

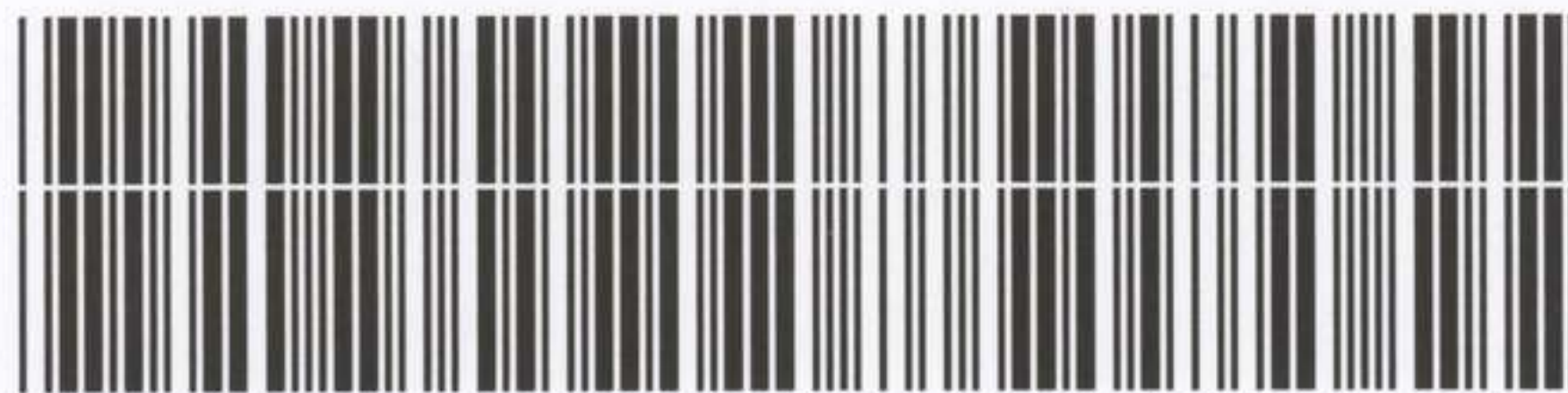
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/72/30

Title: 55th Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/72/30

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VOLUME 30.

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55TH BATTALION, A.I.F.
No.....
Date.....

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

55th. BATTALION A. I. F.

FOR

AUGUST 1918.



Signature of Officer compiling

W. J. Mustone Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

P. Woods

Lieut-Col.

WAR DIARY

AUGUST 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FREMONT.	1.8.18.		Battalion in billets, resting and cleaning up. C.O. and Adjutant inspected Company areas. Weather fine and sunny. The C.O. visited Brigade at 6 p.m.	
	2.8.18.		Day showery, occasional sunny half hours. Battalion Canteen is in full swing. Brigade order received instructing Battalion to move to LONGPRE at 8.30 p.m. The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters at 7 p.m. The Battalion moved out from FREMONT at 8.30 p.m. Battalion O.O. No. 125 (Appendix 1.) was issued to all concerned. No rain during move.	Appendix 1
LONGPRE, N.W. of AMIENS.	3.8.18.		Battalion in billets by 1 a.m.. Battalion H'qrs established in Billet No. 19. C.O. to a conference of Battalion Commanders at Brigade Headquarters at 10 a.m. Weather - alternately showery and sunny. The Battalion was paid today, the troops spending freely at the Regimental Canteen.	
	4.8.18.		The day was showery. C.O.'s orders were held at 2 p.m. Orders received from Brigade that the Battalion would move to bivouacs at H.29.c. (Sheet 62D.) tonight. Bn.O.O. No. 126 (Appendix 2.) was issued and preparations made for the move. As the Battalion is to be mobile in future, all spare gear, Officers Kits, packs etc were sent to Brigade Kit Store at VAUX. Nucleus Personnel marched out at 7.30 p.m. to bivouacs at BOIS-de-MAI, West of ADLONVILLE. The Battalion moved out at 8.30 p.m. by march route to bivouacs as ordered, skirting AMIENS on the N. and N.E. via Main DAOURS-AMIENS Road, thence through BUSSY to bivouacs on West side of River HALU in H.29.c. Movement along roads was very difficult owing to enormous traffic. Huge supplies of material and a great number of guns of all calibres were being sent forward for an intended attack on the enemy positions. Many tanks passed the Battalion during the move.	Appendix 2.
BIVOUACS, N.W. of BUSSY.	5.8.18.		The day was very dull and showery. The troops rested all day and no movement was allowed, orders were received from Brigade to this effect. Orders were received that the Battalion would move to bivouacs in O.7.a. near DAOURS. This order was cancelled later in the day and the the Battalion remained in its present position.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS, N.W. of BUSSY.	6.8.18.		<p>The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters at 11 a.m. Weather slightly improved. The C.O. and Adjutant reconnoitred routes to O.7.a. and from there to VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. Enormous movement of guns and material forward under cover of darkness. Battle Instructions No. 1 received from Brigade stating the part the Battalion would take in the projected attack on the enemy defences. Enemy bombing planes were very active during night time. Battalion Battle Instructions No. 1 (Appendix 3.) issued to all concerned.</p>	Appendix 3.
	7.8.18.		<p>Notification received from Brigade that today is "Y" day. Final preparations were made for fitting the Battalion for the operations on "Z" day. Each man is to carry 170 rounds S.A.A., 2 bombs, 2 sand bags, 2 water-bottles (full) and 48 hours rations over and above the iron rations in addition to the unexpired portion of today's ration. Battle Instructions No's 3 and 4 received from Brigade. The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade at 5 p.m. He returned at 7 p.m.. A Meeting of Company Commanders was held to discuss the forthcoming operations on "Z" day. Notification received from Brigade that tomorrow, 8th. inst., will be "Z" day and that Zero hour will be 4.20 a.m. During the evening by an unlucky shot the Hun struck one of our supply tanks with a "77" H.E. shell. These tanks, 18 in number, were parked in a small orchard on the Northern side of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. The tank that was struck contained petrol and explosive stores of all description. Heroic attempts were made to draw the remainder clear but unfortunately only 4 could be got away, the remainder were set on fire by the explosion of the first tank and were completely destroyed.</p>	
ASSEMBLY POINT O.7.a.	8.8.18.		<p>The Battalion moved from Bivouacs in H.29.c. (Disposition Sketch, appendix 4.) by march route at 1.45 a.m. and arrived at Assembly position on start line in O.7.c. at 3.10 a.m. At this point the Battalion rested until 4.20 a.m. (Zero hour). Everyone is keyed up to concert pitch awaiting the time when our barrage will fall and set them moving forward to take their part in the effort to roll back the Hun lines. At 15 minutes after Zero the Battalion moved off as per Battle Instructions No. 2 (Appendix 5.) via Artillery tracks to point where PIONEER SWITCH crosses the main FOUILLOY-VILLERS-BRETONNEUX Road then over land along PIONEER SWITCH to DIGGERS SUPPORT LINE, the last named was the old support line in this sector during the months of April, May and June. Bn.H'qrs was established at O.24.a.4.6. The Battalion was in position awaiting orders to move forward by 6.30 a.m. D.K.L. London. B.C. offered no casualties.</p>	Appendix 4 Appendix 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DIGGERS SUPPORT. N.E. of Villers-BRETONNEUX.	8.8.18. (Cont'd).		<p>Shortly after the Battalion arrived at this position the Division making the initial attack had passed beyond range of the Field Artillery which at once started to move. Large numbers of prisoners were being passed back to the cage as the morning went on. At 10 a.m. one of our planes landed in XXXX O.23. owing to engine trouble. At midday orders were received from Brigade to move forward to P.30.a. N.E. of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT and take up position approximately on the GREEN LINE. The BATTALION moved from DIGGERS SUPPORT at 12.15 p.m. and arrived at P.30.a. at 3 p.m. where it rested. The XX C.O. and Adjutant visited Brigade Headquarters and the C.O. and G.O.C. Brigade went forward to reconnoitre new positions in Q.33. Reconnoitring parties were sent forward from the Battalion at 4.30 p.m. and the Battalion moved forward at 5.30 p.m. and was in position in Q.32. at 7.30 p.m. Battalion H'qrs was established at Q.32.c.2.6. on the Northern edge of BAYONVILLERS. Great aerial activity during the whole of the day, with enemy bombers very active at night. Two planes, identity unknown, were brought down at about 7 p.m.</p>	
BIVOUACS, North of BAYONVILLERS.	9.8.18.		<p>Day was bright and sunny, clouds very high. Much evidence can be seen of the rapid advance of the 2nd. Aus. Division in this sector and then later on the 8th. and 15th. Aus. Brigades. Tanks are all over the landscape "skittled" by the Anti-tank and Field Gun Batteries of the enemy, by night fall most of them had been towed back to tank parks near LA-MOTTE. Planes were very active on both sides ours having the supremacy. At 8.30 p.m. one of our balloons which had been moving forward with the advance was brought down in flames by 3 planes with British markings. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Much enemy bombing of roads etc took place at nighttime.</p>	
	10.8.18.		<p>Battalion still in Bivouacs near Bayonvillers. All ranks are eagerly awaiting the expected order to move forward to take their share in the "Biffing of the Hun", and were very disappointed when orders were received from Brigade at 12.30 p.m. to move back to bivouacs near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX during the evening. Bn.O.O. No. 128 (Appendix 6.) was issued for the move. The day was bright and sunny with high clouds. At about 1 p.m. 12 Gothas appeared very high over the Battalion area and dropped about 40 small bombs, 5 casualties were caused. At 2 p.m. the Battalion moved out by march route keeping well clear of the main roads, skirting LA-MOTTE and WARFUSEE on the North and arriving at new position in O.22-23 by 4.30 p.m. Disposition sketch (Appendix 7.) Battalion H'qrs was established in bank at O.23.d.8.7. At 6 p.m. a British Balloon broke loose N. of the SOMME and drifted South very high up until lost sight of.</p>	<p>Appendix 6 Appendix 7</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS, O.22-23, Near Villers BRETONNEUX.	11.8.18.		The Battalion rested all day. The Day was fine and sunny. The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade at Noon. During the afternoon the Battalion received a clean change of under-clothing and had a swimming parade which was very much appreciated.	
	12.8.18.		Weather still continues to be fine. The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade during the afternoon to discuss a move and probable operation. Orders were received from Brigade that the Battalion would move with the Brigade to bivouacs at CAIX, West of ROSIERES. Bn.O.O. No.129 (Appendix 8.) was issued to all concerned.	Appendix 8.
	13.8.18.		Advance parties for move were sent forward at 6 a.m. Battalion all ready to join the Brigade column at 10.30 a.m. and at 11.a.m. moved to starting point at Cross roads in O.24.a. waiting until 56th. Battalion passed before moving off. The roads were very dusty owing to the enormous traffic both to and from front areas. Many guns and tanks were going forward. The Column passed the main VILLERS-BRETONNEUX-WARFUSEE Road at about 11.45 a.m. and skirting MARCELCAVE on the Western side halted for an hour just South West of the village at 1 p.m. Here the Battalion had their mid-day meal and moved off again at 2 p.m. taking the road direct to IGNAUCOURT then turning Eastward through the village halted half way between IGNAUCOURT and CAYEUX for 10 minutes, when march was again resumed along VALLEY Road through CAYEUX into bivouacs in wood S.E. of CAIX where advance party met the Battalion, for dispositions see sketch. Bivouacs in wood were very cool after the dusty march. Orders were received from Brigade that the Battalion would move forward to Assembly position N.E. of MEHARICOURT at 2 a.m. the 14th. instant, in preparation for the forth coming operation. The C.O. attended a conference at Brigade at 6 p.m. Orders received that the move forward early the next morning was cancelled. During the early part of the evening forward areas had been well reconnoitred by Company Officers.	Appendix 9
BIVOUACS, S.E. of CAIX.	14.8.18.		Active reconnaissances of forward areas by Company Officers and N.C.O's. Notification received from Brigade that the Division would take part in a major operation on "Z" day. Enemy bombing planes were very active during the night. The C.O. attended conferences at Brigade at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS, S.E. of CAIX.	14.8.18. (Cont'd)		This is the first occasion on which this unit has marched into an area occupied by Canadian Troops.	
	15.8.18.		Still in wood S.E. of CAIX, men resting all day. Battle Instructions No's 2,3 and 4 received from Brigade. All ranks are very eager for the impending operation. xxx Notification received from Brigade that the Battle Instructions are cancelled. Instructions received that the Battalion will relieve the garrison in R.19.c. West of PROYART. Bn.O.O. No. 130 issued to all concerned. (Appendix 10.) Advance parties were sent forward to reconnoitre. The head of the Battalion moved off from bivouacs at 9.15 p.m. passing Brigade Headquarters at 9.30 p.m., thence by cross country tracks skirting the Eastern edge of HARBONNIERES. As the Battalion approached the main WARFUSEE Road the enemy began to shell heavily, the Battalion, however, moved through without casualties to old FRENCH trenches in R.19.c., where the 9th. Battalion, DUKE OF WELLINGTONS REGIMENT was relieved. Enemy planes were very active with bombs some falling very close to the Battalion, no casualties were caused however.	Appendix 10.
RESERVE LINE R.19.c. West of PROYART.	16.8.18.		Reliefs complete by 1 a.m. The Battalion rested all day. Orders were received that the Battalion would relieve the 10th. Battalion, WEST YORKS REGIMENT, 50th. Inf. Brigade, 17th. Division in Line left. Weather very fine. Advance parties were sent forward during the afternoon to reconnoitre new area. Battalion Order No. 131 (Appendix 11.) issued for the move. Guides were provided by the West Yorks Regiment. Companies moved off at 9.30 p.m. Relief was complete by 10.45 p.m. without incident. Battalion H'qrs was established at Hospital Copse R.19.d.1.3.	Appendix 11
LINE LEFT, E. of PROYART.	17.8.18.		After the relief strong fighting patrols were immediately sent out to test strength of enemy forward posts and to gain an idea as to his policy. Shortly before dawn Capt. H. L. WILSON, Sgt. W. B. Anchor and 20 O/Ranks moved out from our left Company with the intention of attacking an enemy post on our left flank. The party encountered very strong opposition in the shape of bombs and machine gun fire but in spite of this succeeded in capturing 2 prisoners and 2 light machine guns and inflicting severe casualties upon the enemy. Capt. Wilson became a casualty early in the operation and Sgt. Anchor took charge. This N.C.O. was killed whilst	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT, E. of PROYART.	17.8.18.	(Cont'd)	<p>returning to our own lines. At the same time Sgt. Kearns and T/Cpl Stewart of "A" Company by brilliant initiative succeeded in entering the enemy's lines and attacking a party of 25 Boche. These two N.C.O's by their coolness and daring succeeded in extracting 5 prisoners and 1 light Machine Gun from the hostile position against great odds and bringing them safely into our own lines. Our losses from these two operations were:- 2 Killed, 2 missing and 3 wounded. The C.O. visited the C.O. 56th. Battalion and arranged co-operation of action as instructed by Brigade.</p>	
	18.8.18.		<p>The day very fine and sunny. At 6 a.m. the C.O. visited the C.O. 57th. Battalion on our left flank and arranged for conformity of operations intended on our left flank, on his return suggestions were forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. Much hostile shelling on Battalion area during whole period. Shells ranging from 77 c.m. to 8" Howitzers. Reserve and Support positions strafed particularly by the Hun. By changing platoon positions casualties were avoided. At 6.15 p.m. two enemy aeroplanes brought down one of our Observation balloons near BAYONVILLERS. Both planes reached their own lines despite heavy fire from A.A. and Machine guns. At 8 p.m. two of our planes brought down a large German plane N.E. of PROYART. C.O. and Adjutant visited forward Battalion area before dark and inspected platoon posts where possible. Except on extreme left flank it is possible to visit posts by daylight. Enemy snipers are very active but are kept in their place by our snipers.</p>	
	19.8.18.		<p>Weather still good. Very heavy shelling still continues on the whole of the Battalion area. very few casualties considering the nature of the shelling. LA FLAQUE dump being paid particular attention to by enemy guns. Aerial activity normal. The Boche has a fair number of balloons up along the front. Two British planes were salvaged by the Battalion today and were brought back to Hospital Copse where Battalion H'qrs are. The C.O. decided to relieve the 2 front line Coy's tonight with Coy's from Support and Reserve. Bn.O.O.No. 132 (Appendix 12.) was issued to all concerned, relief was complete by 11 p.m. Captain K.R. Wyllie is now O.C. Line.</p>	Appendix 12

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT, E. of PROYART.	20.8.18.		<p>Heavy enemy shelling with guns of all calibres up to 8" still continues. Weather is still fine and aerial activity normal. Advice received from Brigade that the 57th. Battalion on our left flank will take over a portion of the Battalion area as far South as the East and West grid through R.21. central. This was arranged personally by the Company Commanders concerned and the redistribution was complete by 11 p.m. Three platoons of B Company moved back to Trench positions in R.20.c. Disposition sketch. (Appendix 13.)</p> <p>Enemy still shelling LA FLAQUE dump very heavily. At 10.30 a.m. the dump was set on fire by this shelling and blazed fiercely throughout the remainder of the day.</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited the Battalion area and complimented the C.O. on the condition of the Battn. area also on the success of the Battalion in obtaining identification on the morning of the raid.</p>	Appendix 13
	21.8.18.		<p>Notification received from Brigade that a Major operation would take place at a time and date to be notified later and that command of the Brigade sector would pass to G.O.C. 2nd. A.I. Brigade at 10 a.m. 22nd. inst.</p> <p>Under cover of darkness many guns moved up to forward positions and large supplies of ammunition were taken forward by limbers. Our planes were very active bombing enemy territory. Practically no bombing by enemy planes on forward area.</p>	
	22.8.18.		<p>At dawn a very intense bombardment commenced just North of the River SOMME showing that the 3rd. Aust. Division were attacking in that sector according to advice received.</p> <p>Order No. 125 was received from the 2nd. A.I. Brigade with reference to the major operation to be carried out on Z day in which the 2nd. A.I. Brigade would take part. The C.O. 5th. Aust. Battalion visited Bn. H'qrs and arranged all necessary details for guides etc to be found by this unit. Immediately after darkness all details and final preparations for the "stunt" on Z day, which had been set down as the 23rd., commenced. Many field guns took up their positions in readiness for Zero hour which was 4.45 a.m. 23rd.,</p> <p>Our planes were very active bombing enemy forward areas and in doing so served a double purpose in harassing the Hun and drowning the noise of our tanks moving forward to their start positions. Bn.O.O No. 132 (Appendix 14.) was issued in connection with the operation.</p> <p>Hostile shelling commenced again at 11 p.m. on all forward areas.</p>	Appendix 14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE LEFT, E. of PROYART.	23.8.18.		<p>The Engineers with the assistance of the forward Companies taped off the start positions for the 2nd. Brigade and at 12.30 a.m. all was ready. The 5th. Battalion moved past Bn. H'qrs at 2 a.m. picking up their guides at this point, at the same time Support and Reserve Companies moved back to positions already allotted. Owing to hostile shelling the unit moving forward suffered a few casualties before Zero hour. As soon as the 5th. Battalion were in position our forward companies moved back to positions East of North and South Grid through R.19.-R.25. Central and reported in that position at 4.10 am. having suffered no casualties. At 4.45 a.m. (Zero hour) our barrage fell and withing a few seconds the enemy flare throwers were sending up light signals of all descriptions. At Zero plus 5 minutes a few of the enemy's guns began to speak but no shelling fell further to the rear than the Western edge of PROYART. The Railway line running from LA FLAQUE to PROYART was bombarded very heavily. The attack seemed to develop without hitch and by 6.30 a.m. most of the field guns had ceased firing and were moving forward to fresh positions. Prisoners began to stream back including a great number of enemy wounded which showed that our barrage had been most destructive. All prisoners seemed glad to be in rear of our attacking forces. Our contact planes were active over the forward areas. With the exception of 1 Flight of Battle planes no others were seen until at 10.15 a.m. when 14 hostile planes flew low over the Battalion area firing their machine guns at Artillery Columns moving forward and other bodies of troops. They did not fire at troops in Hospital Copse at the Dressing station. By mid-day the enemy began using his long range gun and a few shells fell near the Battalion area. Throughout the operation the Battalion sustained no casualties.</p>	
BIVOUACS, Near PROYART.	24.8.18.		<p>Guns on both sides very active forward and a few and a few prisoners still continue to trickle through. Day warm and sunny and in aerial activity above normal. Everything very quiet in the Battalion area.</p>	
	25.8.18.		<p>At dawn and at intervals during the day Artillery on both sides going hammer and tongs. Weather in the morning good but the night turned out very wet. C.O. called to Brigade to a conference at 3.45 p.m. to discuss projected operation against the enemy defences on the morning of the 27th. A meeting of Company Commanders was held at Bn. H'qrs at 6 p.m. to discuss the operation and particulars of relief of the 4th. Battalion on the night 26th./27th. Warning order received from Brigade with reference to the relief of the 4th. Battalion.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIVOUACS, Near PROYART.	26.8.18.		Early morning until dawn very wet. At dawn the weather cleared up a bit. Order received from Brigade for relief tonight. C.O. attended a conference at Brigade at Noon to discuss relief and projected operation. At 3.45 p.m. an enemy aeroplane attempted to bring down one of our balloons near HARBONNIERES unsuccessfully. Both observers, using their parachutes, reached the ground safely. Five minutes later a second enemy plane attacked the balloon and succeeded in bringing it down in flames. Weather at night very dull. Late in the afternoon notification was received from Brigade that the intended relief and operations were off, Brigade order No. 172 being cancelled.	
	27.8.18.		Today turned out sunny and fine and at 9 a.m. three of our planes brought down an enemy observation balloon East of PROYART. Today every man in the Battalion received a clean change of under-clothing which was much appreciated.	
	28.8.18		News from all fronts has been very good for many days and the Allied troops are advancing at many points from ARRAS to NOYON. The Battalion is still resting and the troops are very disappointed at missing the "stunt". The morning was fine but after mid-day it turned out very wet clearing up, however, at about 11 p.m. No indications yet of a move forward.	
	29.8.18.		The Battalion moved from PROYART at 11 a.m. Bn.O.O. No. 134 (Appendix 15.) issued in connection with the move. Moved in Artillery formation across country to St. Martins Wood arriving there at 1 p.m. Moved again at 4 p.m. as per Bn.O.O. No. 135 (Appendix 16.) and halted again near ASSEVILLERS where a hot meal was partaken of. Continued the move forward at 7.15 p.m. the destination being N.17 and N.23. When nearing destination orders were received from Brigade for Battalion to hold fast until further orders. C.O. attended a conference at 11.30 p.m. Orders received for Battalion to bivouac in this position and be in readiness to move at dawn.	Appendix 15 Appendix 16
BIVOUACS, N.21 - 22.	30.8.18.		Orders received from Brigade at 4 a.m. that Battalion would continue forward movement at 6 a.m., Bn.O.O. No. 136 (Appendix 17.) issued to all concerned, moving East across country to N.4. and N.10. and occupy a system of trenches covering 53rd. Bn. Enemy shelling very active on this area. At times the position was heavily shelled but no casualties sustained.	Appendix 17

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TRENCHES, N.4 and N.10.	31.8.	18.	<p>All ranks were warned to be in readiness for an early move. C.O. called to a conference at Brigade Headquarters at 10 a.m. when intentions of G.O.C. Brigade were outlined. These were as follows:- The Brigade were to move in a Northerly direction Via FLAUCOURT to H.16 and H.17. preparatory to moving across the SOMME to positions of assembly East of CLERY-SUR-SOMME. Operations were to commence from here attacking S.E. towards and beyond PERONNE. The move as above outlined commenced at 11 a.m., Battalion advancing in Artillery formation. Move was co-ordinated with other Battalions of the Brigade and the assembly of the Brigade in H.16-17 was complete by 12.30 p.m. Here the men enjoyed a rest and a good feed whilst the 6th. Brigade, (2nd. Aus. Division) were crossing the SOMME in front of us. At about 5 p.m. the Battalion following the 54th. Battalion crossed the SOMME at H.11.c.8.0. and moved to the assembly positions in I.7. via CLERY-SUR-SOMME. Move completed by about 7.30 p.m. Bn.O.O.No.137. (Appendix 18) Appen.18. There was very little shell fire during the move and the Battalion suffered no casualties. At about 12 midnight orders were issued for the attack against PERONNE.(Bn.O.O.No. 137) -- Appendix 19 Shortly after its issue the C.O. was called to Brigade Headquarters when an amended plan of attack was outlined by the Brigadier, zero hour being fixed at 6 a.m. Orders for the amended form of attack were issued later.</p>	

ASSEMBLY Pt. I.7.

WAR DIARY

OF

55th. Battalion, A. I. F.

FOR

AUGUST

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Battalion Operation Order No. 125.
2	do do do 126.
3	do Battle Instructions No. 1 (Adm. Ins. att'd)
4	Portion of Map 62D. showing dispositions near BUSSY.
5	Battalion Battle Instructions No. 2.
6	Battalion Operation Order No. 128.
7	Sketch showing dispositions of Bn. near VILLERS-BRETONNEU.
8	Battalion Operation Order No. 129.
9	Sketch showing dispositions of Bn. near CAIX.
10	Battalion Operation Order No. 130.
11	do do do 131.
12	do do do 132.
13	Sketch showing dispositions of Bn. near PROYART.
14	Battalion Operation Order No. 133.
15	do do do 134.
16	do do do 135.
17	do do do 136.
18	do do do 137.
19	do do do 138.
20	Disposition sketch of Brigade sector near PROYART.
21	Quartermaster's Report.
22	Transport Officer's Report.
23	Return of Daily Strength, Casualties etc.

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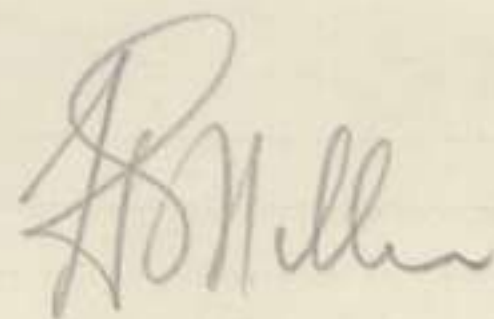
Copy No. 8

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 125.

Ref. Map: 62 E. N.E., 1/20,000

2nd. Aug. 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from FREMONT to LONGPRE-les-AMIENS, L.20.d., L.21.c. today, August 2nd. 1918 by march route.
2. Companies will be ready to move at 8 p.m. and will form up in column of route in the following order:-
 Battalion Headquarters,
 B. Company,
 A. "
 C. "
 D. "
 The column will face South, head of the column to be at last house on FREMONT-VAUX ROAD.
3. An advance party has gone forward and will meet Battalion at L.21.c.1.8.
4. Company areas will be left in a clean and sanitary condition. All tents, trench shelters issued to Companies in this area will be returned to Battalion Headquarters by 6 p.m.
5. Company Cookers will move out with Companies. Remainder of Transport will move independently.
6. All packs will be carried by Motor Transport. Steel hats will be attached to packs. Felt hats will be worn for move. One Lewis Gun per Company will be retained for protection against hostile aircraft during move, remainder will be loaded on to Coy Limbers by 4 p.m. T.O. will arrange with R.Q.M. for removal of bulk rations etc.
7. Marching out states will be rendered to B.O.R. by 7 p.m.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.



Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 3 p.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A. Company	2
B. "	3
C. "	4
D. "	5
R.Q.M. and T.O.	6
Sig. Officer and R.M.O.	7
War Diary	8 to 10
File	11
14th. A.I. Brigade	12.

263
SECRET.

APPENDIX 2 13

Copy No. 8.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 126.

Ref. Sheet., 62D., 1/40,000.

4th. August 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position by march route to Billets at H.29.c.2.4.
2. Billeting parties proceeded on 3.8. 18 to take over new area.
3. Companies will fall in in front of Company billets at 8.25 p.m. Marching out states will be rendered to Battalion Headquarters by 8 p.m.
4. Personnel from Nucleus will move out to VAUX at 8.30 p.m. Captain R.A.GOLDRICK will be in charge of party. Party will report to Lieut.Colonel N. Marshall, D.S.O., M.C., 54th. Bn. at VAUX.
5. Administrative Instructions will be issued separately.
6. Companies will march out in the following order:-
Bn. H'qrs, B. C. A. and D. Coys.
7. Companies will move out in Battle Order, Overcoats, one blanket and water proof sheet to be carried on man.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

SECRET.

Copy No. 8.....

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED WITH BATTALION ORDER No. 126.

1. All packs will be stacked in Company billets by 3 p.m. Felt hats will be left with packs. Officers Kits will be stacked with packs by 3 p.m. Packs and Officers kits will be sent to surplus kit store VAUX. Officer in charge of Bn. Nucleus will detail one man as guard for Bn. packs and kits. Q.M. will have all surplus stores ready by 3 p.m.
2. Personnel marching out as Nucleus will carry all gear.
3. All Company billets will be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Certificates to that effect will be rendered to Bn.H'qrs by 7 p.m.
4. Company limbers will report to Company billets by 3 p.m. Company cooks will move out with Companies.

Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A. I. F.

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APPENDIX 3 14

SECRET.

Copy No. 10

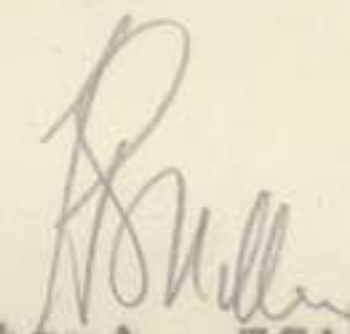
55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Ref. Map. 62D. 1/40,000.

Headquarters,
6th. August 1918

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present area on the night of 7th./8th. inst. and proceed to assembly point at 0.7.c. Time of moving to be notified later.
2. The Battalion will move out in the following order:-
 Battalion Headquarters,
 C Company,
 A "
 D "
 B "
3. Companies will maintain an interval of 50 yards between platoons and they will be responsible for their own protection enroute.
4. Transport will move independently.
5. Immediately on Companies getting into position the code word "TRENCH" will be sent to Battalion Headquarters at 0.13.a.5.5.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.


 Lieut.
 A/Adjutant, 55th. Battalion.

Issued to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.M.O.	8
Sig. Officer	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

Vol 30

(Not to be taken into the front line trenches.)

APPENDIX 3

15

SECRET

263

Copy No. 16

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION
WITH 55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION BATTLE
INSTRUCTIONS No. 1.

Headquarters,
6th. August 1918.

1. When the Battalion moves out it is essential that it is absolutely mobile, therefore, only necessary gear must be carried.
2. All men must be fully equipped before moving out, therefore, a thorough inspection will be made by Company Commanders, three-quarters of an hour before time of moving.
3. DRESS. (a) Fighting order, 1 blanket, waterproof sheets and great coat to be carried.
(b) The remaining blanket together with any other un-necessary gear to be stacked by Companies at R.Q.M. Store, BUSSY before 10 a.m.
4. AMMUNITION. (a) All ranks will carry 120 rounds S.A.A. and one bandolier of 50 rounds, 2 greandes and 1 ground flare per man.
(b) Bombing Officer to arrange for issue of extra bandolier etc.
5. IRON RATIONS. (a) Forty-eight hours rations will be carried in a sand-bag attached to haversack.
(b) R.Q.M. to arrange issue of 2 sand bags per man.
6. WATER BOTTLES. (a) Each man will carry two waterbottles and Company Commanders will ensure that both bottles are filled before moving out.
(b) R.Q.M. to have extra water bottles issued to Companies.
(c) Great care must be taken of these bottles as they will have to be returned.
7. PACK MULES. Transport Officer to arrange for 11 mules and all necessary pack gear to report to Battalion Headquarters at a time to be notified later and he will detail 1 Corporal who will be in charge of such pack train.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

H. Miller
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 55th. Battalion. A.I.F.

Issued to all recipients of Bn. Battle ~~XXXXX~~ Instructions No. 1.

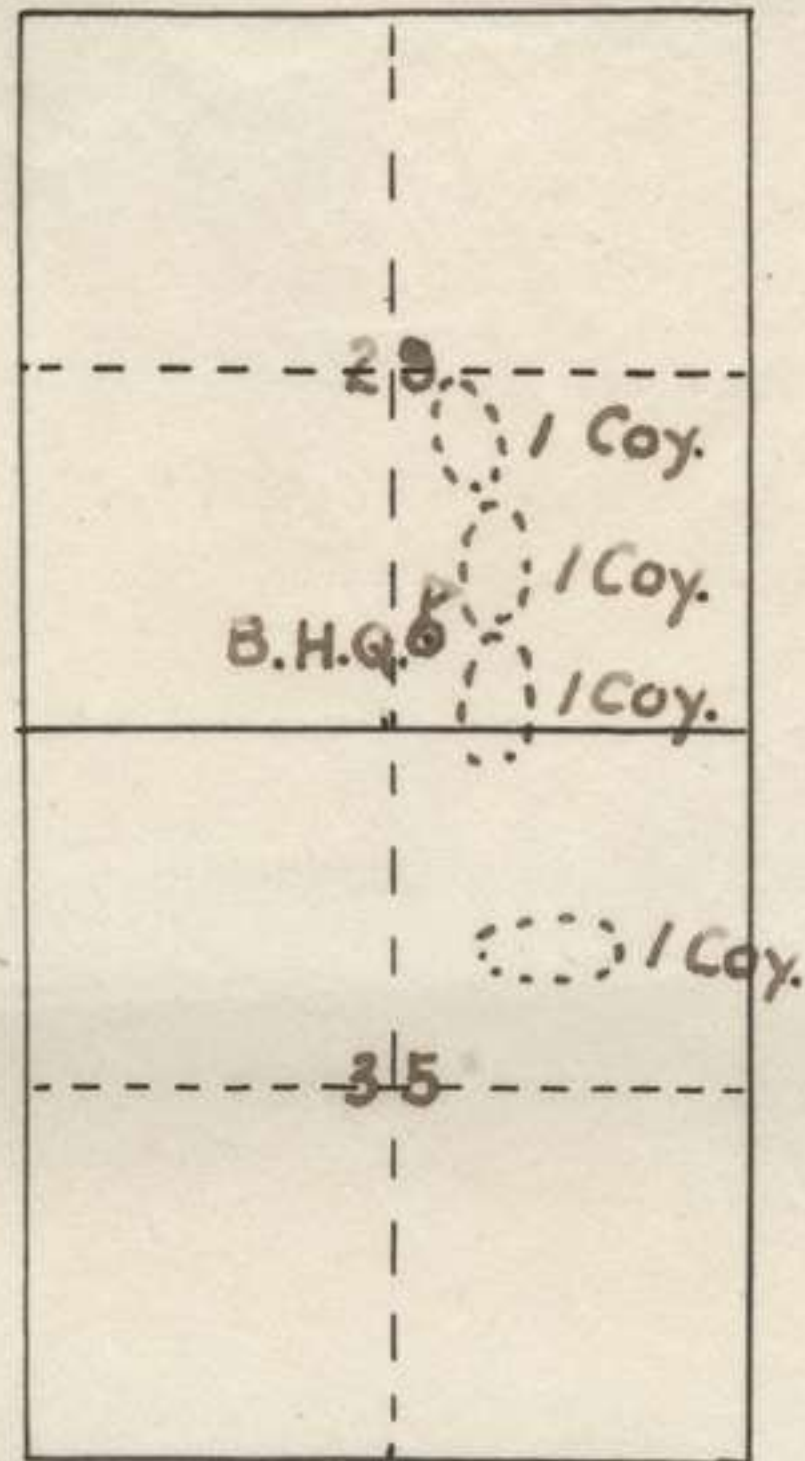
Appx
10.30

B. H. Q.
16.

Part Square H Sheet 62°

showing dispositions of 55th Bn. from 5/8/18 to

Scale 1:20000



55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.BATTLE INSTRUCTIONS No. 2.

62.D. 1/40,000.

Ref. Sheets: 62.D. S.W. 1/20,000.

62.D. S.E. 1/20,000.

Headquarters,
7th. August 1918

1. The Battalion will move from Assembly position in O.7.c. at Zero hour plus 15 minutes.
2. (a). The Battalion will move off in column of route in the following order:-
Bn. H'qrs, C. D. A. and B. Companies.
(b). Company Commanders will be responsible for their protection en-route and will maintain an interval of 50 yards between platoons, special attention being paid to connecting files.
3. (a). The following will be the route taken:-
From assembly position O.7.c. along track from road at O.7.c.80.35 past Copse at O.7.d.5.0. to road at O.14.a.3.7. thence along road to O.8.d.15.75. along track to O.15.b.1.8., thence along right Artillery track to FOUILLOY-VILLERS-BRETONNEUX ROAD at O.17.c.2.1., crossing roads at O.15.b.6.6., O.16.a.2.2. and O.16. and O.16.c.95.70. From O.17.c.2.1. Companies will keep to PIONEER SWITCH until DIGGERS SUPPORT is reached.
(b). Companies will take up position in DIGGERS SUPPORT TRENCH from right to left as follows:-
C. D. A. and B. Companies.
The right flank of C. Company will be at Junction of KENT STREET and DIGGERS SUPPORT P.19.c.25.05. Left flank of B. Company will rest on road at P.13.d.2.3.
4. (a). Pack Transport will follow in rear of column.
(b). Pack Transport and Officers chargers will move and take up position under cover of bank in O.23.d.4.7. where Transport Corporal in charge will await orders.
5. (a). Battalion Headquarters will take up position in dug-outs at O.24.c.3.3.
(b). R.A.P. will be at Battalion Headquarters.
6. (a). When Companies are in position in DIGGERS SUPPORT Bn. H'qrs will be notified by runner using code message "DIGGERS SUPPORT LOCATED".
(b). Companies will stand by for orders when in position.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 7 p.m. by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.M.O.	8
Sig. Officer	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 128.

Ref. Sheet 62 D.

10th. Aug. 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position to area North of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX this afternoon.
2. (a). Companies will move out in the following order:-
H'qrs, A. B. C. and D. Coys.
(b). The following intervals will be maintained:-
50 yards between platoons - 200 yards between Companies.
3. The following route will be taken:-
Main Road to LAMOTTE-WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT then along WARFUSEE-FOUILLOY ROAD to BOIS de VAIRE where Battalion will be met by advance party under Lieut. Slater.
4. All Companies will dump L.Guns and magazines at old P.O.W. Compound on road where transport will pick gear up. One O/R from each Coy will remain with L.Guns on guard.
5. Companies will move on Orders from Battalion H'qrs.
Location of new Battalion Headquarters will be notified later.

(Signed). H.MILLER, Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at Noon by runner to:-

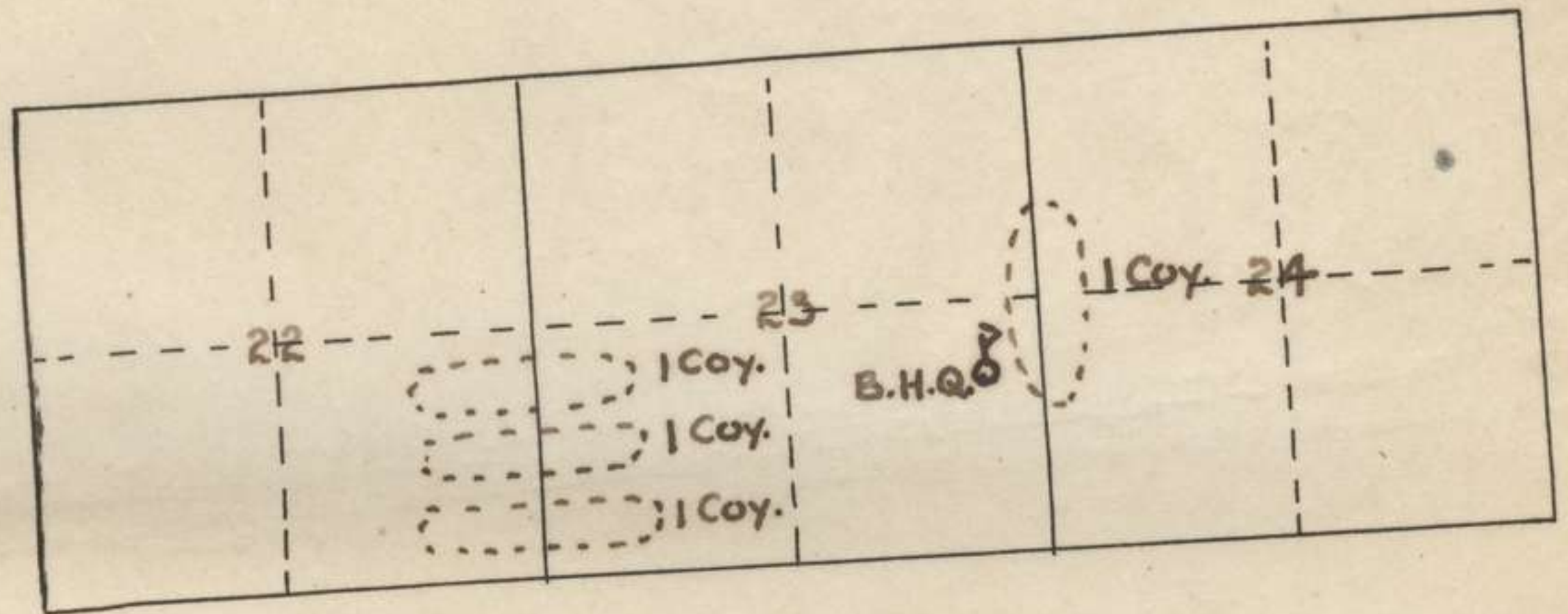
C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
Sig. Officer	8
R.M.O.	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

Vol 30 Apr 7

Yallah

Part Square O Sheet 62° shewing
dispositions of 55th Bn. from 15/8/19 to 17/8/19

Scale 1:20000



SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 129.

Ref. Map. HARBONNIERE, 1/40,000.

13.8.18.

1. (a). The 14th. Brigade will move forward from its present location today, 13th. inst.
(b). The 55th. Battalion will move from its present area by march route to vicinity of CAIX.
2. (a). The Brigade order of route will be as follows:-
Brigade Headquarters,
14th. L. T. M. B.
56th. Battalion,
55th. Battalion,
54th. Battalion,
53rd. Battalion.

(b). Starting point: Cross roads in O.24.a. Time: 11 a.m.
(c). The following distances will be maintained en route:-
Between Battalions 1,000 Yards,
do Companies 200 do
do Platoons 50 do
3. Advance party has gone forward and will meet Battalion in new area.
4. T.O. will arrange Transport to carry 7 Lewis Guns per Company, one Lewis Gun per Coy will be retained for A.A. defence enroute.
5. All ranks will march out equipped as for last move forward.
6. When Companies are definitely settled in new area they will send locations to Battalion Headquarters. Location of Battalion 'qrs in new area will be notified later.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.
A/Adjutant. 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 10 a.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.M.O.	8
Sig. Officer	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13
14th. A. I. Brigade	14.

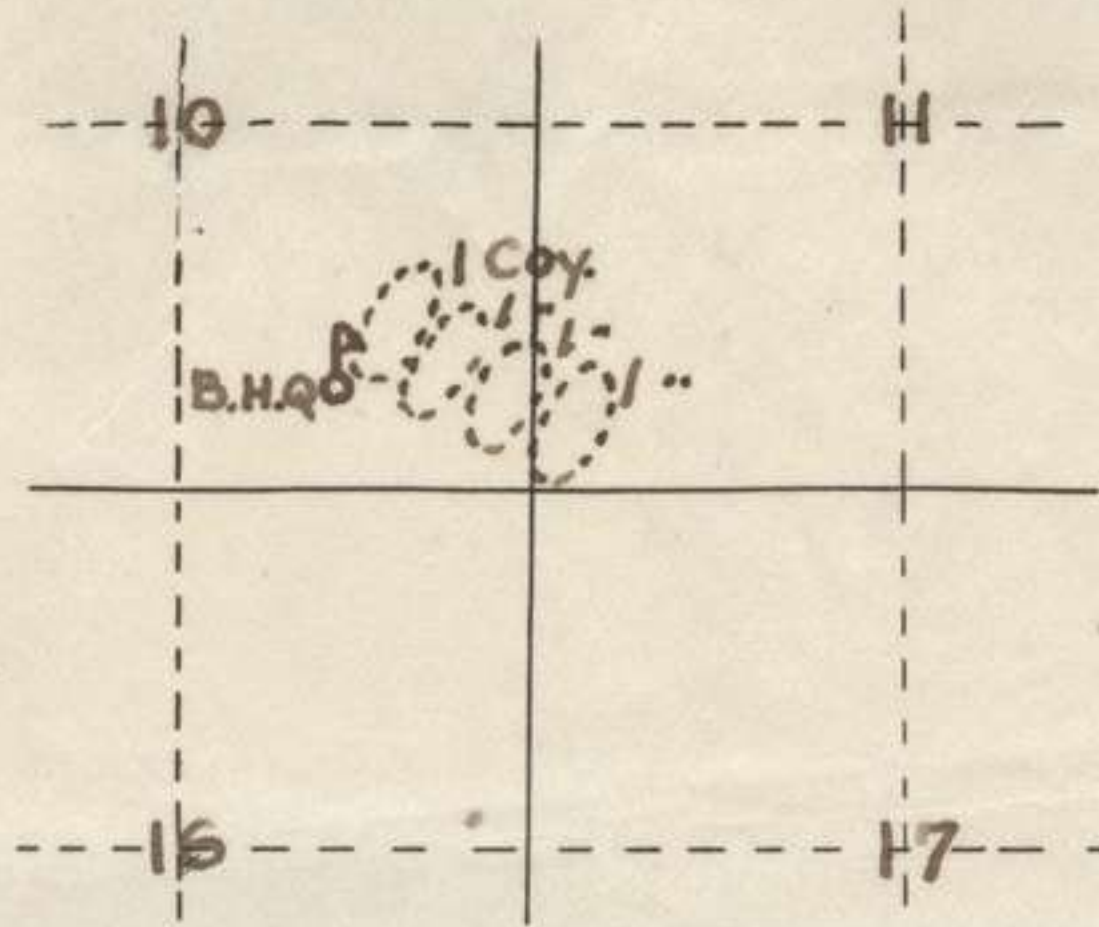
10/30/1919

Can

Part Square E Sheet 66^E

showing dispositions of 55th Bn. from 13/7/18 to 15/11/18

Scale 1:20000



SECRET.

Copy No. 70

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 130.

Ref. Map: HARBONNIERES 1/40,000.

15th. Aug. 1918.

-
1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position in E.10.d. E by march route to positions in R.19.c. and Q.24.d.
 2. Companies will fall in under their own arrangements at 9.5. p.m. and will move off in the following order:-
 Battalion Headquarters,
 A Company,
 B "
 C "
 D "
 Interval of 100 yards between Companies to be maintained throughout the march.
 Lieut. A. W. Panton is reconnoitring the route and will guide the X Battalion to Cross roads at Q.30.d.95.30. where guides will be waiting.
 3. Companies will take up positions as advised to Company Commanders.
 4. Lewis Guns and magazines will be transported to Cross roads mentioned in para.2 where Companies will pick them up. Guns will be stacked near C Companies cooker at once and Transport Officer will arrange for 2 limbers to collect them at 7.45 p.m. One man per Company will be detailed to accompany the limbers.
 5. When Companies are in position Bn. H'qrs will be notified by runner. Dispositions will be given in this report.
 6. Transport and R.Q.M. will move under arrangements to be made later.
 7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.
 A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 6.45 p.m. by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A. Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
Sig. Officer	6
R.Q.M.	7
T.O.	8
R.M.O.	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

SECRET.

Copy No. 40.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 131.

Ref. Map: ROSIERES 1/40,000.

16th. August 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position in R.19.c. and will relieve the 10th. Battalion WEST YORKS Regiment in line left of area occupied by the 50th. Infantry Brigade, 17th. Division.
2. Companies will send forward advance parties in daylight to take over areas. The usual reconnaissance of forward areas will also be made.
3. "C" Coy 55th. Bn will relieve
- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|------------|-------------------|
| "C" | " | " | " | " | " | 2 platoons | A Coy West Yorks. |
| "A" | " | " | " | " | " | | B " " " |
| "A" | " | " | " | " | " | 2 platoons | D " " " |
| "D" | " | " | " | " | " | | B " " " |
| "B" | " | " | " | " | " | | C " " " |
- establish in R.20. c. and d.
4. Five guides per Company will be at forward Bn. H'qrs R.19.b.1.7. at 8.30 p.m.
5. Trench stores will be taken over and copies of receipts will be sent to Battalion Headquarters by first runner 17th. inst.
6. When Companies are in position Bn. H'qrs will be notified by code message "DUMPED".
7. Present areas will be handed over to 53rd. Battalion in a clean and sanitary condition and the usual certificates obtained.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 7 p.m. to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No.	1
O.C. A Company		2
B "		3
C "		4
D "		5
R.Q.M.		6
T.O.		7
R.M.O.		8
Sig. Officer		9
War Diary	10 to	12
File		13

SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 132.

Ref. Map: HARBONNIERES, 1/40,000.

19th. Aug. 18.

-
1. Inter-Company reliefs will take place tonight, 19th./20th. Aug. 18 as follows:-
 - "D" Coy will relieve 3 platoons of "C" Coy, Line right and will have 1 platoon in local support.
 - "B" Coy will relieve 2 platoons of "A" Coy and the left platoon of "C" Coy and will have one platoon as local support.
 - "C" Coy will move to area at present occupied by "D" Coy.
 - "A" Coy will move to Reserve area at present occupied by "B" Coy.
 2. No reliefs will take place before p.30 p.m. B and D Coy will have hot meal in present position. A and C Coy will receive all rations after relief.
 3. Trench stores will be handed over and receipts obtained, copies of same to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 10 a.m. 20th. inst.
 4. Captain K.R. WYLLIE will be O.C. Line after relief.
 5. Completion of relief will be notified to Battalion Headquarters by code message "MESSAGE RECEIVED".
 6. ACKNOWLEDGE by code message "Message Sent".

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner at 6 p.m. to:-

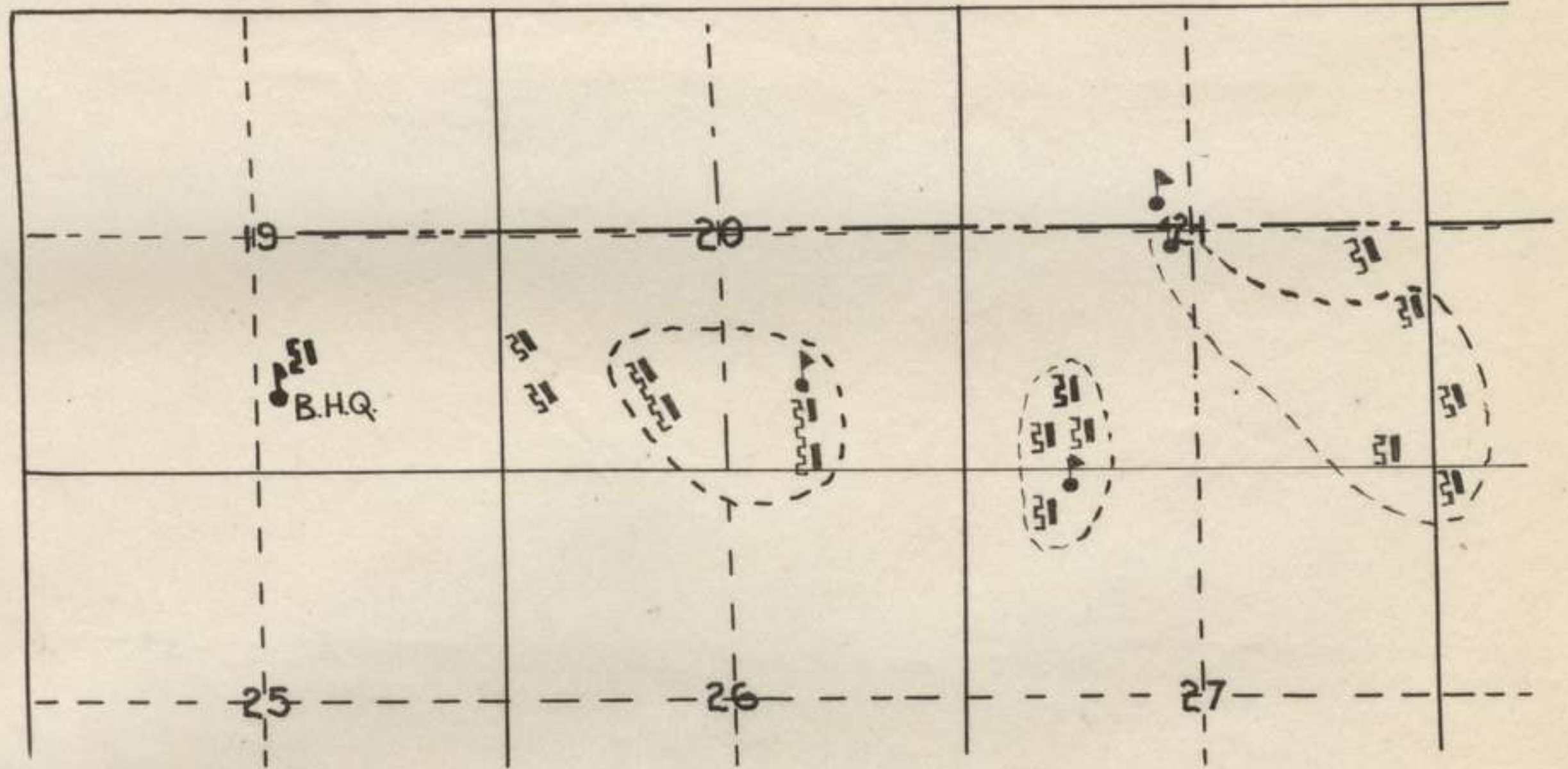
C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O. C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.M.O.	8
Sig. Officer	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13.

Vol 30 App B

Part Square R Sheet 62^D

shewing dispositions of 55th Bn. on 22-8-'18. } 20.8.18

Scale 1:20000



SECRET.

Copy No.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 133.

Ref. Sheet: 62.D.,S.E. 1/20,000.

22nd. August 18.

-
1. (a) The 2nd. A.I. Brigade will take part in a major operation on the 23rd. August 1918.
(b) The 5th. Battalion will form up on tapes for the attack behind the present front line posts of the 14th. A.I. Brigade with flanks as follows:-
Left Flank E and W Grid through R.21-22 Central.
Right " E " # " " R.27-28 "
 2. "C" Coy, 5th. Battalion will form up behind present front line posts of B and D Coys, 55th. Battalion.
"D" Coy, 5th. Battalion will form up 25 yards behind C Coy, 5th. Bn.
 3. Guides will be provided as follows:-
B Coy, 55th. Bn. (Forward) 4 guides
D " " " 8 "
Guides will report to Lieut. W. E. Campbell at Battalion Headquarters at 11 p.m.
 4. Two platoons of B Company (in Reserve) will move to trenches now occupied by No. 5 platoon. A Company will take up position in trenches from Road Junction at R.19.c.3.2. to R.25.a.8.7.
C Coy will take up position in trenches in rear of A Coy.
The above Companies will move from their present positions at 2 a.m.
 5. (a) When forward Companies of 5th. Battalion are in position D Coy will move to trenches behind B Company Headquarters and 1 platoon of B Company will take up position with No. 5 platoon.
They will move not later than 3.45 a.m.
(b) O.C. Line will provide two standing patrols of 1 N.C.O. and 6 O/R's each to cover the forming up. They will move out before daylight and not later than 30 minutes before Zero.
 6. Zero hour will be notified later.
 7. Battalion Headquarters will remain at present location.
 8. When all Companies are in Reserve area Bn. H'qrs will be notified by code message "Finished".
 9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) H. Miller, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 6 p.m. by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion,	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.M.O.	8
Sig. Officer	9
C.O. 5th. Battalion	10
War Diary	11 to 13
File	14
14th. A. I. Brigade	15

SECRET.

Copy No..... 10

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 134.

Ref. Sheet: HARBONNIERES.

29th. August 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position to bivouacs in R.23. forthwith.
2. The Battalion will form up on the WARFUSEE-PROYART Road with the head of the column facing PROYART in the following order:-
Bn. H'qrs, A. B. C. and D. Coys.
3. Companies will move in artillery formation across country on receipt of orders from Battalion Headquarters.
Transport will move by nearest road route.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) R.H. Wilkin, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 9 a.m. by runner to:-

G.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
R.MOO.	8
Sig. Officer	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13
14th. A. I. Brigade	14

SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 135.

Ref. Map: HARBONNIERES.

29th. Aug. 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will continue the forward move at once, moving Eastwards across country following the 53rd. Battalion towards N.13.d.
2. The same formations will apply as issued this morning. The Battalion will move off from East of Wood.
3. Limbers will report to Companies on VALLEY ROAD for Lewis Guns.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) R. H. Wilkin, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 1 p.m. by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
C.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
Sig. Officer	8
R.M.O.	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 136.

Ref. Map: 62 C.

30th. Aug. 1918.

1. The 55th. Battalion will move from its present position in N.21.-22. and move North in existing relative positions and take up position of readiness facing East covering 53rd. Battalion in N.5 and N.11.
2. The Battalion will remain in this position in readiness to move at short notice. Forward reconnaissance will be made as soon as Companies are in position.
3. Battalions will move from present location at 6.30 a.m. Move to be completed by 9 a.m. and word sent to Bn. H'qrs when Companies are in new position.
4. Lewis Gun Limbers will be unloaded in new positions and in any further move forward guns will be carried by the sections.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) R.H. Wilkin, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 5 a.m. by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion,	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
Sig. Officer	8
R.M.O.	9
War Diary	10 to 12
File	13

SECRET.

Copy No. 10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 137.

Ref. Sheet: 62.C.

31st. August 18.

1. The 14th. Brigade has been ordered to move out at once Via OMMIECOURT LES CLERY down the East bank of the River and seize high ground in Ix8 I.35., O.5. and O.11.
2. Units will move due North in present relative positions, 53rd. and 54th. Bn's to H.17 and H.23.- 55th. and 56th. Bn's to H.16. and H.23., by cross country tracks in Artillery formation.
3. On reaching these positions the 53rd. will cross the river and establish themselves in I.8. facing S.E. and await arrival of 54th. Bn which will follow them across and form up in I.7. (on right of 53rd.) facing S.E.
55th. and 56th. Bn's will follow (in that order) and resume their normal positions covering 53rd. and 54th. Bn's.
4. Battalions will arrange their own forward reconnaissance.
Rear Battalions will keep touch with forward Battalions throughout.
5. Companies will be disposed as instructed by C.O. at conference.
6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) N. Pinkstone, Capt.,
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner to:-

C.O. 55th. Battalion	Copy No. 1
O.C. A Company	2
B "	3
C "	4
D "	5
R.Q.M.	6
T.O.	7
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SECRET.

Copy No.....10.....

55th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ORDER No. 138.

Ref. Sheet. 62.C.

31st. Aug. 1918.

1. The 2nd. Aus. Division have established a line facing East of Mt. St. QUENTIN-FOULIAUCOURT Road and are endeavouring to clear squares I.21 and 22 with the object of advancing their line to the HAUT-ALLAINES-BUSSU ROAD. The attack is to be carried out by the 6th. A.I. Brigade.
2. It is not known whether the enemy will still be in possession of PERONNE when the attack is launched or whether the waterways on the Northern outskirts of the town are passable.
3. The 14th. A. I. Brigade has been ordered to clear the high ground in I.35 and O.5. and O.11 and to maintain touch with the 6th. A.I. Brigade at I.24.
4. (a) The final objective (from N. to S. is to be approximate line-road through I.24. b and c., I.30. a and c., thence I.35.d.2.2. thence S along road to O.11.a.8.7.
(b) The inter Battalion boundary on the final objective will be the COLOGNE RIVER inclusive to left Battalion.
5. METHOD OF ATTACK (a). The attack will be carried out by the 54th. Battalion (line right), 53rd. Battalion (line left), 56th. Bn. right support, 55th. Battalion left support.
(b) The 53rd. Battalion are to have the 23rd. Battalion (assembling in I.20.b.) on their left during the attack. The 53rd. Battalion will therefore arrange to get touch with the 23rd. Battalion and to occupy before Zero a position ^{from} which they can move (in conformity with the 23rd. Bn. attack) to the vicinity of I.22. and thence attack S.E. towards their objective protecting their own right flank during the move.
(c) The 54th. Battalion will follow the 53rd. Bn as far as I.22. and will then move South under cover of 53rd. attack and secure high ground in I.34. and 35., thence exploiting to the limits of their objective.
(d) The 56th. Battalion will mop PERONNE and will carry out the task from both flanks and by infiltration where possible. After completion of task they will move into support of 54th. Battalion and maintain touch.
(e) The 55th. Battalion will move (after the 54th. Bn. has passed N. of PERONNE) to a position in support of 53rd. Battalion maintaining close liaison with that unit.
6. The attack formation of the 55th. Battalion will be as follows:-
Front Line right - C. Coy. Support right D. Coy.
" " left - B. " " left A. "
Flank Companies will be responsible for their own protection.
Support Companies will maintain touch throughout with front line.
7. Reports to Bn. H.Q. in I.1.d.2.5.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Signed) N. Pinkstone, Capt.,
Adjutant 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

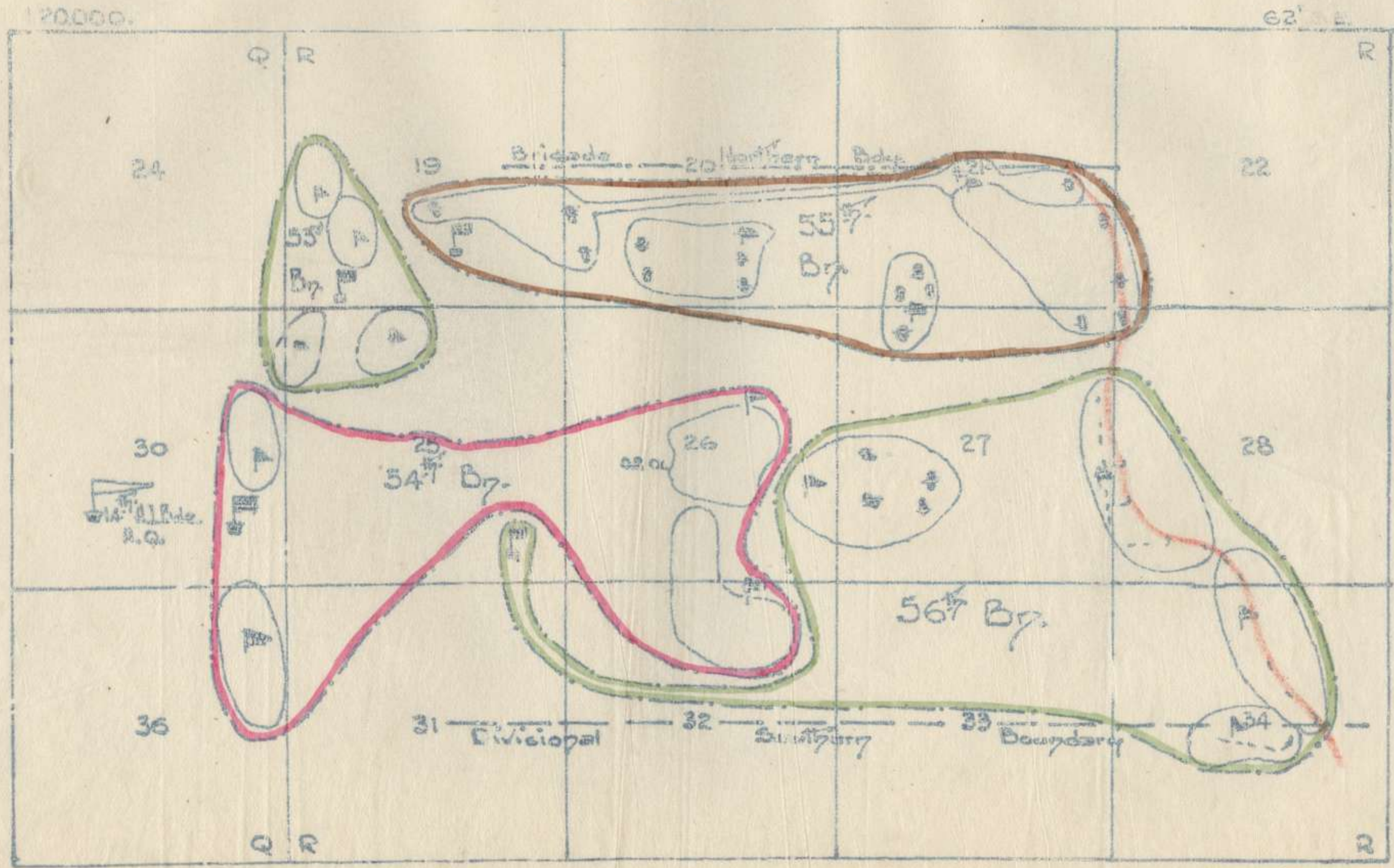
Disposition Sketch,

Right Bde. sector, 'C' Division.

21. 8. 18

Apr 20

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APPENDIX 20

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WAR DIARY-----
AUGUST 1918QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.VOLUME 30.APPENDIX 2d

RATIONS. Rations as drawn from the A.S.C. have been good, the percentages of fresh meat and bread drawn have been, if anything, higher than usual.

FOOD. The cooks continue to do good work in preparing hot food of a high standard and good variety which is transported to the line in "hot boxes". Goods received from Comforts and the Y.M.C.A. has enabled us to supplement the issue rations considerably also to increase the variety.

ORDINANCE STORES. All demands have been supplied punctually and there are no items of importance outstanding.

BOOTS. The Bootmakers have repaired 90 pairs of boots and when last inspected all men were in possession of serviceable boots.

FAT. The quantity returned for the month was 2,300 lbs.

COMFORTS. The following Comforts were received during the month:-

Y.M.C.A.	3 issues of cigarettes.
A.I.F.COMFORTS FUND.	4 Cases Puddings,
	4 do Sauce
	4 do Sweets,
	3 do Tobacco,
	3 do Cigarettes,
	1 do Pickles,
	1 do Cakes
	5 do Cocoa and Milk,
	4 do Biscuits,
	12 do Shirts,
	1 Battalion Case,
	1 Gramophone,
	1 Package of Playing cards,
	1 Parcel addressed A.M.C.Details.

(Signed) C.B.Gow, Capt.,
Quartermaster, 55th. Battalion, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY.AUGUST 1918.TRANSPORT OFFICER'S REPORT.VOLUME 30.APPENDIX 22

ANIMALS. Despite the hard work and shortage of green food the animals are still in as good a condition as at the end of last month.

HARNESSES. All harness is in serviceable condition.

FEED. Rations continue the same. Straw is still being salvaged but is not as abundant here as in areas previously occupied. No crops are available at present and grazing, which is very poor, has to be relied upon a good deal.

WAGONS. One G.S.Limbered wagon has been completely destroyed by shell fire. One water cart has also been damaged but not beyond repair.

WORK. Owing to the fast advance of the past month, work has been exceptionally heavy.

INSPECTIONS. Captain Tucker, Brigade Vet. Officer, inspected the lines regularly. Captain Graeyes, M.C. made his usual monthly inspection.

CASUALTIES. 1 O/Rank wounded, 1 O/Rank Died of wounds.
1 Rider, 1 Heavy draught and 3 mules killed by shell fire.

(Signed) R.A.B.Peake, Lieut.,
Transport Officer, 55th. Bn. A.I.F.

Summary for August 1918 showing
 strength, casualties etc., day by day.

Date	Strength		Reinforcements joined		Killed	Wounded	Missing	Sick to Hospital
	Nff.	Ops.	Nff.	Ops.				
August 1.	49	706		4				3
2.	49	708		2				5
3.	49	711		3				4
4.	49	719		9				3
5.	49	713		2				7
6.	49	713		-				1
7.	49	714		1				1
8.	49	714						
9.	49	714						1
10.	49	714						2
11.	48	732		22		6		3
12.	48	730		1				4
13.	48	730		1				3
14.	48	733		3				4
15.	47	734		1				1
16.	47	737		3				
17.	46	733			1	4		
18.	46	729			3	1		1
19.	46	726				3	2	1
20.	46	724				2		
21.	45	726		8	1	6		2
22.	45	716		2	5	6		1
23.	44	709		10	3	2		1
24.	44	703				1		
25.	44	691		1		2		
26.	44	691						2
27.	44	691						1
28.	46	704	3	13				1
29.	46	703						2
30.	46	701						2
31.	48	701	2					1
Total.	48	701	5	86	13	33	2	57.