

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/34/14

**Title:** 17th Infantry Battalion

September 1916



AWM4-23/34/14



17 Bm

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## VOLUME XV

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
31-8-16	1.45pm	Moved to Beauval.
1-9-		Major Maughan reported back to duty, returning Command of "D" Coy. Capt (Temp. Major) Beiers resorted to rank of Captain. Capt. Beiers returned to "A" Coy as 2nd in Command.
2-9-		Honour awarded. The following additional appeared in 1st AIFAC order of 2/9/16. D.S.O. Major J.M. Maughan

G.11058

1



Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>Military Cross. Lieut. R. M.                      MacKenzie - 2nd G. Matthews                      Distinguished Conduct Medal:-                      12028 Pte Childs G.H. 101180 Pte Davis                      M., 101546 Pte Zahay P.Q., 101342 Pte                      Curran, 10319 Pte Ridley A.S.                      Military Medal. 10522 Pte Zahay                      K.</p>	
4-9-		<p>2/Lieut Small, G. proceeded to                      Lewis Gun School, E. Angles.</p>	
5-9-	<p>5.30                      am                      4.0                      pm</p>	<p>Left Beaufort for Poperinghe                      arrived at Poperinghe</p>	

Q 11056.



Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
8-9-16	Poperinghe 9pm	Entrained at Poperinghe for Ypres. 2nd Lt. Thet reported back to Bath.
8-9-16	Ypres 11.30	Relieved 11th Somerset L.I. Bath in Reserve, at Ramparts, Barracks & Band
9-9-16	"	Relieved 1st Bath R. Bde in left sector. Operation Order 1019
12-9-16	"	2/Lt Ellis joined Bath
	"	2/Lt Small reported from L.C. School.
		Capt Brier wounded
		2/Lt Brown injured.

G.11058.



Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
14.9.	Ippeet	Relieved by 23 <sup>rd</sup> Batt A.I.F. Operation Order No. 20 Moved to H.Q. Rimparts, Btr to Barracks.	
16.9.	"	2/Lt Brown reported back to Btr.	
	"	Pte Jackson W. No 588, awarded V.C.	
	"	to Pte Dick - to Pte McLean awarded M.M.	
20.9.16	"	Relieved 19 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in Right Battalion sector. Operation Order No 21	
27.9.16	"	Relieved by 19 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, & moved to Rimparts & Barracks Ippeet. Operation Order 22	

C.11056.



Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
28.9.16	Ypres.	Capt. B. Holmes returned,	
29.9.16	"	returned Command of 'C' Coy, Capt. Johnson returned duties as Adjutant	

Q.11056.



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*Don C. Day*

# APPENDIX

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17th BATTALION, A.I.F.

BELGIUM.

OPERATION ORDER No 19.

~~5.11.16~~ 9/9/1916.

Map Ref. 1/20,000

Belgium. Sheet 28.N.W. Ed. 3 d.

Relief Order No 1.

- (1). The Battalion will relieve the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade.
- (2). Order of Relief:-
  - "A" Coy, 17th Battalion, will relieve "C" (right) Coy R.Bde.
  - "B" Coy, 17th Battalion, will relieve "A" (centre) Coy R.Bde.
  - "C" Coy, 17th Battalion, will relieve "I" (left) Coy R.Bde.
  - "D" Coy, 17th Battalion, will relieve "B" (Support) Coy R.Bde.
- (3). Guides. will be supplied by Rifle Bde, 1 per platoon and 1 for Headquarters, who will be at Northern end of ZILLEBOKE Bund, (I. 15 d 2.3.) by 8.15 p.m.
- (4). Relief will be conducted as follows:-
  - "Right Coy (A), Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.30 p.m.  
Left Platoon leave Bund at 8.35 p.m.
  - Centre Coy (B). Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.40 p.m.  
Left Platoon leave Bund at 8.45 p.m.
  - Left Coy. (C). Culvert Platoons leave Bund at 8.50 p.m.  
Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.55 p.m.
  - Reserve Coy. (D). Platoons leave Bund at 5 minutes interval,  
Platoons for Lienster Trench, leading, at  
9 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.
  - Headquarters. Leave Bund at 9.20 p.m.
  - Right Coy (A). Centre Platoon leaves Bund at 9.30 p.m.  
Support Platoon leaves Bund at 9.35 p.m.
  - Centre Coy. (B). Centre platoon leaves Bund at 9.40 p.m.  
Support Platoon leaves Bund at 9.45 p.m.
  - Left Coy. (C). Centre platoon leaves Bund at 9.50 p.m.  
Support Platoon leaves Bund at 9.55 p.m.
  - Lewis Guns will accompany the leading platoons of their Coys.
  - Signallers will accompany the leading platoons of their Coys. ("C" Coy 2 stations, H.Q. 1 Station.)
  - Signallers R.Bde. will not leave their stations until relief of their Company is complete.
  - "B" Coy. will leave Barracks for the Bund, 5 minutes interval between platoons, starting at 8 p.m.
  - "D" Coy. will leave Barracks for the Bund, 5 minutes interval between platoons, starting at 8.30 p.m.
  - Four reliable guides from each of these Coys will be sent to reconnoitre the route between the Barracks and the Bund during daylight. They will move in pairs at a couple of hundred yards interval.
- (5). Right Coy. (A). Centre and Support Platoons will be taken to ROSSLYN STREET, which they will not leave until notified by Runner from O.C. "C" Coy R.Bde, that relief of Right and Left platoons is complete.



OPERATION ORDER No 19. (Continued).

- (5). Centre Coy. (B). Centre and Support Platoons will be taken to  
Ctd. HALFWAY HOUSE, which they will not leave until notified  
 by runner from O.C. "A" Coy. R.Bde, that relief of  
 Right and Left Platoons is complete.
- Left Coy. (C). O.C. "I" Coy. R.Bde will arrange rendezvous for  
 Left and Support Platoons, 17th Battalion, A.I.F. and  
 will notify them when relief of ~~1st~~ <sup>First</sup> two platoons is comple  
 -te?
- (6). All Trench Stores, Secret Trench Maps, Maps 1/10,000, Defence  
 Schemes, etc., will be handed over by R.Bde, to 17th  
 Battalion, A.I.F., also all Intelligence Reports and Log  
 Books and receipts obtained in triplicate and forwarded  
 to Battalion Headquarters.
- (7). Companys will send "ALMA" to Battalion Headquarters on completion  
 of relief of first two platoons.
- (8). Companys will report completion of relief to Battalion Headquarters  
 by "Army Code".
- (9). Bombing Platoon will follow rear platoon of Support (D) Coy, and  
 will remain at HALFWAY HOUSE. A Section of 9 men will  
 be told off ready to take over the bombing position, on  
 the right, if necessary.
10. Headquarters, Lewis Gun Section will follow Bombing Platoon to  
 HALFWAY HOUSE.
11. Acknowledge.

*W. B. Hough*

2/Lieut.

A/Adjutant, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies.

1. HdQrs. File
2. War Diary.
- 3? A Coy.
4. B "
5. C "
6. D "
7. Lewis Gun Officer.
8. Bombing Officer.
9. -



176.

17th BATTALION, A.I.F.OPERATION CORNHILL, 14/1/42.

Map Ref. 1/29,000, Belgium.

Sheet 22, E.V. 20 22.Relief Order No. 1.

- (1). The 3rd Battalion will relieve the 17th Battalion, A.I.F.
- (2). Order of Relief:-  
 "A" Coy, 17th Battalion will be relieved by "A" (right) Coy, 3rd Bn.  
 "B" Coy, 17th Battalion will be relieved by "B" (centre) " 3rd Bn.  
 "C" Coy, 17th Battalion will be relieved by "C" (right) " 3rd Bn.  
 "D" Coy, 17th Battalion will be relieved by "D" (support) " 3rd Bn.
- (3). Guides will be supplied by 17th Battalion, 1 per platoon and 1 for Headquarters, who will be at Northern end of Allard's Bund, (1.19.6.2.2.) by 8.15 p.m.
- (4). Relief will be conducted as follows:-  
 "Right Coy (A). Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.30 p.m.  
 Left Platoon leave Bund at 8.35 p.m.  
 Centre Coy (B). Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.40 p.m.  
 Left Platoon leave Bund at 8.45 p.m.  
 Left Coy. (C). Culvert Platoons leave Bund at 8.50 p.m.  
 Right Platoon leave Bund at 8.55 p.m.  
 Reserve Coy. (D). Platoons leave Bund at 9 minutes interval.  
 Platoons for Lionster Trench, leading, at 8.5 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.  
 Headquarters. leave Bund at 9.30 p.m.  
 Right Coy. (A). Centre Platoon leaves Bund at 9.35 p.m.  
 Support Platoon leaves Bund at 9.40 p.m.  
 Centre Coy (B). Centre Platoon leaves Bund at 9.45 p.m.  
 Support Platoon leaves Bund at 9.50 p.m.  
 Left Coy. (C). Centre Platoon leaves Bund at 9.55 p.m.  
 Support Platoon leaves Bund at 10.00 p.m.  
 Lewis Guns will accompany the leading platoons of their Coys.  
 Signallers will accompany the leading platoons of their Coys.  
 ("D" Coy 2 Stations, A.I.F. 1 Station.)  
 Signallers 17th Battalion will not leave their stations until relief of their Company is complete.  
 3rd Battalion will make its own arrangements about arriving at the Bund. Half an hour should be allowed for the march from 17th to the 3rd Bn.  
 (5). Right Coy. (A). Centre and Support Platoons will be taken to BULLY'S STRAIL, which they will not leave until notified by runner from O.C. "A" Coy, 17th Battalion that relief of Right and Left Platoons is complete.  
 Two Bombing parties of 1 S.S.G. and 8 men in all, will be detailed from the Bombing Platoon, and will take over the two bombing posts on the CORNHILL ROAD. These parties will accompany the Right platoon.  
 Centre Coy. (B). Centre and Support Platoons will be taken to BULLY'S STRAIL, which they will not leave until notified by runner from O.C. "B" Coy, 17th Battalion that relief of Right and Left Platoons is complete.



OPERATION ORDER NO. 22. (continued).

- (6). Left Coy. (C). C.S. "C" Coy. 17th Battalion will arrange rendezvous for Left and Support Platoons, 17th Battalion, and will notify them when relief of first two platoons is complete.
- (7). All French stores, secret French maps, maps 1/10,000, defense sketches, etc., will be handed over by 17th Battalion to 1st Battalion, A.I.F., also all intelligence reports and log books and receipts obtained in triplicate and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters.
- Gun boots are on Battalion charge and are not to be handed over to the incoming boys.
- (8). Companies will send "alpha" message to Battalion Headquarters on completion of relief of first two platoons.
- (9). Companies will report completion of relief to Battalion Headquarters by Army Code.
- (10). The Bombing Platoon, (less the parties detailed in para. 5.) will follow rear platoon of Support Coy and will remain at HALFRAY HOUSE.
- (11). The Lewis Gun Headquarters section will follow Bombing Platoon to HALFRAY HOUSE and remain there.
- (12). "A" and "B" Coys on being relieved will move to the Bund and take over the quarters they recently occupied.
- "C" and "D" Coys will move to YARRA. The exact locality will be notified later.
- All Coys. will report to Headquarters separately as soon as they arrive in their new positions.
- 13.) Acknowledge.

*H. R. Langley* / Lieut.  
Adjutant, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies.

1. Hd Qrs File.
2. War Diary.
3. "A" Coy.
4. "B" "
5. "C" "
6. "D" "
7. Lewis Gun Officer.
8. Bombing Officer.
9. 1st Battalion.



17th Battalion, A.I.F.OPERATION ORDER No 21. BELGIUM. 20/9/16.Map Ref. 1/20,000. Belgium. Sheet 28.N.W., Ed 3d.Relief Order No 3.

1. The 17th Battalion will relieve the 19th Battalion, A.I.F. on the night of 20/21st Sept. 1916.
2. Order of Relief:-  
 "D" Coy. 17th Battalion, will relieve "Right" Coy, 19th Battalion  
 "B" " 17th Battalion, will relieve "Centre" " 19th Battalion  
 "C" " 17th Battalion, will relieve "Left" " 19th Battalion  
 "A" " 17th Battalion, will relieve "Support" " 19th Battalion
3. Guides will be supplied by the 19th Battalion, 1 per platoon and 1 for Headquarters, who will be at Junction, North Shore Road and Main Street ZILLEBEKE, by 7.30 p.m.
4. Company Lewis Gunners, under the Battalion Lewis Gun Officer, will take over positions by 3 p.m. (20/9/16.)  
 The H.S.M. will take over stores at Headquarters at 3 p.m. (20/9/16).  
 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. per Coy. will proceed to their respective front lines and take over trench stores by 3 p.m. (20/9/16).
5. Relief will be conducted as follows:-

Right Coy. ("D")	-	Right, Centre, Left and Support Platoons.
Centre " ("B")	-	" " " " " "
Left " ("C")	-	" " " " " "
Support " ("A")	-	" " " " " "

Battalion Bombers will move to Support Trenches in vicinity of REDAN.

Headquarters Lewis Gun Section will move to STAFFORD STREET.

Distance of 50 yards will be observed between parties moving up to trenches.

The head of the leading platoon of the Right Coy. (D). will arrive at the junction of North Shore Road and Main Street, ZILLEBEKE, at 7.30 p.m.

Signallers will accompany leading platoon of their Companies. The Battalion Signal Officer will see that these reliefs, also Headquarters are properly carried out.

The Signal Officer and balance of Headquarter's Signallers will take up their quarters at STAFFORD STREET.

6. All Trench Stores, Secret Trench Maps, Maps 1/10,000, Defence Schemes, etc., will be handed over by the 19th Battalion, to the 17th Battalion, A.I.F., also all Intelligence Reports and Log Books, and receipts obtained in triplicate and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters.
7. Companies will report completion of Relief by Army Code.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

2/Lieut.  
A/Adjutant, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies.

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hd Qrs File. | 5. "D" Coy.                |
| 2. War Diary.   | 7. Lewis Gun Officer.      |
| 3. "A" Coy.     | 8. Signal Section Officer. |
| 4. "B" "        | 9. 19th Battalion.         |
| 5. "C" "        |                            |



17th BATTALION, A.I.F.

OPERATION ORDER No 22, BELGIUM, 23/9/18.

Map Ref. 1/20,000, Belgium, Sheet 23.N.V. Ed 1.4.

Relief Order No 4.

1. The 18th Battalion will relieve the 17th Battalion A.I.F. on the night of 27/28th Sept, 1918.
2. The Relief will be conducted as follows:-
 

Right Coy. ("D")	Right, Centre, Left and Support platoons.
Centre. " ("B")	do. do. do. do.
Left. " ("C")	do. do. do. do.
Support " ("A")	do. do. do. do.
- Distance of 50 yards will be observed by parties, which, on relief, will proceed to billets at BARRACKS, YPRES.
3. Guides will be supplied- 1 per platoon and 1 for Headquarters. They will be at Junction of NORTH BRUNE ROAD and MAIN STREET, BILLENHKE by 7.30 p.m.
4. Lewis Gunners, Signallers, Observers and Bombers will be relieved during daylight.  
One Officer and one N.C.O. per Company and Headquarters from 18th Battalion will take over all French Stores, etc., by 3 p.m. (27/9/18).
5. The Signal Officer, on being relieved, will proceed at once to BARRACKS and take over from 18th Battalion Headquarters at that place.  
Lieut. Finlay and one N.C.O. from "A" Company will take over at 3 p.m. at BARRACKS, YPRES.
6. All French Stores, secret Maps, Maps 1/10,000, Defence Schemes, etc., together with Intelligence Reports and Log Books, will be handed over by the 17th Battalion to the 18th Battalion, A.I.F., and receipts obtained in triplicate and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters.
7. Battalion Primus Stoves will be handed over to the 18th Battalion, and separate receipts obtained in triplicate.
8. Companies will report completion of Relief by Army Code.
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

*W.R. Langh* 2/Lieut.  
A/Adjutant, 17th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies.

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hd Qrs File. | 6. "D" Coy.                |
| 2. War Diary.   | 7. Lewis Gun Officer.      |
| 3. "A" Coy.     | 8. Signal Section Officer. |
| 4. "B" "        | 9. 18th Battalion.         |
| 5. "C" "        |                            |