

**AWM4**

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/26/47

**Title:** 9th Infantry Battalion

November 1918



AWM4-23/26/47



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**

**~~DUPLICATE.~~**

**~~TRIPLICATE.~~**

9th BATTALION  
A. I. F.  
No. Q.892  
Date 6/12/18

34

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

FOR

NOVEMBER

1918.



Signature of Officer compiling

*J Chapman*

*Captain*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*67 Ross Lieut. Col.*



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 |              |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
|--------------------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|----|-------|-----|--------------|----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|--------|--|--|----|---|---------|--|
| GORENFLOS.         | 1.11.18. |      | <p>Training according to syllabus and aof a recreational nature was carried out during the day. Weather beautifully fine with decidedly cold nights.</p> <table><tr><td>Fighting St rength</td><td>-</td><td>32</td><td>Offs.</td><td>606</td><td>Other Ranks.</td></tr><tr><td>Detached</td><td>-</td><td>7</td><td>"</td><td>120</td><td>" "</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total.</td><td>39</td><td>"</td><td>726 " "</td></tr></table>  | Fighting St rength                   | -            | 32 | Offs. | 606 | Other Ranks. | Detached | - | 7 | " | 120 | " " | Total. |  |  | 39 | " | 726 " " | <div>Capt</div> <div>Sg Chapman</div> <div>lit</div> <div>Appendix</div> <div>1.</div> |
| Fighting St rength | -        | 32   | Offs.  | 606                                  | Other Ranks. |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
| Detached           | -        | 7    | "  | 120                                  | " "          |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
| Total.             |          |      | 39   | "                                    | 726 " "      |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
|                    | 2.11.18. |      | Regimental Baths in full swing and every man issued with a clean set of underclothing. socks, towels, etc. These baths are capable of doing easily 60 per hour and the conditions under which men are bathed are far and above the best this Unit has experienced in France. Muster parade was held according with instructions issued from a higher formation for the purpose of locating any absentees who were not officially reported. It was a general round up throughout the Corps and this Unit was found all correct.   |                                      |              |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
|                    | 3.11.18. |      | Combined Church Parade was held at BRUCAMPS when Bde. H.Q., 10th. Battalion. 12th. Battalion and this Unit were present. Battalion marched passed the G.O.C. in column of Companies in line and the smartness and general appearance was commented upon. In the afternoon a football match was played on the football grounds GORENFLOS between the Battalion Officers and Sergeants which resulted in a win for the Sergeants by 12 points to 3. This match resulted in a great deal of amusement for the troops as there were many on both sides who knew little of the rules. 36 REinforcements including personnel from 25th. Battalion marched in making the strength of the Companies up to 150 each. Lieut. R.B. TENNANT to Gas School. |                                      |              |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
|                    | 4.11.18. |      | Quite the best day in regard to weather conditions that this Battalion has experienced during its stay in GORENFLOS. One Company, "Y", proceeded to Rifle Range at BOUCHON and carried out practices as laid down in syllabus. The remainder of the Battalion were instructed in Lewis Guns and Musketry. In the afternoon "X" Company played "Z" Company rugby and it was the most interesting match witnessed. Both teams were eager and in good condition. The result was a draw. Lieut. S. SHAW from Brigade School. Lieut. T.W. CAMERON to Paris Leave.   |                                      |              |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |
|                    | 5.11.18. |      | Raining all day. Training of Companies was carried on indoors. Lewis Gunners had practice in the stripping of the gun and general mechanism. Woollen Jerkins and Winter Gloves were  |                                      |              |    |       |     |              |          |   |   |   |     |     |        |  |  |    |   |         |  |

D. D. & L., London, E.C.

(10340) Wt W5300/1713 750,000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/Cat18/16.



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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages  
will be prepared in manuscript.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

34

| Place       | Date                | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and<br>references to<br>Appendices |
|-------------|---------------------|------|--|--|
| GO RENFLOS. | 5.11.18.            |      | issued. Warning Order received from Brigade that the whole Division less Artillery would move to the TINCOURT area on the 6th, 7th and 8th insts. This Battalion timed to entrain at PONT REMY at 1555 on 7th inst. and detrain at TINCOURT. TINCOURT which was the scene of our former success fortunately is well known to Units of this Brigade as we had been billeted there for three weeks previously. Rev. Chaplain Smith MCBAIN was posted as Battalion Intelligence Officer in accordance with instructions laid down in A.I.F. Educational Scheme.<br>EDUCATIONAL.   |  |
|             | 6.11.18.            |      | Very heavy rain set in and Companies were making all preparations for the move to the TINCOURT Area. S.A.A. was issued up to 120 rounds per man and the mobile reserve of S.A.A. was brought up to establishment. At 1330 Brigade Order for the move to TINCOURT was received.   |  |
|             | 7.11.18.            |      | The move to TINCOURT area timed for 0900 was postponed another 24 hours. Notwithstanding this postponement arrangements were made for the transportation of men's packs from GO RENFLOS to PONT REMY through the courtesy of Lieut.Col. MACARTNEY, "D.S.O." of 3rd. Army Bde. A.F.A. Six G.S. Waggon with 6 horse teams each and their complement of drivers was placed at the Battalion's disposal. Companies carried on indoors with lecturettes and instruction in Lewis Gun mechanism. Owing to the state of the weather conditions. Lieut. B. NICHOLLS to U.K. Leave. Lieut. C.O. THOMPSON to 4th. Army School. Major N.G. ARMSTRONG from Paris Leave. Bde. message received at 2.p.m. saying the Bde. Group would move to TINCOURT Area at 1600  | Appendix<br>2.                             |
|             | <del>7.11.18.</del> |      | <del>The men rested for the morning and received two hot meals before moving off at 1600</del><br>on 8th. inst. This was again altered to read 2100. Battalion Order was issued in accordance with these instructions.   |  |
|             | 8.11.18.            |      | The men rested for the morning and received two hot meals before moving off at 1600 by march route to PONT REMY, the point laid down for place of entrainment. At 1530 Battalion fell in in mass on Battalion Parade Ground. The 6 G.S. Waggon kindly loaned by Lieut.Col. MACARTNEY "D.S.O." arrived and all the men's packs including steel helmets and extra blanket were carried to point of entrainment. At 1600 the Battalion moved off in fighting order and at 1815 received a hot drink of coffee and milk on the line of march. On reaching PONT REMY at 2015 we again received another drink of coffee and milk and the whole Unit including transport were entrained by 2100. At 2115 the train moved off and about a mile out for some unknown reason remained there until 0415 on 9th. inst. Weather beautifully clear and extremely cold. Fighting Strength 30 Offs. 659 O/Ranks. Detached 9 Offs. 920/Ranks. Total 39 Offs. 751 O/Ranks. | Capt<br>D. J. Chapman                      |



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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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| Place       | Date      | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
|             | 9.11.18.  |      | Still resting in the train and the routine as laid down in GORENFLOS was adhered to. The men received the same meals and the methods of supply were unaltered. The Unit remained on the train all day up to 2300. The journey <del>actually took</del> actually took 26 hours to go 40 miles. The Battalion then marched from the TINCOURT Station to the bivouac area just a kilometre away, where they received a hot cup of coffee and milk. All ranks were under cover by 0200 on 10th inst. At midnight on 9th. inst. order was received from Brigade that the Battalion would move by bus route to the MAZINGHIEN Area at 1000 on 10th inst. |                                      |
| TINCOURT.   | 10.11.18. |      | Battalion Order issued to Companies at 0100 that the Battalion would move to this area according to instructions from Brigade. At 0630 this was again cancelled and the Battalion rested in TINCOURT for the whole of the day. Football matches were arranged and inspection of the Battalion was carried out. Weather extremely cold but fortunately fine. The talk of peace was very write throughout the Battalion and all ranks feel assured that it will be a certainty before many days are over. The Battalion remained in the dugouts over night and made all preparations for a move on the 11th.   |                                      |
|             | 11.11.18. |      | The Battalion fell in in Mass at 0900 to proceed to point of assembly for embussing. Just as <del>the Battalion</del> was ready to move word came through to dismiss but to be ready to move in thirty minutes notice. At 1200 unofficial news came through that hostilities had ceased. At 1230 message received from Brigade to commence embussing at once. Battalion were embussed and ready to move at 1300. A delay of two hours before the column moved off and the convoy did not reach MAZINGHIEN until 2030 where the Intelligence Sergeant met the Battalion and led them into Billets.  |                                      |
| MAZINGHIEN. | 12.11.18. |      | Battalion was billeted in two large farms which had been in enemy occupation for the last four years and Hun brutality is conspicuous everywhere. Not one scrap of furniture remains in these farms and the civilians are in a semi-starved condition. The Battalion has made arrangements to feed the occupants of these farms during the time it remains in occupation. The cruelty and barbarisms committed by the Huns reflected in every aspect and the appearance of all civilians. The whole Battalion employed on fatigue and the men's billets have been made most comfortable. Lieut. R.B. TENNANT from School.                          |                                      |



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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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| Place       | Date      | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| MAZINGHIEM. | 13.11.18. |      | General parade ordered by the Brigadier for 1115. Battalion assembled there at the time and place appointed when the General addressed the whole of the 3rd. Brigade. He warned us that the Armistice was granted and that we would in all probability be moving to garrison Germany. The men are very pleased to think that their efforts have been rewarded and their ambition, that of garrisoning German territory, fulfilled. Companies carried on with football recreation in the afternoon and preparations were made for the move. At 1900 Brigade Order received for the move to the BOHAIN Area. Lieut. C.E. PICKFORD from School.   | Appendix<br>3                        |
| BOHAIN.     | 14.11.18. |      | Battalion fell in in Mass at 0930 and proceeded by march route to BOHAIN. Transport accompanied the Unit and a midday meal was served from the cookers at 1200. The march was tiresome and unsatisfactory owing to the terrible lot of traffic and congestion of troops on the line of march. The journey only a distance of 9 miles took 7 hours to complete, but fortunately the weather was so good with bright moonlight that the billeting was not at all difficult. BOHAIN is a very large place and the civilians have suffered unmercifully at the hands of the Hun. It is only a skeleton village as every minor thing has been removed. Battalion Headquarters were located in Rue de REPUBLIQUE with Companies in large buildings adjacent. Lieut. T.W. CAMERON from Paris Leave. Lieut. R. PENMAN from School. Lieut. J.W. KING to U.K. Leave. | Capt.<br>J. Chapman                  |
|             | 15.11.18. |      | Battalion occupied with cleaning of equipment and cleaning up billets. Fighting Strength 32 Offs. 652 O/Ranks. Detached 7 Offs. 92 O/Ranks. Total 39 Offs. 744 O/Ranks. Capt. F.J. BIGGS to Division.  |                                      |
|             | 16.11.18. |      | Battalion carried on with training of a close order and smartening-up character. In the afternoon a football match was played between the 49th. Battalion and a representative team from this Unit. It was a highly interesting and hardly contested match. Final results were a draw. Weather absolutely perfect although extremely cold. Billets are presenting a much improved appearance and sanitation is being proceeded with.   |                                      |
|             | 17.11.18. |      | A Combined Church Parade of the Brigade Group at 1000 on ground adjacent to Civil Hospital. On completion of parade all Units marched past the G.O.C. in column of platoons. A meeting of all Company Commanders was called by Lieut. Col. C.F. ROSS "M.C." when all matters appertaining to the welfare of the regiment were discussed. Lieut. C.O. THOMPSON from School.   |                                      |



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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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| Place   | Date      | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| BOHAIN. | 18.11.18. |      | The Battalion proceeded to the Divisional Baths at BOHAIN when all men were thoroughly cleansed and issued with a clean set of underclothing. It is the opinion of all that no Baths come up to the standard of our own Regimental Baths, the supply of water is always assured., which is the governing factor.  |                                      |
|         | 19.11.18. |      | Battalion proceeded on a Rout March to SEBONCOURT. Weather was absolutely perfect. In the afternoon football match arranged between the Artillery and this Unit was played, which resulted in a win for the latter by 28 points to nil. During this game extraordinarily heavy fog was experienced but at night it cleared up with clear moonlight. Lieut. E.L. ELCOCK from Base.   |                                      |
|         | 20.11.18. |      | Battalion carried on with training as per syllabus in glorious weather. Sun was shining but the wind had a tendency to become very cutting. In the afternoon arrangements were made to complete the whole of the Battalion in regard to web equipment and rifles preparative to their move en-route to GERMANY.   | Appendix 4.                          |
|         | 21.11.18. |      | Battalion proceeded on a route march via FRESNOY LE GRANDE and SEBONCOURT under perfect weather conditions. In the afternoon Companies carried on with recreational training, football, etc. Sickness which was prevalent during the three previous weeks has been curtailed to a very great extent principally owing to the healthy weather conditions. Billets for the men have been made as comfortable as possible and every attention has been paid to the sanitation and food of the troops.  |                                      |
|         | 22.11.18. |      | Weather extremely cold and unpleasant unless on the move. Keen wind blowing which is very cutting. Notwithstanding this the Companies carried on with Battalion training principally ceremonial work. At 1500 Capt. T. FARMER and 2/Lieut. G.H. BOMFORD with 71 Reinforcements arrived. These reinforcements are poor specimens physically and look as though they require a lot of training to come up to the standard of this Unit. Movement Order received from Brigade that the Battalion would move by march route to the MAZINGHIEN Area commencing at 0930. Battalion Order issued in accordance with above at 1700.<br><i>Fighting Strength 34 Offs. 6360/RANKS Detached 60 Offs. 910/Ranks. Total 40 Offs. 7270/Ranks.</i> | Appendix 5.                          |



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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|-------------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| MAZINGHIEN. | 23.11.18. |      | The Battalion moved off to the MAZINGHIEN Area and occupied farms allotted to this Unit previously. This was a stage in the line of march and orders were received at 1700 that the Battalion would move off to CARTIGNIES the following day. Owing to the length of march it was deemed advisable that Steel Helmets should be carried by Transport and consequently very few fell out. Major N.G. ARMSTRONG to Hospital.   |                                      |
| CARTIGNIES. | 24.11.18. |      | At 0930 the Battalion moved off and proceeded to the CARTIGNIES Area a distance of 15 miles. Midday meal was supplied en-route and the Battalion arrived at their rendezvous at 1620. Cookers were sent away from the column two hours previously and the men received a hot meal at 1830. The Billets of the men were the best encountered up to the present time since the arrival of this Unit in France. Although Companies were scattered the command was central. It was notified to Battalions concerned that this area would be a stage and would only rest for the one night. At 2135 the Brigade Order received to the effect that the Brigade Group would move on to BEUGNIES Area, first Unit of the Brigade Group passing the starting point at 0800. This necessitated a very early move for this Battalion and orders were issued to Companies at 2400. | Appendix<br>7                        |
| BEUGNIES.   | 25.11.18. |      | Battalion proceeded by march route for the BEUGNIES Area, passing the starting point at 0837. This was only a short march of 9 miles under very fair conditions and the Battalion reached its billeting area at 1430. The three Companies "X", "Y" and "Z", were billeted in a huge factory with Headquarters adjacent. The condition of the billets was in a most insanitary condition but fortunately Baths formerly used by the Germans was intact and formed part of the factory occupied by this Unit. Three Companies received a hot bath an hour after arrival. Clean straw was purchased for every man. The Transport Lines were in a frightful condition which necessitated a fatigue party of 15 men per Company for cleaning up purposes temporarily. A hot meal was served to all ranks at 1800.   |                                      |
|             | 26.11.18. |      | Battalion occupied in cleaning up Billets and separate parties were detailed in assisting the Transport in making their places for horses habitable. As far as possible cleaning of equipment and cutting of hair was carried on with. Weather dull and muggy. Capt. F.J. BIGG from Division. Major N.G. ARMSTRONG from Hospital.  | Chapman bap                          |



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| Place     | Date      | Hour | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| BEUGNIES. | 27.11.18. |      | The Battalion billets were in a most awful condition and all Companies were detailed for the whole of the day in cleaning them up and making them habitable. Although the Billets were large and the accomodation plentiful no Unit previously had attempted to make them at all sanitary. Owing to reinforcements arriving in fairly large numbers the Battalion was again re-organized into 4 Companies of 3 Platoons each. Capt. W.G. PENROSE was posted to command "D" Company. The platoon which was originally transferred from old "D" Company to "X". "Y" "Z" respectively was again re-transferred to form complement of "D" Company. Weather very, very cold and raining.  | Appendix<br>8                        |
|           | 28.11.18. |      | General inspection of the Battalion by Companies and those requiring boots and clothing repaired were sent to the R.Q.M. The balance were again employed on sanitation and the billets are looking as though they are fit to accomodate troops. Brigade allotted a scheme to all Units for cleaning up of the village of BEUGNIES. Mr. BEAN the official correspondent with the Australian Corps called on the Battalion Commander, Lieut. Col. C.F. ROSS "M.C." and asked for a general resume of the operations connected with the Hindenburg Line commencing from LIHONS on August 10th. to the completion of the VILLERET battle on 18/19th September. Weather still unsettled and raining. Lieut. H. WILSON "D.C.M." to U.K. Leave. |                                      |
|           | 29.11.18. |      | Three Companies on route march and fourth Company detailed for cleaning up of the town of BEUGNIES. Rain has ceased but the atmosphere is very damp. Football match in the afternoon between a team composed of 1st Brigade personnel and this Unit resulted in a win for the former by 6 points to 5. This was a most strenuous game and the members of the 1st Brigade were far heavier and stronger than those opposed to them. 71 Reinforcements marched in after a good deal of travelling owing to lack of transportation. The lines of communication at the present time are frightfully congested and it takes a great deal of time to arrive from the Base to Units in the Field.   |                                      |
|           | 30.11.18. |      | Companies paraded under Company Commanders and carried on with cleaning of equipment and lectures to reinforcements who recently marched in. Football match arranged between H.Q. and "D" Company for the afternoon but the weather conditions prevented this taking place. The ration supply to this Unit has been very much below the standard particularly in the way of vegetables. Owing to the urgency of feeding the civilians those in possession will not sell.   |                                      |



## WAR DIARY

OF

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

FOR

NOVEMBER

1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Training Programme - 4th. to 9th. November, 1918.   |
| 2.  | Movement Order No.176.                              |
| 3.  | Movement Order No.177.                              |
| 4.  | Training Programme - 18th. to 23rd. November, 1918. |
| 5.  | Movement Order No.178.                              |
| 6.  | Movement Order No.179.                              |
| 7.  | Movement Order No.180.                              |
| 8.  | Memorandum - Re-organisation.                       |
| 9.  | Medical Officer's Report.                           |
| 10. | Quartermaster's Report.                             |
| 11. | Transport Officer's Report.                         |

A. J. Chapman Captain Adj.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WEEK 4th. NOV. to 9th. NOV. 1918.

Map Reference  
Sheet. 57.E.

(2)

Monday. 4th.

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.               |
| 0930 to 1000 | Companies under Company Commanders. |
| 1000 to 1030 | Bayonet Fighting                    |
| 1030 to 1045 | Smoke.                              |
| 1045 to 1115 | Musketry.                           |
| 1115 to 1145 | Setting up drill by Platoons.       |
| 1145 to 1200 | Rifle Exercises.                    |

\*Y\* Company will report to Rifle Range "F", BOUCHON and carry out the following practices from 0900 to 1200.

5 rounds grouping at 100 yards.  
10 rounds rapid at 200 yards.  
5 rounds application at 300 yards.

Lewis Gunners of "X" Company on Lewis Gun Range reporting after Battalion Inspection.

Tuesday. 5th.

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.               |
| 0930 to 1000 | Companies under Company Commanders. |
| 1000 to 1030 | Bayonet Fighting.                   |
| 1030 to 1045 | Smoke                               |
| 1045 to 1200 | Route March by Companies.           |

"Z" Company will report to "G" Range leaving at 0900 and carry out practices as above. Snapshooting at 200 yards will be included.

Lewis Gunners of "Y" Company on Lewis Gun Range after Battalion Inspection.

Wednesday. 6th.

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.             |
| 0930 to 1000 | Smartening up drill by Companies. |
| 1000 to 1030 | Musketry.                         |
| 1030 to 1045 | Smoke.                            |
| 1045 to 1115 | Bayonet Fighting.                 |
| 1115 to 1145 | Platoon in attack.                |
| 1145 to 1200 | March past in Column of Route.    |

"X" Company will report to Rifle Range "H" leaving at 0900 and carry out practice as laid down for 5th. inst.

Lewis Gunners of "Z" Company on Lewis Gun Range after Battalion Inspection.

Thursday. 7th.

|              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection. |
| 0930 to 1000 | Battalion Drill.      |
| 1000 to 1015 | Smoke.                |
| 1015 to 1200 | Route March.          |

(I.22.d.2.2. - I.14.b.00.70. - LERLOUY - DONQUER -  
main road I.16.b.17.c. - I.23 Central - GORENFLOS.)



# APPENDIX /

34

(2)

## Friday, 8th.

0900 to 0930  
0930 to 1200.

Battalion Inspection.  
Companies under Company Commanders.  
(Syllabi to be submitted by Companies by 1500 on 7  
inst.)

## Saturday, 9th.

0900 to 0930  
0930 to 1000  
1000 to 1030  
1030 to 1045

1045 to 1115  
1115 to 1145  
1145 to 1200

Battalion Inspection.  
Companies under Company Commanders.  
Bayonet Fighting.  
Smoke and Lecturette by Company Commanders on  
"History of the Battalion."  
Platoon in Attack.  
Setting up all by Companies.  
March past in Column of Route.  
"Z" Company will report to "C" Range leaving Company par  
ground at 0900 and carry out practices as laid down for  
6th. inst.  
Lewis Gunners of "X" Company on Lewis Gun Range after Ba  
talion Inspection.

## SPECIALIST TRAINING.

Signallers and Scouts with the exception of those detailed for Rif  
Range will report to the Specialist Officers at 1000 daily, and ca  
out syllabus as laid down.

## Dress:

Belts will be worn by all ranks when "Walking Out" and  
when moving about the streets of the "Village" in which  
they are billeted.  
Hats will at all times be worn turned up at the left side  
and chin straps on the point of the chin.  
Equipment to be blanced and brass portion to be kept s

## For Parade:-

Fighting Order.

## Recreational Training:-

From 1400 to 1530 daily.



~~SECRET~~

## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 100.

Battalion Headquarters,  
7th, November, 1918.

## Map References.

J.M.C. 11.  
AMMUNITION 17.  
ARTILLERY 11.  
Sheet 57N.  
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1. The 1st Australian Division (less Artillery) will move by rail from the LONG to the EPWING-ROCKETT-TINGOUR area on 7th, 8th and 9th insts.  
 Brigade Entraining Officer, PORT BURN - Major P.J. ANDERSON, 13th Battalion.  
 Brigade Detraining Officer, TINGOUR, Capt. F.J. BIGGS, 8th Battalion.  
 (0945) The Battalion will form up on Battalion Parade Ground at 0845, and proceed by route march to PORT BURN.  
 One marker per Company will report to R.S.M. on Parade Ground at 0835.  
 Dress :- Full Marching Order plus one blanket. Steel Helmets to be carried under flap of pack, and dunnies attached to flaps of haversack. Jerkins to be put in pack. Unexpended portion of day's rations to be carried. Water Bottles will be filled.  
 Rations for 8th inst. will be drawn at point of entrainment.  
 Emergency Ration will be drawn at point of detrainment.
2. TRANSPORT. Transport Officer will move off in sufficient time to report at Entraining Station at 1300.  
 Supply and Baggage Wagons will accompany Unit and entrain with them.  
 All vehicles will be entrained fully loaded.  
 All Water Carts will be entrained full.  
 Horses will be watered prior to entrainment.  
 Quartermaster will arrange for two Cooks complete with hot tea to be in position at H.32.D.5.7. at noon, also two Cooks to be ready to issue hot Coffee at point of entrainment.  
 Officers' Valises, Mess Gear, etc., will be dumped at Q.M. Store by 0800. (0800)  
 Bandmaster will arrange for packs of Band to be dumped at Q.M. Store by 0800 to-morrow.
3. BILLING. O.C. "Z" Company will detail 1 Officer and 1 U.C.O. to act as billing party for the Battalion.  
 O.C. "H.Q." Company will also detail 1 U.C.O. for this party.  
 Officer in charge of party will report to Capt. F.C. BLUNKETT, 3rd Battalion, at PORT BURN Station at 0830 on 8th inst. This Officer will obtain Billing figures from Battalion Headquarters before proceeding.
4. BATTALION ENTRAINING OFFICER. Lieut. J.G. FARWAKER will act as Entraining and Detraining Officer for the Battalion. This Officer will report to the Brigade Entraining Officer at 1300 at PORT BURN Station, with Entraining Notes. (1300)

P.T.O.



# APPENDIX 2

(2)

## 5. UNLOADING PARTY.

O.C. "X" Company will detail 1 Officer and 50 Other Ranks as Unloading Party for the Brigade at TINCOURT Station. They will report to Brigade Detraining Officer (Capt. F.J. BIGGS) on arrival at TINCOURT Station.

## 6. TRAIN PICKUP.

Company Commanders are responsible that their Commands are picketed on the train during the move.

## 7. SANITATION.

All Billets will be left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition. A certificate to this effect will be rendered by Company Commanders by 0930 to-morrow.

## 8. MEDICAL.

R.M.O. will furnish to Adjutant at 0900 a list of men who in his opinion cannot march a distance of 10 miles.

*A. Raff*  
.....Lieut.

Asst. Adjutant, 9th. Battalion.

## DISTRIBUTION.

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer.     | 2. Second in Command. |
| 3. 3rd A.I. Bde.           | 4. "X" Company.       |
| 5. "Y" Company.            | 6. "Z" Company.       |
| 7. "H.Q." Company.         | 8. Transport Officer. |
| 9. R.Q.M.                  | 10. R.M.O.            |
| 11. Lieut. J.G. BARWICKER. | 12. R.S.M.            |
| 13/15. War Diary.          | 16/17. Spares.        |

(0080)

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(0081)



## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER NO. 177.

Battalion Headquarters,  
13th, November, 1918.

1.

The Brigade Group will move to BOHAIN Area by march Route to-morrow, 14th. inst.  
The Battalion will form up in mass on Battalion Parade Ground at 0930. One marker per Company will report to R.Q.M. on parade ground at 0925.  
Dress :- Full Marching Order less 2 Blankets. Steel Helmets to be carried under straps of pack. Mess tin to be carried under Steel Helmet. Unexpired portion of day's rations to be carried.  
Officers Valises and Mess Gear will be dumped at Company Headquarters at 0800.  
Blankets rolled in bundles of 10 tied in the centre and at both ends and properly labelled will be stacked at junction of roads leading into MAZINGHAM by 0830.  
O.C. "Y" Company will detail 1 N.C.O. and 5 Other Ranks to act as guard and loading party on these blankets.

2. TRANSPORT. Transport will accompany Unit and will be ready to proceed as tail of column passes transport lines.  
Transport Officer will arrange transport for the conveyance of Officers' Valises and Mess Gear from Battalion and Company Headquarters at the times laid down in para. 1.  
R.Q.M. will be responsible that the lorry reporting to his Unit at 0800 is met by a guide from his staff at Brigade Headquarters.  
Transport Officer will detail 1 G.S. Limber to report to O.C. 3rd. A.L.F.M. Bty. at 2100 to-night. This Limber will move with 3rd. A.L.F.M. Bty.

3. BILLETING PARTY.

O.C. "H.Qrs." Company will detail 1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks to report to Bie. Billeting Officer, Lieut. H.V. HOWE at Town Major's Office BOHAIN at 0900 to-morrow.  
Bicycles for this party will be provided by O.C. "H.Qrs." Company.

4. DISTANCES. Between Battalions - 500 yards. Between Coys. - 100 yards.  
Units and Transport - 100 yards.

5. RATIONS. Rations for consumption on 15th inst. will be drawn from Supply Dump at 0700.

6. MIDDAY MEAL.

R.Q.M. will arrange to supply tea for midday meal at 1200.

7. SANITATION. Company Commanders will ensure that the Billets vacated by them are left in a clean and sanitary condition. Usual Certificates to this effect will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 0900.

8. OFFICERS' HACKS.

Officers' Hacks will be at their respective Headquarters at 0915.

.....Lieut.  
Asst. Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.



# NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

## TRAINING SYLLABUS FOR WEEK 18th to 23rd. NOVEMBER. 1918.

### Monday. 18th.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.  |
| 0930 to 1000 | Battalion Drill.   |
| 1000 to 1030 | Companies under Company Commanders.  |
| 1030 to 1045 | Smoke and Lecturette by Company Commanders on "Discipline in regard to an Army of Occupation." |
| 1045 to 1115 | Bayonet Fighting.  |
| 1115 to 1145 | Smart ending-up Drill by Platoons.   |
| 1145 to 1200 | March Past in Column of Route.   |

### Tuesday. 19th.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.   |
| 0930 to 0940 | Smoke.  |
| 0940 to 1200 | Battalion Route March - D.27.a. - D.21.b. Central - D.22.a. 00.70. - thence through D.22.a. and c. to E.1.c.6.4. - thence to SEBONCOURT to Cross Roads in J.16.b. - thence to BOHAIN. |

### Wednesday. 20th.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 0900 to 0930. | Battalion Inspection.  |
| 0930 to 1     | Battalion Drill.   |
| 1000 to 1030  | Companies under Company Commanders.                              |
| 1030 to 1045. | Smoke and Lecturette by Platoon Commanders on "Garrison Duties." |
| 1045 to 1115  | Bayonet Fighting.  |
| 1115 to 1145  | Platoon Drill.   |
| 1145 to 1200  | March Past in Column of Route.                                   |

### Thursday. 21st.

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 0900 to 0930 | Battalion Inspection.  |
| 0930 to 1200 | Battalion Route March - BOHAIN - Cross Roads FRESNOY - le GRAND L.16.b. - J.13. Central - SEBONCOURT - BOHAIN. |

### Friday. 22nd.

|               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0900 to 0930  | Battalion Inspection.               |
| 0930 to 1000  | Battalion Drill.                    |
| 1000 to 1030  | Companies under Company Commanders. |
| 1030 to 1045. | Smoke.                              |
| 1045 to 1115  | Smartening-up drill by sections.    |
| 1115 to 1145  | Platoon Drill.                      |
| 1145 to 1200  | March Past in Column of Route.      |

### Saturday. 23rd.

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 0900 to 0930  | Battalion Inspection.   |
| 0930 to 0940  | Smoke.  |
| 0940 to 1200. | Battalion Route March - D.27.a. - D.21.b. Central - D.22.a. 00.70 - D.22.a. and c. - E.1.c.6.4. - SEBONCOURT - Cross Roads in J.16.b. - BOHAIN. |

Recreation Parade - 1400 to 1530.



*War Diary*

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 178

Ref. Sheet.  
62B. 1/20,000  
VALENCIENNES 1/1000,000.

Battalion Headquarters,  
22nd. November, 1918.

"C" Infantry Brigade Group will move by march route to the MAZINGHIEN Area to-morrow 23rd inst.  
Route :- VAIN ANDIGNY - MCHAIN - ST. MARTIN - LE AUBREY de GUISE - MAZINGHIEN.  
The Battalion will fall in by Companies on main road adjacent to Billets at 0900.  
Dress :- Full Marching Order less 2 Blankets.  
Jerkins and Woollen Gloves will be worn. Steel Helmets under straps of pack. Mess Tin inside Steel Helmet.  
Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten properly labelled and tied at both ends and centre. They will be dumped at Q.M. Store at 0730.  
Officers Valises will be dumped at Q.M. Store at 0800.  
Order of March :- Headquarters, "X", "Z", "Y" Companies.  
Officers' Mess Gear will be collected by Mess Cart at 0830 in accordance with the order of march shown above.  
Packs of personnel authorised to have packs carried mentioned in special memorandum issued 22nd. inst. will be dumped at Q.M. Store at 0800.

BILLETING.

Billeting party mentioned in memorandum of 22nd inst. will assemble at Bde. Headquarters BOHAIN at 0700 to-morrow, and proceed on cycles under the senior officer. They will meet Lieut. HOWE of Bde. Headquarters at the Church CARTIGNIES at 1100 on 23rd inst.  
Dress :- Full Marching Order plus unexpired portion of day's ration, in addition to an extra 24 hours rations.  
In addition to the above S.C. "R.Qrs." Company will detail Intelligence Sgt. and 1 other Rank to assemble at Bde. Headquarters BOHAIN at 0730 and proceed under senior Officer or M.C.O. to MAZINGHIEN.  
R.Q.M. will arrange for bicycles for this personnel.

TRANSPORT.

One sub-section of S.A.A. section has been allotted to the Bde. Group. Transport of this sub-section is allotted to this Unit as under until completion of move -  
2 G.S. Wagons and 1 Limber.  
R.Q.M. will arrange to ration personnel and horses reporting with wagons. Transport will accompany Unit. Cookers will proceed in rear of Companies concerned.

DISTANCES.

The following distances will be maintained on the march :-

Between Battalions - 300 yards  
" Companies - 50 "  
" Unit & Transport - 50 yards.

P.T.O.



# APPENDIX 5

(2)

## HALTS.

Halts of ten minutes will be made at ten minutes to the clock hour. The column will halt for midday meal from 1200 to 1300. R.Q.M. will arrange for hot tea to be supplied at this hour.

SYNCHRONIZATION OF WATCHES. A representative Officer from each Company will report to Battalion Headquarters at 0830 for synchronization of all watches of the Company.

## SUPPLIES.

Supply arrangements will be notified from Dde. by wire.

## MEDICAL.

R.M.O. will submit to Battalion Headquarters at 0830 a list of names of men who in his opinion are not capable of carrying a pack or marching required distance.

## PRISONERS.

O.C. "Y" Company will be responsible for custody of guard room prisoner.

## OFFICERS' HACKS.

Hacks will be at their respective Headquarters at 0855. Transport Officer will arrange for mid-day meal for Hacks to be carried.

## BILLETS.

The usual certificate as to cleanliness of Billets will be rendered by 0845.

## STRAGGLERS.

O.C. "Z" Company will detail 1 Officer to march in rear of column and collect stragglers, if any.

*S. Chapman*

.....Capt.

Adjutant. 9th. Battalion. A.I.F.

## DISTRIBUTION.

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officer. | 2. Second in Command.          |
| 3. 3rd. A.I. Dde.      | 4. "X" Company.                |
| 5. "Y" Company.        | 6. "Z" Company.                |
| 7. "H.Q." Company.     | 8. Transport Officer.          |
| 9. R.Q.M.              | 10. R.M.O.                     |
| 11. R.S.M.             | 12. Lieut. Col. WRENCH. "M.O." |
| 13/15. War Diary.      | 16/17. Spares.                 |



*War Diary*

NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 178

Ref. Sheet  
VALENCIENNES. 1/100,000

Battalion Headquarters,  
23rd. November, 1918.

1. The Brigade Group will continue the march to CARTIGNIES to-morrow 24th inst. The Battalion will fall in in Mass on Battalion Parade Ground (same locality as before) at 0900. 300 markers per Company will report to R.S.B. at 0850. Dress :- Full marching order less 2 blankets and steel helmets. Mess Tin will be carried in the pack. Leather Jerkins and Gloves to be worn. Order of March :- "H.Qrs." Company, "Z" Company, "Y" Company, "X" Company. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten, properly labelled, tied at both ends and centre and stacked with steel helmets at Battalion and Company Headquarters by 0700. Officers Valises and Mess Gear will be dumped at respective Headquarters by 0800.
2. TRANSPORT. R.Q.M. in conjunction with Transport Officer will arrange to collect blankets, Steel Helmets, Valises and Mess Gear at times laid down. Cookers will proceed in rear of Companies and leave at the same time as the Company concerned. Personnel authorised not to carry packs will dump same at respective Headquarters at 0800.
3. MEDICAL. R.M.O. will submit to Battalion Orderly Room by 0800 names of men who are not able to carry packs. Men of this list who will be wanted at Sick Parade will dump their packs at Battalion Headquarters at 0800. Medical Officer will issue a statement to Companies in accordance with above instructions.
4. DISTANCES AND HALTS. Same as Battalion order of 22nd inst. R.Q.M. will arrange for hot tea at midday halt.
5. PACKS. Packs for all mounted officers will be at their respective Headquarters at 0850.
6. STRAGGLERS. S.C. "X" Company will detail an officer to collect all stragglers, if any.
7. BILLETS. Usual certificate will be rendered to Battalion Headquarters by 0850. Instructions contained in Memorandum issued from this Office on 21st inst. will be adhered to.
8. ROUTINE.

|             |   |       |
|-------------|---|-------|
| Reveille    | - | 0630  |
| Sick Parade | - | 0645  |
| Breakfast   | - | 0715. |

...  
Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION C.DER NO. 180.

Battalion Headquarters,  
24th. November, 1918.

Map Reference  
VALENCIENNES  
NATUR

1/100,000.

1. The Brigade Group will continue the march to BEUGNIES Area to-morrow 25th inst. Companies will pass the starting point (Billets occupied by "Z" Company) as under :-
 

|                    |   |      |
|--------------------|---|------|
| "H. G. S." Company | - | 0800 |
| "Y" Company        | - | 0801 |
| "X" Company        | - | 0802 |
| "Z" Company        | - | 0803 |

Dress :- Full Marching Order less 2 blankets and steel helmet. Jerkins and Gloves to be worn. Mess Tin to be placed in pack. Blankets, will be rolled in bundles of ten, tied at both ends and centre, and packs authorised to be carried will be stacked at Headquarters concerned by 0650. Officers' Valises and Mess Gear to be dumped at Headquarters concerned at 0705. Mess Cart will call for Mess Gear at 0715 commencing at "Y" Company.
2. TRANSPORT. Transport will proceed with Unit and be ready to move in rear of column at 0805. Cookers will proceed in rear of their respective Companies. R.Q.M. will arrange for hot tea at midday meal. R.Q.M. in conjunction with Transport Officer will arrange for collection of blankets, etc. at time laid down. Hacks for mounted officers ~~will be at their respective Headquarters~~ Hacks will be at their respective Headquarters at 0750.
3. S.C. "Z" Company will detail one Officer to collect all stragglers, if any, and will march in rear of column.
4. LISTANCES AND PLACES. Same as mentioned in C.D.C. of 22nd. inst.
5. MEDICAL. R.M.O. will notify Companies concerned of all men authorised to have packs carried.
6. ROUTINE.

|             |   |      |
|-------------|---|------|
| Reveille    | - | 0530 |
| Sick Parade | - | 0600 |
| Breakfast   | - | 0630 |
7. BILLETING PARTY. Billeting party as laid down in Memorandum of 21st. inst. will proceed direct to BEUGNIES area leaving Battalion Headquarters where they will meet Lieut. WRENCH "S.C." at 0800.

*H. Kapur* Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

Battalion Headquarters,  
27th. November, 1918.

MEMORANDUM.

The Battalion will be re-organized to 4 Companies of 3 Platoons each and will be termed "A", "B", "C" and "D" Companies respectively.

The following Officers are appointed to Companies as under :-

"A" COMPANY.

Capt. F.J. BIGGS, to Command.  
Lieut. R.B. CALISBURY "M.C."  
" C.E. PICKFORD.  
" W.J. THOMAS.  
" H. WILSON. "D.C.M."  
" W.P. WARNER.  
2/Lieut. P.H. WEINEKE.

"B" COMPANY.

Capt. T.W. EARLER, to Command.  
Lieut. W.S. MAC TAGGART.  
" J.G. EARFAKER.  
" J.J. CHAPMAN  
2/Lieut. R.B. TENNANT  
" H.I. HARVEY.

"C" COMPANY.

Capt. C.H. RYAN "M.C."  
Lieut. R. BELMAN "M.C."  
" T.J. SHEEDY  
" C.W. FRANCIS  
2/Lieut. F.A. SLAUGHTER  
" R.L. HARPER.  
" G.H. BOLFORD.

"D" COMPANY.

Capt. W.G. PENROSE to Command.  
Lieut. C.O. THOMPSON.  
" E.H. BARTLEY.  
" E.L. ALCOCK  
2/Lieut. E.W. MARTIN.  
" H.J. PARTRIDGE.

W.A. LATHAM

P.T.O.



# APPENDIX 8

(2)

## WARRANT OFFICERS.

"A" Company - No. 5448 C.S.M. PORTER, W.A.  
 "B" Company - 4260 " O'BRIEN, E.  
 "C" Company - 7440 Sgt. RICHARDSON, W.F.  
 "D" Company - 2323a C.S.M. PERRETT, A.C.

## C.Q.M.S.

"A" Company - No. 1732 C.Q.M.S. BRISTOL, M.  
 "B" Company - 4294 Sgt. THORPEY, O.E.  
 "C" Company - 4851 C.Q.M.S. MENADUE, E.  
 "D" Company - 1927 " CAMERON, J.M.

## STOREMEN.

"A" Company - No. 4878 L/Cpl. SAVAGE, V.A.  
 "B" Company - 3092a Pte. HARNEY, W.  
 "C" Company - 6456 " GRAYSON, F.A.  
 "D" Company - To be selected by O.C. "D" Company from personnel reporting.

In addition to the above, Companies at the present time, will detail one platoon complete to report to O.C. "D" Company at Billet No. 141 at 1800 to-day.

COOKERS. O.C. "H.Qrs." Company will detail Cooker at present in use by "H.Qrs." Company to report to O.C. "D" Company at Billet No. 141 at 1800 to-day. Fixies will be drawn from Cookers proportionately for use by "H.Qrs." Company and will be in possession of "H.Qrs." Company at 2000 to-day.

COOKS. R.Q.M. will detail 1 Cook per Company to report to O.C. "D" Company at 1800. Cooks formerly belonging to "D" Company will be detailed.

## COMPANY H.Q.

SIGNAL - N.O.O. O.C. "A" Company will detail Cpl. PARRY to report to O.C. "D" Company at 1800.

OFFICERS' COOKS. To be under arrangements made between O.C. "D" Company and Companies concerned.

OFFICERS' MESS. O.C. "D" Company in conjunction with Battalion Town Major (Lieut. S. SHAW) will make necessary arrangements for a "Company" Mess.

OFFICERS' QUARTERS. These will remain as at present located.

EXTRA PLATOON SERGEANT. O.C. "H.Qrs." Company will detail Sgt. WOOLTON to report to O.C. "D" Company at 1800 for duty.

RETURNS. O.C. "D" Company will furnish a return of all members reporting to reach Battalion Headquarters by 1700, 28th. inst.



(3)

BILLET.

Billet No. 141 has been allotted to "D" Company.  
Other Ranks reporting will carry straw from their  
present billet for use to-night.

*S. J. Chapman*  
.....Capt.  
Adjutant. 9th. Battalion.

DISTRIBUTION.

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. COMMANDING Officer. | 2. Second in Command. |
| 3. "X" Company.        | 4. "Y" Company.       |
| 5. "Z" Company.        | 6. "H.Qrs." Company.  |
| 7. Transport Officer.  | 8. R.Q.M.             |
| 9. R.M.O.              | 10. R.S.M.            |
| 10/12. War Diary.      | 12/14. Spares.        |



NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1918.

- 1/8-11.18. During the early part of the month Battalion was billeted at GORENFLOS and here the usual routine training was followed. The men received plenty of recreational training and we witnessed some well contested Rugby football matches. The Battalion team was an excellent one. Sick parades were light.
- 6.11.18. On the afternoon of the 8.11.18 the Battalion marched to PONT REMY, where they entrained for TINCOURT. The journey which was only 50 miles took 23 hours. The condition of the trucks when we entrained left much to be desired for in many instances they were very much fouled with manure and urine. The men experienced a most uncomfortable cold journey.
- 9.11.18. We arrived at TINCOURT about 10.p.m. on the 9.11.18 and the men were all able to receive hot cocoa at the Y.M.C.A. stall before moving off. The Battalion then marched to their allotted area about 1 kilometre from the station and bivouaced there. Here the Battalion remained until 11.11.18.
- 11.11.18. On the afternoon of 11.11.18 the Brigade embussed for the MAZINGHIEN area. The Battalion was billeted in two large farms about 1 kilometre out of the town. These billets were indescribably filthy and the next two days were spent in cleaning up and rendering the place sanitary.
- 14.11.18. On the 14.11.18 the Brigade moved to the BOHAIN area. This entailed a march of about 12 kilometres. The men marched well and there were no stragglers. Here the men were very comfortably billeted. The sanitation of the village was most unsatisfactory and at first there was great difficulty in obtaining material. Here the Battalion rested 9 days. Sick parades were fairly heavy and many displayed catarrhal symptoms. Here several football matches were played. On the 22.11.18 a draft of 2 Officers and 70 Other Ranks marched in. They were in a pitiable plight for they had left HAVRE over 14 days before. During this time they had been moved about from one depot to another. These depots were criminally over-crowded according to statements made by officers and men. Quite a proportion of this draft were reinforcements and were of a very poor type physically. While at BOHAIN, R.M.Os. were asked to forward a list of men from their Battalions whom they considered physically unfit for a forward march to GERMANY. This return was rendered and a fairly high standard of physical efficiency was adopted. Sixty-nine names were submitted. A large proportion of these men were recent reinforcements. Within the next week twenty of these men were evacuated for various causes.
- 23.11.18. On the morning of 23.11.18 the Brigade marched to the MAZINGHIEN Area about 12 miles. Four men fell out of the Battalion. Here the Battalion occupied the same billets as before. Our billets were again very filthy. Here a special foot inspection was held and many men were suffering from sore feet.
- 24.11.18. Next morning the Brigade moved to the CARTIGNIES Area a distance of about 15 kilometres. About five men fell out with sore feet and their packs were carried. They were then able to resume. At CARTIGNIES the Battalion was comfortably billeted. Next morning 6 men were evacuated. three with influenza and three with "feet".
- 25.11.18. Brigade moved to BEUGNIES Area a distance of about 17 kilometres. During the march 6 men fell out and they were able to resume
- 30.11.18.



when their packs were carried. The Battalion was billeted at SARRS POTERIES. Here our billets were indescribably filthy for inside they had apparently been used as latrines and outside conditions were even more appalling. It required several days work to make the place anything like sanitary. Latrine accommodation was hopelessly inadequate but this was soon rectified although there is a great shortage of sanitary material. Here the Battalion has remained to the end of the month and now the billets are fairly satisfactory.

#### PREVAILING DISEASES.

- Diarrhoea.** Several days after our arrival we had quite a number of cases of diarrhoea from one company. It has however almost entirely subsided. The cause was apparently food contamination from the filthy environs. One case required evacuation. The rest responded readily to treatment.
- Influenza.** During the month there have been quite a number of cases of so-called "influenza". Convalescence in most cases is slow and the disease leaves the patients debilitated. Pulmonary complications have not been common. Seventeen have required evacuation.
- Bronchitis.** Number of cases has been fairly high. Seven cases of bronchitis have been evacuated.
- Epidemic Parotitis.** This epidemic was introduced by the reinforcements of the 10.10.18. So far as possible efforts have been made to isolate contacts as regards sleeping accommodation. There were six cases, all from the one platoon.
- Scabies.** Four cases reported during the month. Two of these cases were men reporting back from leave.

The general health of the men is not good for coughs and colds are very prevalent. During the last two months 340 reinforcements and details have marched in. About 100 are reinforcements and they are consequently feeling the effects of their first winter in France. These reinforcements are of a very poor type physically. Their classification as D.I. shows great leniency on the part of Medical Officers in England.

The following are the sick and scabies reports for the month.

| For week ending.         | 6th. | 13th. | 20th.      | 27th. |
|--------------------------|------|-------|------------|-------|
| Number reporting sick    | 98   | 65    | 160        | 170   |
| Cases :-                 |      |       |            |       |
| Diarrhoea.               | -    | -     | -          | 10    |
| Pulmonary.               | 3    | -     | 26         | 18    |
| Rheumatic.               | 3    | -     | -          | 5     |
| P.U.O.                   | 6    | 10    | -          | 14    |
| Trench Feet.             | -    | -     | -          | -     |
| Scabies.                 | -    | -     | -          | 1     |
| Venereal.                | -    | -     | 1 (London) | -     |
| Sent to Field Ambulance. | 6    | 11    | 13         | 28.   |

|                             |   |                        |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| B blankets last disinfected | - | 30.10.18.              |
| Number of men bathed.       | - | All Companies.         |
| Clean Clothing last issued  | - | 30.10.18 and 19.11.18. |

Sanitation.



(3)

## Sanitation.

The sanitation of all the Areas into which the Battalion has moved during the last month has been far from satisfactory. Material for sanitary appliances has been very scarce and in most instances we have had to be content with open pits and straddle latrines. Viewed from the sanitary standpoint there has been much work to do for the environs of nearly all the Billets were very filthy.

## Baths.

It has been difficult to get the men bathed during the month but all men have been bathed at least four times. The trouble has been clean under-clothing for they have only received one change during the month. (BOHAIN)

## Water.

Water supply has been satisfactory. Water carts have been used throughout.

## Food.

Has been good during the month. A run ration would be most acceptable to the men during the winter especially after these marches.

In conclusion I would like to draw your attention to the unnecessary amount of hardships that drafts to Battalions experience. Depots are sadly overcrowded and at the best of times are cold desolate places. So far as the experience of this Battalion goes quite a number of men have required evacuation because of the exposure entailed in their journey from the Base to their Battalion. One of our recent drafts took more than 14 days to reach BOHAIN from Havre.

*J. G. G. Capt*



## NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

## QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1918.

During the month the work of the Quartermaster's Department has been heavy and the staff have been working early and late for reasons due mainly to the continual moving from place to place and in addition to continual interruption of the railway supply and Transport Branch caused through enemy action in one way or another.

Rations have been good but not as plentiful as in October mainly for the reason stated above. On several occasions the rations have been supplemented with the purchase of vegetables locally.

Comforts have come forward regularly and consisted mainly of coffee and milk, tobacco, cigarettes, socks and shirts. Our deepest thanks is due to the homefolks in Australia and to the Australian Comforts Funds for the work in handling same in the able way that they do.

Ordinance supplies have come forward very regularly and our demands have almost without exception been supplied and quickly to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

The Battalion has been bathed and received clean changes of under-clothing on three occasions during the month.

In regard to entertainments it was possible during our stay at BOHAIN for members of the Battalion to visit the "Sentimental Blokes" and "The Fancies" (An English Concert Party) and quite the biggest number of the members of the Battalion did so and enjoyed themselves.

Sgd. T.W. CAMERON. Lieut.

Actg. R.Q.M. 9th. Battalion.



# NINTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

## TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1918.

In the early part of the month while we were still in GORENFLOS, all the Limbers were thoroughly overhauled and touched up for the Review which was to have taken place on the 8th inst. Boxes for carrying the spare shoes were made and fixed to the front of the fore-portion of each limber, this because there is not sufficient room in the spare tools box for 2 complete sets of shoes.

We moved from GORENFLOS on the 8th inst. entraining at PONT REMY at 6.p.m. The horses were soon trucked and with a loading party from the 1st Pioneer Battalion the vehicles were securely loaded before the train was timed to depart. Detraining, after a long tiring journey of 26 hours, took place at TINCOURT at 11.p.m. but as there was a good landing stage this was quickly done. and without mishap. We remained only 2 days at TINCOURT treking to MAZINGHIEN ( a days journey) without the Battalion, which went in busses. A halt for the night was made at ESTREES after a good trip through ROSIEL, HARGICOURT, and BELLICOURT. We set off next morning at 8 o'clock via MONTBREHAIN and BOHAIN having the midday meal at the latter place, and arriving at MAZINGHIEN at 4.p.m.

Work in connection with the Transport was most interesting owing to the number of moves through country occupied by the enemy.

The stabling accomodation at MAZINGHIEN was not at all satisfactory and in consequence the horses had to be picketed in open fields.

It is an extraordinary thing that the enemy had apparently neglected care of his horses, that not in one instance has it been observed that stabling of a sanitary nature was located adjacent to Battalion Billet.

On the 14th Transport moved by march route to BOHAIN. It was very slow and on the completion of the march the horses were as fresh as ever.

On the 15th 1 H.D. and 1 Officers' Charger was evacuated.

The stabling at BOHAIN was in a very filthy condition although they were solid brick with cement floor. It was fortunate in having such cover and the horses improved wonderfully during the 10 days stay in this Area.

On the 23rd the Unit again proceeded to MAZINGHIEN and the Transport was supplemented by 2 G.S. Wagons and 1 G.S. Limber from the S.A.A. Section of the D.A.C. This enabled 2 Blankets per man and all Steel Helmets being carried.

This was only a stage in the advance and the Transport again followed the Battalion to CARTIGNIES leaving the lines at 0900. This march in every detail was most pleasant and the G.O.C. Brigade took the salute and highly complimented the Transport on its whole turnout and discipline. The Unit only remained one night in CARTIGNIES preparatory to moving on to BEUGNIES Area.

These moves meant a good deal of extra work for all transport personnel but they cheerfully carried out their duties under all sorts of conditions. L/Cpl. JAMES rendered invaluable assistance in regard to the ~~cheasing~~ <sup>cleaning</sup> of lines and stables.

At 0800 on the morning of the 25th the column was again on the move en route to BEUGNIES. The weather was against a smart turnout as it commenced to rain an hour before moving off. Nevertheless the march and appearance was again remarked upon by the G.O.C. Bde. BEUGNIES was reached at 1500 and the lines for transport were again found in a most filthy condition. Manure had never been cleaned away and the stables were a foot deep with it. A party of 50 men were



(2)

detailed for making the place habitable and sanitary and it took two days to complete the job.

Taking the whole month into review the work entailed meant a lot for the Transport but by the keen attention of all personnel it was fulfilled in a hearty and satisfactory manner.

Sgd. E. GORDON. Lieut.

Transport Officer.

APPENDIX //