench stores, etc.
5. "C" and "D" Companies will have hot meal before moving forward. "A" and "B" Companies meal will be ready when they arrive in the Reserve and Support positions respectively.
6. Company Commanders will arrange mutually any details not mentioned herein.
7. Receipts for trench stores will be forwarded to Battalion H.Q. immediately after relief is completed.
8. Telephones, Lewis Guns and panniers will NOT be handed over.
9. Incoming companies will get full particulars of working and carrying parties, A.A. Guards, Sentries, Patrols, etc. when taking over.
10. The two front line companies will put out a screen of 2 N.C.Os. and 8 men to cover relief. These will be withdrawn when relief is complete.
11. Relief complete will be notified to Battalion H.Q. in Code.
12. Password for night 31st. May/1st. June will be -

PASSWORD - "SALTBUSH"

COUNTERSIGN - "KATE"

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

Issued at 8 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.



9811

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

---

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

---

11

S U B J E C T	20 th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.
Rifle Grenade	Description and method of using.	Firing with duds in open	Firing in open at different ranged.	Firing from trench with live bombs.	Live barrage.
Bombing	Description of grehades and throwing practice	Duds in open (Mills)	Duds in open(Egg)	ditto	Live barrage (Egg)
Bayonet Fighting	-----		PROGRESSIVE	-----	
Musketry	<del>Musketry</del> Rapid loading aiming and trigger pressing.	Rapid loading aiming and trigger pressing.	Indication of targets Rapid loading and aiming.	Fire orders Rapid loading and aiming.	Judging distances Rapid loading and aiming.
Lecture	---	Our bearing towards our own and Allied Armies.	Conduct of troops in rear Areas	Camouflage and its application	Construction of obstacles.

A-----A-----A

Appendix. 11. 19



3H

appendix. 11. <sup>20</sup>

NINTH AUSTRALIAN, INFANTRY BATTALION.

---

INTELLIGENCE

---

TRAINING

---

1st. Day	Meaning of Intelligence	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour
	Map reading lecture	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Patrols	1 "
	Compass Lecture and Demonstration	1 "
2nd Day	Contours Lecture	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Building of O.P. and use of Camouflage	1 "
	Map enlarging	1 "
	Road Map reading	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
3rd. Day	Locations - Reverse Bearings	1 "
	Lecture on air Photography	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Tape Laying	1 "
	Lecture Scouting	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
4th Day	Traversing	1 "
	Recognition of targets	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
	Night Marching	1 "
5th. Day	Lecture - Duty of observers	1 "
	Plotting	1 "
	Study of maps on ground	1 "

---



BH

appendix. 11. 21

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

, Battalion Headquarters.

20th May. 1918.

Time table of work to be carried out as per syllabus of Training, for other than Specialists.

	7.30 - 8	8.30	8.45 - 9.15	9.15 - 9.45
Rifle Grenades	A	D	C	B
Bombing	B	A	D	C
Bayonet Fighting	C	B	A	D
Musketry	D	C	B	A
Smoke and Lecture		8.30 - 8.45		

Lewis Gunners as per special syllabus

Signallers ditto

Scouts ditto

Last half hour for Platoon in Attack.

A-----A-----A



3H

appendix 11. 22

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

LEWIS GUN

From 20th.May.1918. to 26th.May.1918.

1st.Day. 1/2 hour Lecture on Lewis Gun and principles.  
1 " Stripping and assembling of main parts  
1/2 " Gun Drill

2nd.Day. 1/2 " Stripping and assembling.  
1 " Gun Drill  
1/2 " Stoppages

3rd.Day. 1 " Lecture on Spare Parts etc.  
1/2 " Gun Drill  
1/2 " Stoppages

4th.Day. 1/2 " Lecture on spare parts etc.  
1/2 " Gun Drill  
1 " Stoppages

5th.Day. Range Practices.

6th.Day. 1 " Stoppages and characteristics of the gun.  
1 " Resume of previous work.

7th.Day. Range Practices.

K K K



3A

appendix. 11. 23

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

SIGNALLING

From 20th May 1918. to 26th May 1918.

1st. Day.	9 - 9.30.	Flag Drill
	9.30 - 10	Message writing
	10. - 10.45.	Lecture Common Faults of D.3. telephone.
	11 - 12	Station work and discipline.
	2 - 4	Recreational Training.
<hr/>		
2nd. Day.	9 - 10	Line repairing and erecting
	10 - 10.45	Message and group reading
	11 - 12	Lucas Lamp work
	2 - 4	Recreational Training.
<hr/>		
3rd. Day.	9 - 12	Long distance station work
	2 - 4	Recreational Training.
<hr/>		
4th. Day.	9 - 9.30	Flag Drill
	9.30 - 10	Lecture (Fullerphone)
	10 - 10.45	Buzzer Practice
	11 - 12	Coding and decoding messages (playfair)
	2 - 4	Recreational Training.
<hr/>		
5th. Day.	9 - 10	Station Work (Flag)
	10. - 10.45	Buzzer Practice
	11 - 12	Map reading and compass bearings.
	2 - 4	Recreational Training.
<hr/>		
6th. Day.	9 - 12	Relay Station
	2 - 4	Recreational Training
<hr/>		
7th. Day.	9 - 9.30	Semaphore Practice
	9.30 - 10	Message writing
	10 - 10.45	Lamp practice
	11 - 12	Lecture - "Writing and care of all messages)
		Discipline.



54

appendix. 11. 24

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

TRAINING SYLLABUS

From 20th May. 1918. to 26th May. 1918.

- 1st. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (rapid loading and aiming)  
 9.30 - 10 Platoon Drill  
 10 - 12 Specialist Training Syllabus  
 Remainder of "A" Company for cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational Training, Battalion Sports.
- 
- 2nd. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (Rapid loading and aiming)  
 9.30 - 10 Platoon Drill  
 10 - 12 Specialist Syllabus  
 Remainder of "B" Company for Cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational Training.
- 
- 3rd. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (Rapid loading and aiming)  
 9.30 - 10 Company Drill  
 10 - 12 Specialist Syllabus  
 Remainder of "C" Company for cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational Training
- 
- 4th. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (Rapid loading and aiming)  
 9.30 - 10 Platoon Drill  
 10 - 12 Platoon in attack  
 Specialist training as per attached syllabus.  
 Remainder of "D" Company for cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational Training.
- 
- 5th. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (rapid loading aiming)  
 9.30 - 10 Company Drill  
 10 - 12 Platoon in attack  
 Specialist training as per attached syllabus.  
 Remainder of "A" Company for cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational Training
- 
- 6th. Day. 8.30 - 9 Battalion Drill  
 9 - 9.30 Musketry (judging distance)  
 9.30 - 10 Company in attack  
 10 - 12 Specialist training as per attached syllabus.  
 Platoon in attack.  
 Remainder of "B" Company for cup discharger  
 bombing etc.  
 2 - 4 Recreational training.

A-----A-----A