

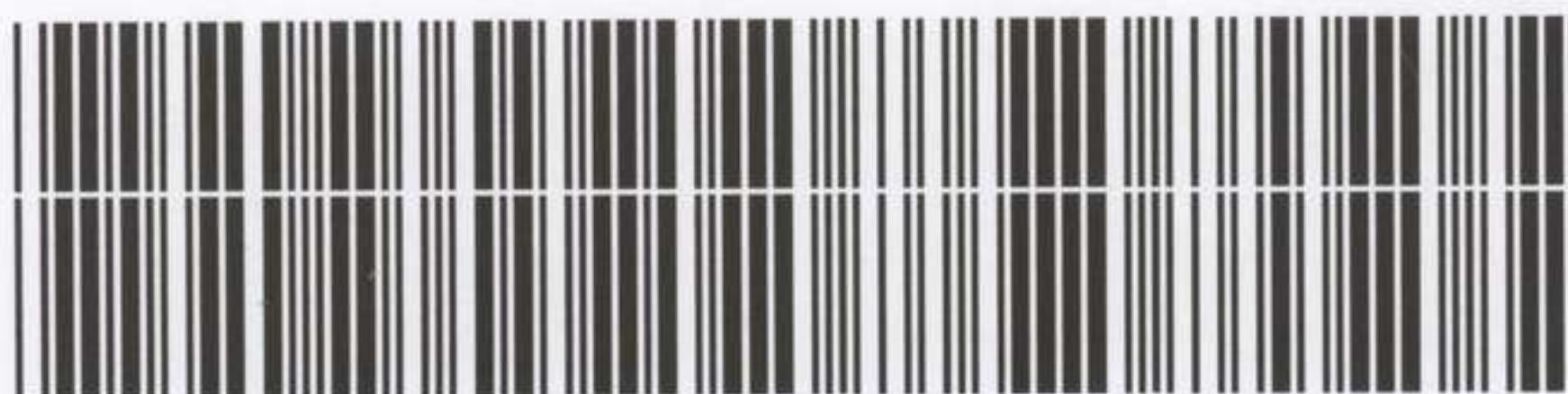
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/13

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

February 1917



AWM4-23/73/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	1917 Feb. 1	6 p.m.	<p>During the morning the C.O., accompanied by Adjutant, visited the three Companies situated in the intermediate line and gave instructions regarding a general cleaning and improvement of the trenches occupied.</p> <p>A fatigue party of 2 Officers and 100 other ranks was sent from these Companies to the front line for the purpose of digging a new fire-trench in front of the Companies' sector. Light snow fell during the morning but the day, however, was fine.</p> <p>Fatigue party of 2 officers and 100 other ranks was supplied for work on Ginchy defences. Training of the Raiding party was carried out during the day at Montauban. A patrol was also sent out from the Raiding party during the night for the purpose of reconnoitring the ground in the vicinity of the trench to be raided.</p> <p>Hot food was taken to the men in the trenches from the Detail Camp. The decauville Railway was used for the first time for this work and was found to be quite satisfactory. Moreover the railway is the means of saving the mules much work. The decauville Railway now reaches as far as the intermediate Line where the Battalion is situated for the present. A fair amount of time is wasted, however, on the outward journey owing to the train having to wait at Ginchy until darkness.</p> <p>One man attached to Brigade Transport was accidentally injured during the day. One other rank was evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex sick. Two other ranks were slightly wounded by Artillery Fire.</p> <p>The weather was fine but very cold.</p> <p>Fatigue party of 100 other ranks was supplied for carrying Stokes Mortar ammunition to the Front Line.</p> <p>Further training was carried out at Montauban by the special party which has now been changed to an Attacking party.</p> <p>Hot food was again taken to the Battalion in the Intermediate Line. The food which was taken up in the Containers constructed by the Battalion Pioneers was found to be quite hot on arrival.</p> <p>Captain Plomley and 2/Lieuts. Gordon and Watt visited the C.O. during the day in connection with the alteration of the Raiding Party into an Attacking Party, attack and consolidation of Finch Trench.</p> <p>2/Lieut. Bull was wounded by shell fire when with the party of 2 Officers and 150 other ranks detailed to continue the digging of the new Fire trench in the Brigade Sector.</p> <p>5 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>Lieut. Cohen and 10 other ranks rejoined ex leave and 3 other ranks rejoined ex sick.</p> <p>During the morning the C.O. and Adjutant made the usual inspection of the intermediate line</p>	
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SOMME	Feb. 2		<p>occupied by the three Companies of the Battalion. G.O.C. Brigade visited C.O. at Battalion Headquarters and discussed the proposed alteration of the Raiding Party's programme. During the afternoon the C.O. and Adjutant left for 55th Battalion Headquarters to arrange for a Dump in the front line for the attack on Finch Trench. During the night 2/Lieut. Hicks and party carried grenades up to the spot selected for the Dump. Duckboards and iron were also carried up by this party.</p>	
	3		<p>Weather still cold though fine. The remainder of the blankets to complete two per man throughout the Battalion are now being drawn at the rate of 100 per day. During the morning C.O. and Adjutant left for 55th Battalion Headquarters to arrange details for the relief, returning to Battalion Headquarters at noon, and immediately holding a conference of Company Commanders to explain to them what action they were to take during the relief, and to inform them at what time the relief was to commence. Captain Lucas arrived about mid-day and C.O. discussed with him further details concerning the proposed attack on Finch Trench. G.O.C. Brigade also arrived at 3.30 p.m. and brought with him Brigade Operation Order for this attack. Hot food was brought up as usual from the Detail Camp, together with the following day's rations, and issued to the men before their departure for the Front Line. C.O. after visiting Company Commanders moved for the Front Line Battalion Headquarters at 6.30 p.m., the Companies following shortly after. "B" Company reported "Relief Correct" at 7.30 p.m. the other Companies following shortly afterwards, the whole of the relief being completed at 9 P.M.</p>	
	9.25 p.m.		<p>C.O. together with Captain Plomley, also 2/Lieut. Watt and his Special party, left Battalion Headquarters and proceeded to centre Company Headquarters, and there gave instructions to Lieut. Schofield to take a Patrol of 13 other ranks out to Landwehr Trench for the purpose of searching the trench and also ascertaining whether it was being occupied as a post by the Germans. Lieut. Schofield was instructed to leave our trenches at 10 p.m. C.O. then took Captain Plomley and 2/Lieut. Watt across to the left Company and there gave final instructions as regards the work which they had to carry out, in connection with the occupation, if possible, of Finch Trench. Owing to a rather heavy barrage by the enemy it was impossible for the patrols to leave our Front Line at 10 p.m. as arranged. C.O. therefore decided to hold the patrols until the hostile artillery fire ceased. Patrols therefore left at 10.30 p.m. The following are the particulars of the work carried out by both patrols:</p>	
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SOMME	Feb. 3	II p.m.	<p>The right patrol, under Lieut. Schofield, of 13 other ranks, worked in patrol formation towards the hostile trenches known as 'Landwher'. On reaching the trenches the patrol found them unoccupied. This party at once worked west along the trenches for a distance of 250 yards but found no trace of any hostile patrols. The patrol remained in the Trench for 30 minutes and then returned to our Front Line. Lieut. Schofield and one other rank were wounded accidentally. During the Patrol's tour.</p> <p>The Left Patrol, consisting of 2/Lieut. Watt and 8 other ranks, left our trenches as already explained, for the purpose of ascertaining if that portion of the German Line Known as Finch Trench, and which had to be attacked the following night, was occupied, as prisoners' statements showed that this Trench was not now occupied. 2/Lieut. Watt found that the Trench was not occupied. He immediately occupied it until the Consolidating party was sent forward to consolidate it. Two patrol men reported back from 2/Lieut. Watt with the information that they had found the Trench unoccupied. A party was at once forward to the Trench. Consolidating and Carrying parties were also sent forward. C.O. then, together with Captain Mann, traced out a Communication Trench from one of our forward Bombing posts to Finch Trench, after which Lieut. Morison together with a party of 60 other ranks was told off to dig the Communication Trench and connect up with Finch Trench. By morning this Trench was practically completed. A Dump of Grenades, S.A.A., Sandbags, S.O.S. Rockets was also established in the occupied Trench. Telephone communication was established by the Battalion Headquarter Signallers immediately after the Trench had been occupied, and by morning the line had been triplicated.</p> <p>During the early period of the Trench occupation a hostile patrol of four men approached the right flank, but branched off to the rear line of trenches before arriving within a decent distance of the right flank. They were at once fired on by the coverers and one man was seen to fall. The other three took flight and ran. Parts of the occupied trench were found to be in very good condition. Several splinter-proof shelters were found in the trench in addition to two large dug-outs, sufficiently large to accommodate 15 men. German grenades were found in large quantities, especially Stick grenades.</p> <p>With the exception of the hostile barrage which was placed along the Battalion front at 10 p.m. the night was normal.</p> <p>Major Anderson rejoined the Battalion during the day from the 54th Battalion. Casualties during the day were: Lieut. Schofield and 3 other ranks, wounded, also 2 men suffering from shell-shock. Two men were killed by bombs. One man was evacuated to Hospital sick.</p> <p>There was a very heavy frost in the morning but the day turned out fine and bright. In accordance with C.O.'s instructions rations were sent up from the Quartermaster Store during the morning</p>	

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SOMME	Feb. 4	5.40 p.m.	<p>morning to that part of the enemy line which had been occupied the previous evening, for the purpose of forming a reserve of rations in case communication with that part of the line became difficult.</p> <p>The Special party which was being trained at Montauban was disbanded during the day and sent forward to the Front Line as their services were no longer required, as the portion of the Trench which they were to attack had been occupied the previous evening by 2/Lieut. Watt and his party.</p> <p>Lieut. Christiansen and 4 other ranks rejoined ex schools.</p> <p>During the night 2/Lieut. E.C. Benson and 7 other ranks were wounded by enemy artillery fire. During the evening enemy machine gun fire was fairly active. 2/Lieut. Benson subsequently died of wounds.</p> <p>Hot food arrived as usual and was issued to the men in the front line trenches.</p> <p>2/Lieut. Watt and 9 other ranks left the right flank of the newly occupied portion of Finch Trench and proceeded to Landwher Trench. Meeting with no resistance, six men were posted as a right flank covering party in Landwher Trench in a fairly strong position on the rise 40 yards on the right of Finch Trench. 2/Lieut. Watt and 2 other ranks then patrolled Landwher Trench for a distance of 200 to 300 yards and found the Trench unoccupied. An enemy patrol of four was seen by 2/Lieut. Watt and his party during their patrol, and after several attempts to entrap this patrol 2/Lieut. Watt waited until they grouped together and then fired on them. Two were seen to fall but were immediately carried off by the remaining two. After making their escape a group of fifteen gathered round the two casualties about 300 yards in front of where 2/Lieut. Watt and party were watching from. Word was immediately sent to the Lewis Gun crew situated on the right flank of Finch Trench. The crew immediately opened fire and three men were seen to fall. During the night the enemy used several colored flares, red, yellow and green, These were fired at different periods throughout the night but no unusual action followed.</p> <p>During the night work was again carried out on the Communication Trench which had been started on the previous night to link up Finch Trench with one of our forward Bombing posts. A party was also working upon the new fire-trench in front of "B" and "C" Companies' sector.</p> <p>The weather was again cold and fine.</p> <p>Hot food was taken to the men in the trenches from the Detail Camp and found to be quite hot on arrival.</p> <p>During the tour of the Battalion in the trenches the accommodation in the Detail Camp was found to be insufficient, and difficulty was experienced in finding accommodation for the few mwn who were being sent back from the trenches owing to slight illness etc.</p> <p>Nothing of any consequence occurred throughout the day.</p>	
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SOMME	Feb.	5	<p>Lieut. Christiansen rejoined his Company in the front line from the Detail Camp, but during the night became ill and had to be evacuated.</p> <p>One man was killed and 2 wounded during the day.</p> <p>One other rank rejoined ex sick.</p> <p>The Germans were a little more active than usual with sniping and machine gun fire during the day: also their activity increased in this respect during the night.</p> <p>The Divisional Gas Officer called at Battalion Headquarters during the day accompanied by the Fourth Army Chemical Expert and the Fourth Army Gas Officer.</p>	
		2 p.m.	<p>Company Commanders from the Relief (54th) Battalion arrived at Battalion Headquarters and then proceeded to the Front Line to take over all stores and also to have a look over their fronts.</p> <p>C.O. 54th Battalion arrived at 3.30 p.m.</p> <p>Word was sent to Major Anderson at Detail Camp that the Battalion would be relieved and would be returning to Camp during the evening, and to prepare all details for their arrivals.</p> <p>The relief of the Battalion was completed at 9 p.m.</p> <p>Captain Roberts and one other rank rejoined ex leave.</p> <p>One other rank was evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
		6	<p>Weather still very cold but remaining fine.</p> <p>Fatigue of 4 Officers and 200 other ranks was supplied for work under supervision of the Engineers and one Officer and 50 other ranks for work under O.C. Brigade Mining Coy.</p> <p>C.O. inspected the camp during the morning and issued verbal instructions to Company Commanders regarding the move to Montauban during the afternoon.</p> <p>In the afternoon "A" and "D" Companies moved to Montauban Camp and "B" and "C" Companies moved to Pioneer Camp, Bernafay, for the purpose of supplying any necessary fatigues, also to relieve the 55th Battalion of Permanent Wiring Party.</p> <p>Two men were evacuated to Hospital and one N.C.O. left for duty as Gas N.C.O. at Bde. Headqrs.</p>	
		7	<p>Weather cold and fine.</p> <p>Usual fatigue parties were supplied to Engineers and Mining and in addition fatigue of one Officer and 50 other ranks was supplied for work under 14th Field Company Engineers.</p> <p>During the morning the C.O. made the usual inspection of the camp.</p> <p>2/Lieuts. Mc Donnell and Cotton and 264 other ranks joined the Battalion as reinforcements and remained at Montauban.</p> <p>3 men were evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>4 other ranks rejoined ex leave and 3 ex hospital.</p>	
		8	<p>Weather still fine and cold</p> <p>Fatigues of 250 other ranks, as supplied on the previous day, were again supplied by "B" and "C"</p>	

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SOMME	Feb. 8		"C" Companies and 2 officers and 100 other ranks were supplied from Montauban by "A" and "D" Companies.	
		10 a.m.	C.O. accompanied by the Adjutant left for Montauban Camp to inspect the reinforcements after which they were allotted to Companies. C.O. returned to Headquarters at 1 P.M. Major Anderson departed on 21 days Special leave to the United Kingdom. 6 other ranks rejoined ex leave, and one ex school. 3 other ranks rejoined ex sick and 1 ex wounded. 6 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
	9		Weather fine and very cold. Fatigues were supplied as on the previous day. The usual inspection of the camp was held during the morning. 16 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital. 3 other ranks left to attend Schools of instruction and one man left for duty as bootmaker at D.A.D.O.S.	
		10	Weather still fine and cold. Usual fatigues were again supplied, those fatigues which had to be supplied from Montauban were despatched in full marching order, owing to the move of "A" and "D" Coys. from Montauban to Trones Wood during the afternoon. Inspection of the camp was made during the morning. During the afternoon "A" and "D" Companies moved independently from Montauban for Trones Wood Camp which was reached at about 4 p.m. Owing to a case of scarlet fever it was found necessary to isolate 25 men of the Battalion. 19 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital. 2 men left for duty with 28th A.A.S.C. and the Sergeant Bootmaker left for duty at D.A.D.O.S. Three other ranks rejoined ex leave and 2 ex sick.	
	II		A heavy frost was experienced during the morning but the day turned out fine. During the day the ground thawed slightly. During the morning the C.O. held an inspection of the Battalion in full marching order commencing at 10 a.m. with "A" Coy. for the purpose of inspecting the equipment etc. throughout the Battalion. The inspection proved very satisfactory, the general turn out of the men, also their equipment, being good. Captain V.E. Smythe left 4th Army School to proceed on special leave to the United Kingdom. 2/Lieut. Rew and 3 other ranks rejoined Battalion ex 4th Army School. The usual fatigues were supplied throughout the day. As many men as possible paraded from the Battalion to the Foot-baths for special treatment of the feet - 530 men being put through, the remainder being on fatigues etc. These, however, will receive treatment tomorrow.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	Feb. 12		<p>The day was dull and comparatively warm. The slight thaw continued. During the morning the remainder of the Battalion were put through the foot bath. Fatigue of 3 Officers and 150 other ranks was supplied for carrying work and one Officer and 50 other ranks carried out fatigue under supervision of O.C. Brigade Mining Company. C.O. held a Meeting of Company Commanders to discuss the Battalion's impending tour of duty in the trenches and issued instructions for the move to the intermediate Line during the afternoon. "A", "B" and "D" Companies were instructed to proceed to the Intermediate Line independently as soon as darkness fell. "C" Coy. remained behind to carry out any necessary fatigues.</p>	
		II a.m.	<p>Headquarters and H.Q. Signallers moved to Cow Trench and were followed shortly afterwards by "A", "B" and "D" Coys. The relief of the 55th Battalion in the intermediate line was completed by 6.30 p.m. Word was received that the enemy were releasing Gas. "Wind Dangerous" was immediately adopted by the Battalion.</p>	
		4 p.m.	<p>Lieut. Reid rejoined ex Supernumerary list. 2/Lieut. Chauncey and 47 other reinforcements joined the Battalion. Lieut. Williamson and one other rank rejoined ex leave. Lieut. Wilson and one other rank were evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
		7.27 p.m.	<p>The night was quiet and no casualties occurred. No gas was released by the enemy.</p>	
	13		<p>The day was dull and the ground thawed considerably. Usual fatigues were supplied by the Details in camp. Hot food was taken to the intermediate line from the Detail Camp, the Decauville Railway being used for this purpose.</p>	
		10.30 a.m.	<p>C.O. accompanied by the Adjutant made a tour of the trenches to inspect the different working parties. An inspection of the trenches was again made by the C.O. and Adjutant during the afternoon. Nothing of any consequence occurred throughout the day: no casualties casualties occurred. C.O. departed on 21 days special leave of absence to the United Kingdom and on his departure Captain Roberts assumed command of the Battalion. Lieuts. Nicoll and Pitt returned ex leave. Today's Brigade Orders contain the first appointment to commissioned rank of S/Sgt. Leves (posted to the Battalion from the A.A.V.C.) and L/Corporals Privett, Davies and Bowman. Fatigue party was supplied from the intermediate line, of 1 Officer and 75 other ranks for work in the front line. No casualties occurred throughout the night.</p>	

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269

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SOMME	Feb. 14		The day was fine and cold throughout. The usual fatigues were supplied from the Detail Camp. C.O. accompanied by the Adjutant made to usual inspection of the trenches.	
		Noon	G.O.C. Brigade arrived at Battalion Headquarters and discussed the existing shortage of tools. C.O. instructed Company Commanders to proceed to the Front Line during the day for the purpose of making an inspection.	
	15	5 p.m.	C.O. held a conference at Battalion Headquarters and discussed the relief. Lieut. Poore was evacuated to Hospital from Divisional Infantry School. 11 other ranks rejoined the Battalion ex hospital. No casualties occurred throughout the night.	
			The day was fine and bright, and not particularly cold. On account of the relief to be carried out during the evening and the shortage of accommodation in the Front Line, 30 other ranks from "A" Coy. returned to Detail Camp from the Intermediate Line. The usual fatigues were supplied from the Detail Camp throughout the day. 100 other ranks from "C" Coy. left the Detail Camp for the Front Line. C.O. and Adjutant proceeded to the front line to arrange the relief, and to inspect the various trenches. An Officer from each Company proceeded to the Front Line to take over all stores. C.O., Adjutant and M.O. took over Battalion Headquarters at Thistle Trench during the afternoon. During the relief a few gas shells were fired by the enemy and it was necessary for box respirators to be worn for a short period. Two men were affected and had to be evacuated, suffering from Gas Shk poisoning. The relief was completed at 10 p.m. The night was unusually quiet. Hot food was taken up to the Trenches from the Detail Camp. Lieut. Pitt and 4 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick. 8 other ranks rejoined ex leave and one ex sick.	
	16		The day was dull and cold. In addition to the usual fatigues, party of one Officer and 95 other ranks was supplied to the Camp Commandant for cleaning up the camp. Owing to the thaw the ground is again becoming in a very muddy condition. During the morning the C.O. and Adjutant visited "A", "B" and "C" Companies in the front line and issued instructions for the trenches to be cleaned and latrines to be dug. G.O.C. Brigade arrived in "B" Coy's sector and interviewed C.O. in connection with the necessity for cleaning the trenches.	

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SOMME	Feb. 16		At 8.45 p.m. fatigue party arrived and carried out work on northern end of Finch Trench. Hot food was again taken by the Decauville Railway from the Detail Camp. Captain K.H. Grive who have been detached with 5th Sanitary Section for some time is now transferred to that Unit. Today's Brigade Orders show the posting of 2/Lieut. Davison to the Battalion. One man was wounded by machine gun fire. 5 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick. One man rejoined ex school.	
	17		A heavy fog prevailed right throughout the day and it was fairly cold. Usual fatigues were supplied from the Detail Camp for work under supervision of R.E. and Brigade Mining Coy.	
		7 a.m.	The Brigade Major called at Battalion Headquarters and proceeded to the Front Line visiting the left Coy. in Finch Trench. An enemy machine gun was found complete, with spare parts, in no-man's land and was forwarded to Brigade Headquarters. Hot food was as usual taken up on the Decauville Railway from the Details Camp. One man was wounded by indirect machine gun fire. The Rain fell during the night. Matters generally were very quiet, there being rather less than the usual amount of enemy artillery activity, and no casualties were suffered during the night.	
	18		A fog was again experienced during the early part of the day. The afternoon was dull. Usual fatigues from the Detail Camp were supplied. Captain Roberts who became ill during the day was ordered to Hospital by the Medical Officer. The G.O.C. Brigade was notified and word was sent to Captain C.R. Lucas at the Detail to report to Battalion Headquarters in the line and take charge of the Battalion. Captain Lucas arrived at Battalion Headquarters about 2.30 p.m. During the night the Battalion was relieved by the 54th Battalion and returned to "C" Camp Trones Wood. The relief was completed at 10.30 p.m. On arrival in camp a hot meal was issued to the men. During the tour of the Battalion in the Line no difficulty was experienced in sending up rations and they arrived in an excellent condition and were in every respect satisfactory. Captain Roberts and 2 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital. Lieut. Wilson and three other ranks rejoined ex hospital. 2/Lieuts. Davies and Chauncey and five other ranks left for Divisional Infantry School. Lieut. Creber left for duty as Camp Commandant at Montauban Railhead Camp.	

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SOMME	Feb. 19	II a.m.	<p>Weather foggy and cold.</p> <p>C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and other senior Officers in connection with the move to Montauban to take place during the afternoon.</p> <p>During the afternoon "B" and "C" Coys. and two platoons of "A" Coy., also 19 Lewis Gunners of "D" Company moved to Montauban Camp., "D" Coy. and remainder of "A" Company remaining at Pioneer Camp Bernafay for the purpose of supplying standing fatigues.</p> <p>Usual fatigues were supplied throughout the day.</p> <p>One man was evacuated to Hospital and two rejoined ex sick.</p>	
	20		<p>The weather was cold, rain falling at intervals throughout the day.</p> <p>Fatigues aggregating 5 Officers and 400 other ranks were supplied from Pioneer Camp Bernafay and Montauban.</p> <p>Training was carried out by the Battalion Specialists at Montauban Camp.</p> <p>During the morning the C.O. made an inspection of Montauban Camp.</p> <p>Information was today received from Brigade to the effect that 2/Lieuts. Hicks and Gordon have been promoted to Lieutenant.</p> <p>2/Lieut. Courtney and two other ranks rejoined ex Divisional Infantry School.</p> <p>4 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex leave.</p>	
	21		<p>The weather was dull and exceptionally mild.</p> <p>The usual fatigues were supplied throughout the day from Montauban and Bernafay, for work under supervision of Engineers and O.C. Brigade Mining Company.</p> <p>Two more Lewis Guns have now been drawn making a total in possession of this Battalion of fourteen.</p> <p>Specialist Training was again carried out of Lewis Gunners, Bombers and Signallers at Montauban.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the severe weather recently experienced very few cases of serious illness have been reported and the evacuations to Hospital the last few days have been below the average. The general health of the men may be classed as good.</p> <p>During the evening the C.O. issued instructions for the return of the Montauban party to Troned Wood on the following day.</p> <p>2/Lieut. Mehan joined the Battalion ex Cadet Training Battalion.</p> <p>6 other ranks rejoined ex sick and two ex school.</p>	
	22		<p>Weather again very mild and dull. Following on the thaw and the recent rains the ground is now in an extremely muddy condition, making transport difficult.</p> <p>Usual fatigues were supplied and in addition two officers and 100 other ranks were supplied to 14th Field Coy. at Waterlot Farm.</p>	

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10

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SOMME	Feb. 22		Fatigues supplied from Montauban moved off in full marching order and reported to Trones Wood Camp at the conclusion of their work. During the afternoon Companies moved independently from Montauban to "C" Camp Trones Wood Lieut. Hicks left to attend Telescopic Rifle School. One man left for duty with 28th A.A.S.C. and two with Brigade Mining Company. 7 other ranks rejoined ex sick.	
	23		The day was dull and fairly cold. Usual fatigues were supplied. As many men as possible were put through a foot bath and also sent to the Divisional Baths for a change of clothes.	
		9 a.m.	C.O. left to attend a conference held by the G.O.C. Brigade at the Intermediate Line Battalion Headquarters and returned to Headquarters about 2 p.m. During the morning G.O.C. discussed the conference the proposed alteration in method of holding the line. 3 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex sick.	
	24		Weather dull and cold Usual fatigues were supplied to Engineers and O.C. Brigade Mining Coy., and in addition a party of 60 other ranks was provided for work under the Camp Commandant. During the day the remainder of the men were enabled to visit the foot bath. During the evening C.O. issue preliminary instructions in connection with the move to the Intermediate Line the following evening.	
		9.30 p.m.	Brigade Operation Order No. 67 was received. 4 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and two left for Stokes Gun School of Instruction. Lieut. Poore and 3 other ranks rejoined ex sick. I man attached for duty to the Mining Coy. was wounded by shell fire. Captain G.S. Elliott who has been attached as Medical Officer was evacuated to Hospital, Captain C.F. Parkinson, M.C. from the 14th Field Ambulance being attached in his place.	
	25		The day was dull and mild. Usual fatigues were supplied throughout the day. Those parties which had previously been reporting for duty during the night were instructed to proceed during the day on account of visibility being very poor.	
		10.30 a.m.	C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and discussed the relief to be carried out during the evening, and generally the tour of duty of the Battalion in the trenches. Special instructions were issued regarding Gum Boots. O'sC. "B" and "C" Coy were instructed to each take 125 other ranks to the Intermediate line as soon as it became	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	Feb. 25	4.30 p.m.	<p>became sufficiently dark. "A" and "D" Coys. and the remainder of "B" and "C" Companies will occupy Pioneer Camp and part of "B" Camp Trones Wood until the Battalion moves to the front line. Captain Plomley was left in charge of the Detail Camp.</p> <p>Headquarters and Headquarter Signallers moved off and arrived at Reserve Battalion Headquarters at 5.50 p.m. "B" and "C" Companies arrived at the Intermediate Line shortly afterwards.</p> <p>The relief of the 55th Battalion was completed by 6.30 p.m.</p> <p>16 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one man rejoined ex sick.</p> <p>7 other ranks left for duty under the A.P.M.</p>	
	26		<p>The day was fairly fine and was not cold.</p> <p>Usual fatigues were supplied from the Details in camp.</p> <p>Hot food was taken on the Decauville Railway to the Intermediate line.</p> <p>During the day C.O. and Adjutant inspected Blighty and Windmill trenches and issued instructions regarding the work to be carried out, which includes improvement of trenches, digging of new latrines etc. Cow Trench is now occupied by 100 other ranks from the Battalion in the front line. The day generally was fairly quiet.</p> <p>2/Lieut. Davison who has been posted to the Battalion joined up.</p> <p>14 other ranks rejoined ex sick and ex wounded.</p> <p>3 other ranks rejoined ex schools.</p>	
	27		<p>The day was dull but no rain fell.</p> <p>Usual fatigues were supplied. Party of one officer and 50 other ranks which reported at 8.30 a.m. for Wiring Rose Trench was sent back after reaching its destination and had to report again in the evening. On account of the air being fairly clear there was a possibility of the party being seen by enemy observers.</p> <p>C.O. inspected the trenches morning and afternoon.</p> <p>Matters were fairly quiet there being about the usual amount of enemy shelling. Enemy aircraft however were very active.</p> <p>There were no casualties.</p> <p>One man was evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex sick.</p>	
	28		<p>Two men left for Brigade Headquarters for carrier pigeon work under Brigade Signal Officer.</p> <p>The weather was dull and cold.</p> <p>Usual fatigue parties were supplied from the Detail Camp for work under the Engineers and C.C. Brigade Mining Company.</p> <p>Hot food was again taken up to the intermediate line.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	Feb. 28		<p>Work of improving the trenches was carried out throughout the day. C.O. made the usual inspection of the trenches morning and evening. There were no casualties. During the evening C.O. issued instructions for the move of the Battalion to the front line the following night. 6 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and two left to attend Lewis Gun School. 10 other ranks rejoined ex sick.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CR Lucas.</i> Captain, Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>	