

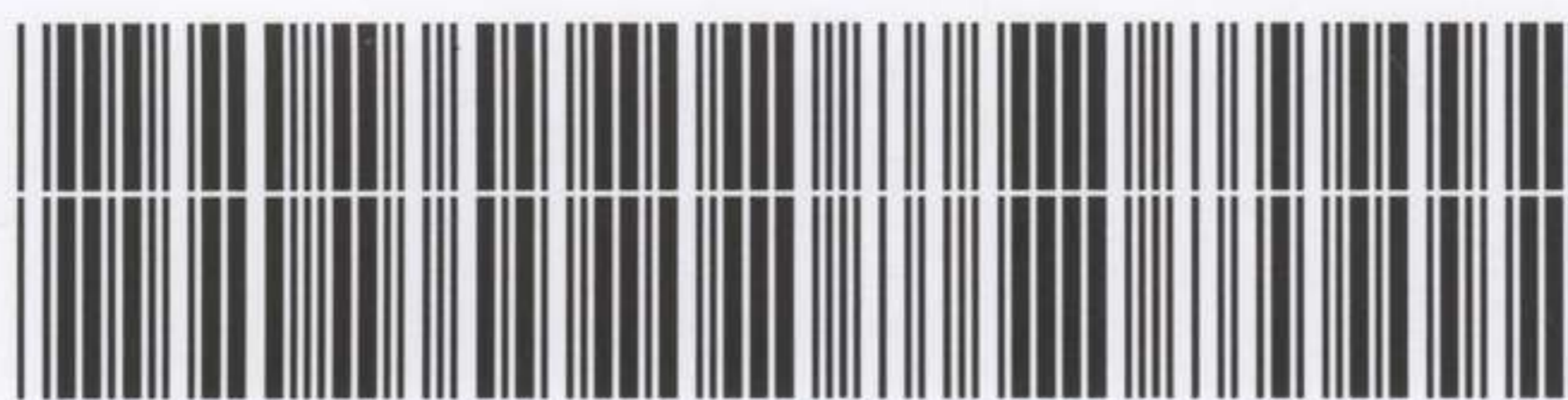
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/73/19

**Title:** 56th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/73/19



## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 264

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EBBLINGHEM	AUG.		<p>Heavy rain fell consistently throughout the day.</p> <p>On account of this the Syllabus of Training laid down for to-day was abandoned but Company Commanders carried on with Box Respirator Drill, Rifle and Equipment inspections in the Billets.</p> <p>General Birdwood and G.O.C. Division called at Headquarters at 1.15 p.m. and discussed matters in general concerning the Battalion.</p> <p>In response to wire received 1 N.C.O. and 3 men reported to Brigade Headquarters to do duty as Bde. Guard.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions C.O. called at Brigade Headquarters at 10 a.m.</p> <p>55 Reinforcements including ex Sick and Wounded joined the Battalion.</p> <p>1 man rejoined ex leave and</p> <p>10 men departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>1 Other rank rejoined ex school and 1 ex sick.</p> <p>6 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>Heavy rain fell frequently during the day.</p> <p>This interfered with the Training laid down, to a certain extent, but the men were taken for a short route march and on returning to Billets, Gas Drill was practised.</p> <p>The Brigade Move Order No. 100 stating that Brigade will carry out 3 day's training in the Coulomby-Bayenghem (W1) Area, from 4th to 6th inst, was received. Later on an <del>order</del> order was received postponing the move until 6th inst and with instructions for the Battalion to carry out a Route March, with first line Transport, to-morrow, 3rd inst.</p> <p>Action was immediately taken and Co. Commanders were furnished with Bn. Order No. 33 (copy attached) at 6 p.m.</p> <p>1 Other Rank rejoined ex leave and 2 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>2 men <del>evacuated</del> evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>The weather to-day was of the showery order.</p> <p>The Battalion Route March, as per Order issued the previous evening, took place.</p> <p>The Bde. Gas N.C.O. called and inspected the Box Respirators belonging to all ranks and effected repairs where necessary.</p> <p>At 6 p.m. G.O.C. Bde. called at Headquarters.</p> <p>Major A.J.G. Simpson rejoined ex Leave, also 2 other ranks.</p> <p>1 man rejoined ex sick.</p> <p>2 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>Battalion Order No. 34 (copy attached) to be carried out to-morrow was issued at 2 p.m.</p>	

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	AUG.			
	4.		<p>Light showers fell during the morning and the afternoon was fine.</p> <p>The Battalion carried out a Route March during the morning as laid down in Bn. Order issued the previous evening.</p> <p>At 2.30 p.m. C.O. and Q.M. visited the G.O.C. Bde. at Schoolhouse, Blaringhem, in accordance with written instructions received yesterday.</p> <p>3 men transferred from Bn. to 1st Bn., 55th Battery and 4th F.A. Bde. respectively</p> <p>1 man was taken on strength from 14th L.T.M.B.</p> <p>7 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>1 man evacuated to hospital.</p>	
	5.		<p>The weather was cloudy but no rain fell.</p> <p>The Brigade Move Order No. 10L was received at 12.30 p.m. to-day intimating that 3 day's training would be carried out in the Coulomby-Bayenghem (W1) area and that this Bn. would be transported to this area as per instructions detailed in March Table "A" attached to order.</p> <p>Church parades were held for all Denominations.</p> <p>The Battalion Move Order No. 35 (copy attached) was issued at 5 p.m. which embraced the contents of the Bde. Order.</p> <p>2 other ranks rejoined ex leave.</p>	
	6.		<p>The weather throughout the day was cloudy and misty but no rain fell.</p> <p>This morning the Bn. moved off and passed the Starting Point at 9.30 a.m., reaching the point for embussing at 12.15 p.m. Embussing arrangements being completed at 12.45 p.m. the Bus Transport now departed arriving at their <del>destination</del> point to debuss. at 3.30 p.m. <del>at</del></p> <p>Half an hour's march from there found the Bn. at the allotted Billets in the village of Seninghem where good accomodation was found.</p> <p>The Brigade Syllabus of Training for period of training in "W1" Area was received this evening with sufficient copies of the Scheme to be carried out to issue to Co. Commanders and Platoon Officers. These were immediately issued.</p>	
	7.		<p>1 N.C.O. departed for Officers' Training Battalion and 3 N.C.O's left for a Course of Instructions at 1st Anzac Corps School.</p> <p>All Light Duty men and men detailed as Guard for the Bn. Billets, numbering approx. 100 men were left behind at Ebblinghem.</p>	
SENINBHEM.	7.		<p>The day was fine and warm.</p> <p>The Bn. Operation Order No. 36 (copy attached) was issued at 10 a.m., and embraced the conditions contained in the Bde. Syllabus received the previous day. This was carried out</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SENINGHEM.	AUG			
	7.		<p>carried out during the afternoon. Bde. Orders stated that Flag Enemy would be employed, but, unfortunately, through misunderstanding, no enemy was placed out by Bde. After carrying out the Scheme the Bn. was formed up and the C.O. criticised the various moves carried out particular stress was paid in the lecture to the passing on of information from Co. Commanders to platoon Commanders and on to Section Commanders.</p> <p>5 men departed on leave to U.K.</p>	
	8.		<p>The morning was fine and warm but in the latter part of the day there was a heavy downpour of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning.</p> <p>Training laid down in Bde. Syllabus for 2nd day in "W" area was carried out as per instructions issued in Battalion Operation Order No. 37 (copy attached) at 6 a.m. this morning. The Scheme laid down was carried out in a satisfactory manner, the enemy, which was represented by flags, was placed out by G.S.O. 2nd Div. Officers and other ranks showed great initiative in the different phases of the Scheme.</p> <p>Capt. G.C. Christiansen evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>12 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p>	
	9.		<p>Fine weather conditions prevailed until late in the afternoon when heavy showers fell.</p> <p>The Bde. Scheme for the 3rd and final day's training in "W" area was <del>xxx</del> carried out by the Bn. which occupied most of the day. The Bn. was in reserve during the first portion of the Scheme and in the latter stage took part in the attack. At 3 p.m. G.O.C. Bde. issued a message for all officers to attend a conference at D.3.c. He made general criticisms on the carrying out of the Scheme and concluded his remarks by saying how pleased he was at the initiative shown by all ranks and the success of the Scheme.</p> <p>The G.S.O.2. endorsed the Brigadier's remarks.</p> <p>The Bde. Move Order No. 102 was received at 10.20 p.m. and the Bn. Move Order No. 38 (copy attached) was immediately compiled and issued at 11 p.m.</p> <p>2 men rejoined ex Sick Reinforcements.</p> <p>4 men evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
	10.		<p>The weather during the morning was cloudy with a few light showers but <del>xxx</del> the afternoon was fine.</p> <p>When certificates had been received stating that Billets and lines were being left in a clean and sanitary condition, the Bn. moved off from Starting Point at 8.20 a.m. and arrived at Embussing Point about 9.30 a.m. Here the Bn. embussed and were conveyed to the Square at Arques arriving at 11.15 a.m. The Bn. was now formed up in Column of Route and marching off</p>	

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EBBLINGHEM.			<p>marching off at 11.45 a.m. reached the Billets at Ebbingham somewhere about 1.45 p.m. The roads travelled over were composed mostly of cobblestones which had a very trying effect on the mens' feet, in some cases causing blisters to appear, but reports received from Co. Commanders stated that no men fell out of the ranks on the march. 10 men rejoined ex leave, 5 rejoined ex Schools and 3 ex Sick respectively. 1 man departed on leave to U.K. 2 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>11. Frequent showers fell throughout the day. The Training carried out during the morning consisted of Bayonet Fighting, Co. Drill and Rifle and equipment inspections, also Box Respirator Drill. 6 men reported to A.P.M. for duties and 2 men to Mobile Workshop. 1 Officer and 3 N.C.O.'s left to attend Schools of Instruction. (2nd Lieut. B.W. Warden) 30 Reinforcements including ex sick and wounded rejoined Battalion. 2 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>12. With the exception of 1 or 2 light showers the day was fine and cool. Church parades were held for all Denominations. An exchange of officers was made for a few days between Bn. Transport Officer and an Officer from the 28th A.A.S.C. in order to note the methods and system used in the respective units. The Bde. Training Syllabus for the week ending 18th Aug was received this afternoon, the work laid down for the first day consisting of a Route March. This was immediately acted upon and the Bn. Order No. 39 was issued at 4 p.m. The Bn. Bombing Officer attended a conference at Bde. Headquarters to discuss the bombs at present being used. 2 men rejoined ex leave and 1 man ex sick. 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O. proceeded to Schools of Instruction and 1 other rank to A.I.F. (Cpvt Single) Administrative H'qrs for instructions re return passage to Australia. 1 man evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>13. The day was fine and clear. During the morning the Bn. carried out a Route March as per Bn. Order issued previous evening. In the afternoon the Divisional Gas Officer called and delivered a short lecture to all ranks in connection with the new types of Gas now being employed by the enemy. 1 Officer and 12 other ranks rendered assistance to the local farmers in collecting their harvest.</p>	



WAR DIARY

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EBBLINGHEM.			<p>3 other ranks rejoined ex leave.          6 other ranks departed for Summer Rest Camp and          2 men left for a course of training at the pack Transport School.          4 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>14 Morning fine but in the afternoon heavy rain fell.          Physical Training, Bayonet Fighting, Fire Direction and Control, also Box Respirator Drill          comprised the training carried out to-day. All Specialists paraded separately under the          supervision of Specialist Officers and carried on with Specialist work.          C.O. attended a discussion regarding the method of conducting exercises without troops          together with other Bn. Commanders of this Bde.          In the afternoon C.O. and Co. Commanders attended a Gas Lecture held at Blaringhem Schoolhouse.          A number of Officers and N.C.O.'s also attended a Cookery Demonstration at Hazebrouck.          9 men rejoined ex leave and 5 men ex sick and wounded.          1 man departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>15 2 men evacuated to Hospital.          Wet weather conditions prevailed all day.          During the morning the Bn. carried on with Co. Training and in the afternoon all Officers          and N.C.O.'s and Signallers met at Ebblinghem Rly. Stn. and <del>practised</del> a Bn. Scheme without          Troops.          2 Officers and 4 N.C.O.'s attended the inspection by Major J. Betts of qualified Physical          Training and Bayonet Fighting Instructors at Divisional Headquarters, Blaringhem, at 10 a.m.          Major Simpson was President of a F.G.C.M. held at this Battalion's Headquarters at 10 a.m.          to-day.          A Court of Inquiry was also held at "C" Co's Orderly Room to inquire into an injury received          by pte. Bryant of this Bn.          4 men were transferred from Bn. to other Infantry units.          11 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>16 1 man rejoined ex sick.          Light showers fell during the day.          Advice having been received from Bde. that the baths at Blaringhem were available to men of          this Bn., a Baths Parade was held when nearly every man received a hot bath and a good change          of underwear. The Cos. were marched at various intervals to the Baths and before proceeding          a thorough inspection of rifles, equipment and Box Respirators was made by Co. Commanders.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EBBLINGHEM.			<p>The Bn. Route March Order No. 40 (copy attached) to be carried out to-morrow was issued at 6 p.m.</p> <p>7 men rejoined ex leave and 1 man ex sick. 1 man evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>17 Weather fine and cool. Battalion Route March as per order issued last evening took place during the morning. A Court of Inquiry was held in "A" Cos. Orderly Room to inquire into the loss of Grenade Carriers -Bucket type. 2 men rejoined ex leave and 1 man ex Sick. 1 man evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>18. Slight showers fell and a strong breeze prevailed all day. Training carried out this morning was Scouting and Reconnaissance, Observation, Visual Training, Judging Distances, Co. Drill and Box Respirator Drill. Specialists paraded separately under supervision of Specialist Officers. C.O. attended a conference at Bde Headquarters, at 10.30 a.m. to discuss the Scheme without Troops carried out the previous afternoon. The Bde. Syllabus of Training for week ending 25/8/17 was received this afternoon. The number of hours workes by men of this Bn. during the week, in rendering assistance to the local farmers, amounted to 93 hours.</p> <p>19. 13 men rejoined ex Sick and Wounded also 2 men from Schools. 1 man rejoined ex leave and 1 man departed on leave to U.K. Weather fine and cool. Church Parades were held for all Denominations. 1 Man rejoined ex Sick and 1 man ex Leave. 2 N.C.O.'s departed on leave. 1 man departed for a course of instructions at 2nd Army Cookery School 1 man evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>20 Fine weather conditions prevailed. Training laid down this morning was Physical Training and Assault Training, Musketry, Rifle Exercises and Box Respirator Drill. Specialists paraded separately. Battalion Order No. 41 (copy attached) was issued at 8.15 p.m. in connection with to-moorow's Training. 3 men returned ex leave and 3 men departed on leave. 1 man rejoined ex sick.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EBBLINGHEM	21.		<p>Weather dull but no rain fell.</p> <p>The morning was devoted to the Route March laid down in Bn. Order issued the previous day. In the afternoon C.O. and 2 other officers attended a lecture on Aeroplane photographs at Bde. Headquarters.</p> <p>6 men rejoined ex Sick and Wounded and 2 men from Mobile Workshop</p> <p>2 N.C.O.'s departed for duties at 14th Training Bn. Eng.</p> <p>6 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>9 other ranks rejoined ex leave.</p>	
	22.		<p>Fine weather conditions prevailed.</p> <p>Training this morning was as follows:- Company Drill, Rifle Exercises, Reconnaissance, Fire Direction and Control with Specialists parading separately under Specialist Officers.</p> <p>2/Lieut. H.R. Musgrove joined up from Reinforcements Camp.</p> <p>1 Officer and 5 other ranks departed on leave to U.k.</p> <p>5 other ranks rejoined ex leave.</p> <p>1 man was temporarily attached for duties to Bde. Headquarters.</p> <p>1 man evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
	23.		<p>Strong winds with occasional showers prevailed throughout the day.</p> <p>Training similar to that of the previous morning was carried out to-day.</p> <p>A Battalion Scheme without Troops in which all Officers, &amp; N.C.O.'s attended took place during the afternoon.</p> <p>The remainder of the men who were unable to attend Baths parade held last week paraded to Baths to-day and obtained a hot bath and a clean change of underclothing.</p> <p>1 Officer and 4 other ranks departed on leave to U.K. (Lieut. Shannon)</p> <p>2 Officers proceeded to Paris on 4 day's leave. (Lieuts. Mehan and Adams)</p> <p>1 man rejoined ex leave.</p> <p>2 Bn. Signallers were transferred to Bde. Signal Section.</p>	
	24.		<p>Weather conditions similar to the previous day.</p> <p>The training carried out this morning was P.T. and Assault Training, Observation and Judging Distances and Specialist work. All Ranks also had their Box Respirators tested by the Bde. Gas N.C.O. against attacks of Tear Shell Gas. A tent was specially provided by the Bn. for the testing of them.</p> <p>C.O. attended a Conference of Unit Commanders at Bde Headquarters at 10.30 a.m. to discuss</p>	



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EBBLINGHEM.			<p>discuss the formations for future operations.</p> <p>Capt. Thompson and <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del> the Bn. Signal N.C.O's attended a Special Scheme at 2.30 p.m. to-day.</p> <p>Capt. Snythe and another Officer from this Bn. also attended a Cooking Demonstartion held <del>at</del> at 2nd Army School of Cookery, Hazebrouck at 10.30 a.m.</p> <p>The Bde. Training Syllabus for the week ending 1/9/17 was received at 1 p.m. to-day.</p> <p>C.O. this afternoon took Temporary Command of the Brigade during the Brigadier's absence on furlough. During this period Major A.J.G. Simpson will be temporarily in Command of the Bn.</p> <p>1 man rejoined ex sick.</p> <p>1 Officer and 8 other ranks departed on leave. (Lieut. Grimsley)</p> <p>1 N.C.O. left for Cadet Battalion, England.</p> <p>11 other ranks transferred to 14th M.G. Co.</p> <p>2 men evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>Weather fine with a strong wind blowing.</p> <p>The training carried out during the morning was a Test Route March (as per copy No. 42 attached)</p> <p>At 10 a.m. T.O., T.Sgt. and another Officer attended a Demonstration in pack Transport at 1st Anzac Transport School.</p> <p>Capt. Mann and Asst/Adj. were members of a F.G.C.M. held at 54th Bn. Headquarters at 10 a.m.</p> <p>2 Officers and 8 N.C.O's left for a course of Instructions at 1st Anzac Corps School. (Lieuts. Heugh &amp; Keogh)</p> <p>2 men departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>3 Officers and 3 other ranks rejoined from Schools. (Lieuts. Kidson, Wittleton &amp; 2/Lt. Warden)</p> <p>1 man was taken on strength from 58th Bn.</p> <p>Weather dull with rain in latter part of the day.</p> <p>Church parades were held for all Denominations.</p> <p>C.O. departed on leave to England in accordance with instructions received.</p> <p>Adjutant attended a Conference held at Brigade Headquarters this afternoon to discuss the visit of the C. in C. to this Division on Wednesday next.</p> <p>9 other ranks rejoined from Schools of Instruction.</p> <p>17 Reinforcements of ex Sick and Wounded men joined up the Battalion this morning.</p> <p>5 other ranks returned from Summer Rest Camp.</p> <p>2 men departed on leave to England and 1 man to Paris.</p>	
	25.			
	26.			



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EBBLING- HEM.	27.		<p>Boisterous weather conditions prevailed throughout the day. Training, as laid down in Bde. Syllabus, was carried out this morning and consisted of Physical Training, Extended Order Work, Assault Training and Box Respirator Drill, with Specialists parading separately under supervision of Specialist Officers. 5th Div. Order No. 156 containing particulars of Rehearsal Parade to be held at MONT DUPIL at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 28th inst., was received at 11 a.m. this morning. Battalion Order No. 43 (copy attached) was then prepared and issued at 2 p.m. 5 other ranks rejoined ex leave. 2 Officers and 2 other ranks departed on leave (Capt. Thompson &amp; Lieut. Cotton) 8 other ranks left for Summer Rest Camp. 1 man departed for a course of Instructions at Pack Transport School and 1 man rejoined from Anzac Workshop.</p>	
	28.		<p>Weather still continues to be of the boisterous order. This morning the Battalion moved off to carry out the Rehearsal Parade but at 8.40 a.m. when in position at B.17.b.8.0 a message was received from Brigade Headquarters stating that the parade was cancelled until further notice. The Battalion then returned to Billets. A further Bde. message delivered at 11.45 a.m. stated that Troops would not be required for the Rehearsal parade but C.O., Adjutant, Company Commanders and T.O. were to assemble on the Rehearsal Ground at 3 p.m. to-day. This order was complied with by the above Officers.</p> <p>At 10.30 p.m. Div. Order No. 157 was received containing particulars of the Divisional Inspection by the C. in C., to take place at Mont Dupil on 29th inst. Battalion Order No. 44 was now compiled and issued at midnight (copy attached). 2 Officers and 5 other ranks rejoined ex leave. (Lieuts. Adams &amp; Mehan) 1 man from Summer Rest Camp and 1 man from Bde Duties rejoined. 2 Officers departed for a course of instructions at Signal School. (Lieuts. Heath &amp; Kidson) 1 Officer and 5 other ranks departed on leave to England. (Lieut. McDonnell)</p>	
	29.		<p>The weather still continues to be bad. During the morning the Battalion marched to Mont Dupil, arriving there at 10.50 a.m., where they were inspected by the C. in C. Frequent showers fell throughout the inspection which greatly interfered with the movements of the Troops but the March Past appeared to be very successful. The Battalion arrived back at Billets at 1.45 p.m. 1 Man rejoined ex leave.</p>	

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EBBLINGHAM.	29.		14 other Ranks departed on leave. 5 N.C.O's left for duties at 14th Training Battalion, Eng.	
	30.		Weather dull but no rain fell. The Training carried out this morning comprised Bayonet Fighting, Company Drill, Fire Direction and Control, Box Respirator Drill. Specialists held separate Parades for specialist work. Lieuts. Cotton and Grimsley and 4 other ranks rejoined ex leave. 2 men rejoined ex Detention. Lieut. Leeves of Transport Section temporarily attached for duties to 28th A.A.S.C., Lieut. Johnson of that Unit taking his place.	
	31.		1 man evacuated to hospital. 100 men assisted in erecting huts and cleaning ground for Refugees Camp. A few light showers fell otherwise weather fine. In accordance with training laid down for to-day, in Bde. Training Syllabus, the Battalion carried out a Night Outpost Scheme, as per copy attached. Bde. Training Syllabus for week ending 8th Sept. inclusive was received at 12.20 p.m. C.O. returned from England and resumed Temp. Command of Brigade. The number of hours worked by men of this Bn. in assisting the local Farmers amounted to 72 hours. Bn. Order No. 45, copy attached, for the Test Route March to be carried out to-morrow, 1st inst., was issued at 9 p.m. A fatigue party of 4 men were supplied to Town Major. Lieut. Naughton and 11 other ranks of ex Sick Rein. rejoined Bn. this afternoon. 1 Man rejoined ex leave and 7 other ranks departed on leave to U.K. 3 men left for a course of Instructions ( 1 to 2nd Army School & 2 to Advanced Buzzer Course) Lieut. Cotton departed for duties at 14th Training Battalion, England. At 2.30 p.m. an inspection of the Transport Section was made by Lt. Col. Francis, D.S.O. of Div. Train who expressed himself quite satisfied at the turn out.	
	1st September 1917.		<p><i>A. J. Simpson</i> Major, Temporarily Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>	







Map ref. Belgium and France,  
Sheet 27 Ed. 2. 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
2nd Aug '17.

- =====
1. The Battalion will carry out a Test Route March, to-morrow, 3rd inst.
  2. STARTING POINT:

H. Q.	)	
"A" Co.	)	Battalion Headquarters, 8.30 a.m.
"C" Co.	)	
TRANSPORT.	)	
"D" Co.	)	T.24.a.O.3 at 8.35 a.m.
"B" Co.	)	
  3. ORDER OF MARCH:

H. Q.
"A" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
"B" Co.
TRANSPORT.
  4. (a) All Ranks will carry Full Marching Order with W.P. sheets, less blankets. Steel Helmets will be worn by all ranks. (Mounted Officers included.)  
 (b) Lewis Guns will be carried on limbers.  
 (c) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.
  5. (a) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the march.  
 (b) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
  6. All Guards and other duties will be furnished by Light Duty Men.
  7. Marching Out States will be handed to Adjutant at Starting Point.
  8. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.

(sgd) A.C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F..

Issued at 6 p.m. by Runner.

"A" Co.  
 "B" Co.  
 "C" Co.  
 "D" Co.  
 T.O.  
 C.O.  
 M.O.  
 War Diary.  
 File.

14



264  
56TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 34 (34)

Reference: Belgium and France  
Sheet 27, Ed. 2. 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
3/8/17.

1. The Battalion less Transport will carry out a Test Route March, to-morrow, 4th inst. Companies will march independently in accordance with March Table hereunder.

Company in order of March.	Starting Point.		ROUTE FOR ALL COS.
	Location.	Time.	
"A" Co.	U.19.a.6.2 (cross roads)	8.25 a.m.	via RENESCURE TO Cross roads S.18.d.0.7 T.11.a.7.8 U.19.a.6.2 to BILLETS.
"C" Co.	U.19.a.6.2 (cross roads)	8.30 a.m.	via T.11.a.7.8 S.18.d.0.7 via RENESCURE to BILLETS.
HEADQUARTERS.	U.19.a.6.2	8.35 a.m.	via T.11.a.7.8 T.6.b.8.9 U.8.b.7.7 U.8.b.6.6 U.22.a.8.0 to BILLETS.
"B" Co.	T.24.a.0.3	8.25 a.m.	via U.22.a.8.0 U.8.b.6.8 U.8.b.7.7 T.6.b.8.9 T.11.a.7.8 U.19.a.6.2 to BILLETS.
"D" Co.	T.24.a.0.3	8.30 a.m.	via U.19.a.6.2 T.11.a.7.8 T.6.b.8.9 U.8.b.7.7 U.8.b.6.6 U.22.a.8.0 to BILLETS.

2. (a) All Ranks will carry Full Marching Order less blanket. Steel Helmets to be worn by all Ranks.  
(b) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.
3. (a) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the march.  
(b) Halts will be at 10 minutes to the clock hour (for 10 minutes)
4. All Guards and other duties will be furnished by Light Duty Men.
5. Marching Out States will be handed to Headquarter officer at Starting Point.
6. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.

(Sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 2 p.m. by runner.

Copy No. 2 "A" Co.  
3 "B" Co.  
4 "C" Co.  
5 "D" Co.  
6 L.G. Officer  
7 C.O.  
1 WAR DIARY  
8 FILE.

12



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BATTALION MOVE ORDER No. 35. APPENDIX  
=====

Reference Sheets 27, 36a 1/40,000 Headquarters,  
5a Hazebrouck do. 5/8/17.

- 
1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport will move to-morrow, 6th inst., to COULOMBY-BAYENGHEM (W1) Training Area.  
(b) Battalion will billet south of the "W" Training Area.
  2. STARTING POINT: TRANSPORT. Battalion Headquarters at 7.30 a.m.  
INFANTRY " " at 9.30 a.m.
  3. ORDER OF MARCH: HEADQUARTERS.  
"A" Co.  
"C" Co.  
"D" Co.  
"B" Co.
  4. (a) All Company Baggage, Officers' Valises and mens' blankets (rolled in bundles of 20 and plainly labelled) will be stacked at Company Headquarters, at 6.30 a.m., 6th inst.  
(b) Lewis Guns, Magazines etc., will be ready for loading at Company Headquarters, at 6 p.m., 5th inst. The L.G. Officer will supervise the loading of above.
  5. (a) All ranks will carry Full Marching Order and Waterproof sheets. Steel Helmets will be worn.  
(b) Unconsumed portion of day's rations to be carried.  
(c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained.  
(d) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
  6. On arrival at place of embusment Companies will form up in groups of 1 officer and 23 other ranks (6 groups per 70 yds)
  7. Marching Out States will be handed in to B.O.R. not later than 8 a.m., 6th inst.
  8. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m. 6th inst.

(sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 5 p.m. by runner.

- "A" Co.
- "B" Co.
- "C" Co.
- "D" Co.
- L.G. Officer.
- Q.M.
- T.O.
- C.O.
- War Diary.
- File.

12



## OPERATION ORDER No. 30. (36)

Map ref of area "W" 1/20,000

7/8/17.

1. (a) Information has been received that a White Force is occupying position through V.26.a. central-D.1.a.O.5 with advanced posts and snipers in the BOIS DE BAYENHEM and the BOIS LARGE.
- (b) The 56th Bn. will take up a position on a line from D.10.b.O.5 - V.27.b.2.9 and will clear the wood also deploy on a line on the western edge of the woods in V.26 and D.1 preparatory to making a reconnaissance in force on enemy position on far ridge.
2. (a) Disposition of Battalion is as follows:
  - "C" Co. from line through D.5.cent. - V.27.cent. inclusive to a line through D.4.cent. - V.26.cent
  - "B" Co. from a line through D.4.cent. - V.26.cent inclusive to a line through D.4.d.O.5 - V.26.c.6. (V.26.c.6.4)
  - "A" Co. from a line through D.4.d.O.5 - V.26.c.6. inclusive to main BOULOGNE ROAD exclusive.
  - "D" Co. will take up a position in vicinity of ~~(KX)~~ D.4.a.
- (b) C.C. "C" Co. will make arrangements for protection of right flank of Battalion.
3. Companies will move independently and be in position by 12.30 p.m.
4. Dress will be Battle Order with Steel Helmets. Midday meal to be carried.
5. Zero time for the advance will be notified later.
6. C.C. 14th F.A. detachment will <sup>make</sup> the necessary arrangements to clear from Bn. Aid Post which will be at road junction D.3.d.9.8
7. All reports to Bn. Headquarters D.3.d.9.8

(sgd) A.C. Chappell Captain.

Issued at 10 a.m. by runner Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

"A" Co.  
 "B" Co.  
 "C" Co.  
 "D" Co.  
 14th F.A.  
 H.Q.  
 C.O.  
 War Diary.  
 File.



264

## APPENDIX

56th BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. "37" -37-  
 Map ref. of area "W" 1/20,000 8/8/17.

1. (a) Information has been received that a small enemy party has been located in BOIS de L'EGLISE.  
 (b) The 56th Battalion will clear BOIS de L'EGLISE of enemy post and make good northern edge.
2. (a) The present Van Guard consisting of "A" and "D" Companies will move forward and clear the wood on the following frontages:-  
 "D" Co. from a line through U.30 central - V.19. central to a line from junction of roads U.29.d.9.9 and V.19.a.6.0  
 "A" Co. from a line through U.29.d.9.9 and V.19.a.6.0 and the main track running through BOIS de L'EGLISE.  
 (b) The Main Guard will move along main BOIS de L'EGLISE track and halt with head of column at U.29.d.9.9.
3. The Order of March for Main Guard is as follows:-

## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.

"C" Co.

14th L.T.M.B.

"B" Co.

## PACK ANIMALS.

4. Dress will be Battle Order with Steel Helmets
5. The M.O. will make arrangements to establish a R.A.P. in the vicinity of U.29.d.9.9.
6. Zero Hour will be 8 a.m.
7. Reports to be sent to head of Main Guard.

(sgd) A.G. Chappell Capt  
 Issued at 6 a.m. by runner. Adjutant, 56th Battalion.

"A" Co.  
 "B" Co.  
 "C" Co.  
 "D" Co.  
 14th L.T.M.B.  
 M.O.  
 C.O.  
 War Diary.  
 File.

10



264

56th Bn. MOVE ORDER No. 38. (38)

Map ref. 27, 36a 1/40,000  
5a, HAZEBROUCK 1/100,000 9/8/17.

1. (a) The 56th Bn. will move to the EBBLINGHEM-LYNDE AREA to-morrow, 10th inst.  
(b) The Transport will be brigaded and move under orders of Capt. Cetterill.  
(c) Brakesmen and Co. Packmens' packs will be carried on limbers under the cover.
2. Order of March: HEADQUARTERS  
"B" Co.  
"D" Co.  
"C" Co.  
"A" Co.
3. Starting Point: TRANSPORT ) Bn. Headquarters 8.15 a.m.  
INFANTRY ) 8.20 a.m.
4. (a) All Co. baggage, Officers' valises, signalling gear and mens' blankets (rolled in bundles of 20 and plainly labelled) will be stacked at Co. Headquarters by 7 a.m to-morrow, 10th inst.  
(b) Lewis Guns will be loaded at 6 p.m. 9th inst., under supervision of a Co. Officer.
5. (a) All ranks will carry Full Marching Order, W.P. Sheet. Steel Helmets will be worn.  
(b) Unconsumed portion of day's rations will be carried.  
(c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained.  
(d) Halts will be signalled from Head of column.
6. On arrival at place of embussing Companies will form up in groups of 1 Off. 23 O.R. (6 groups to 70 yds)
7. Marching out States to be at B.O.R. not later than 8 a.m., 10th inst.
8. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

(sgd) A.C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion.  
Copies to.

Issued at 10 p.m. by runner.

- "A" Co. Q.M.
- "B" Co. T.O.
- "C" Co.
- "D" Co.

C.O.  
War Diary.  
File.



56TH BATTALION ORDER No. "39" (39)

Map Ref. Sheet 27. 1/40,000  
Sheet 36a 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
12th Aug 17.

- =====
1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (with forward portion of Cookers) will carry out a Test Route March, to-morrow 13th inst.
  - (b) Companies and Transport to maintain a distance of 100 yds. between Companies.
  - (c) Lewis Guns, Magazines etc. will be loaded at 7 p.m. to-night, on Transport under the supervision of L. G. Officer, commencing with "D" and "B" Cos.
  2. Order of March:

HEADQUARTERS.
"A" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
"B" Co.
  3. Starting Point: U.19.a.6.2 (Crossroads) at 8.47 a.m.
  4. (a) All Ranks will wear Battle Order, and Steel Helmets to be worn.
  - (b) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.
  - (c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the march.
  - (d) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
  - (e) Parades to be as strong as possible.
  5. Marching Out States to be at B.O.R. not later than 8 a.m.
  6. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

(Sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 4 p.m. by runner:

"A" Co.  
"B" Co.  
"C" Co.  
"D" Co.  
L.G. Officer.  
T.O.  
Q.M.  
M.O.

Copies to:

C.O.  
War Diary.  
File.

8



APPENDIX

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 40 (40)

Map ref. Sheet 27 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
16/8/17.

1. (a) The Battalion will carry out a Route March, to-morrow, 17th inst.  
 (b) First Line Transport will accompany. Only fore limber of Cookers will be taken.
2. STARTING POINT: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Crossroads, T.24.a.O.3 (Rly. Station) at 9 a.m.
3. ORDER OF MARCH: HEADQUARTERS  
 "A" Co.  
 "C" Co.  
 "B" Co.  
 "D" Co.  
 TRANSPORT.
4. An interval of 100 yds. will be preserved between Companies.
5. (a) All ranks will wear Battle Order with steel helmets.  
 (b) Lewis Guns will not be carried but practice loading for the next few days under the supervision of L.G. Officer will take place.
6. Marching Out States to be handed in to B.O.R. not later than 8. a.m.
7. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

(Sgd) A. M. Cohen, Lieut.  
Asst/Adj, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 6 p.m. by runner.

- "A" Co. C.O.
- "B" Co. War Diary.
- "C" Co. File.
- "D" Co.
- T.O.
- Lt Bull.
- M.C.



56th BATTALION ORDER No. 49. 41 APPENDIX

Map ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000.

Headquarters,  
20/8/17.

- 1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (with forward portion of Cookers) will carry out a Test Route March, to-morrow 21st inst.
- (b) Companies and Transport will maintain a distance of 100 yds. between Companies.
- (c) Lewis Guns will not be carried.

2. Order of March:

HEADQUARTERS.

"A" Co.

"C" Co.

"D" Co.

"B" Co.

TRANSPORT.

3. Starting Point:

U.19. a. 6.2 at 9 a.m.

- 4. (a) All Ranks will carry Full Marching Order (less blankets) and Steel Helmets to be worn.
- (b) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.
- (c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the March.
- (d) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
- (e) Parade to be as strong as possible.

5. Marching out states to be at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

6. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

Issued at 8.15 p.m. by runner.

(sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

- "A" Co.
- "B" Co.
- "C" Co.
- "D" Co.
- Lt. J. Bull.
- T.O.
- M.O.
- C.O.
- War Diary.
- File.

5



Map. Ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
24th Aug '17.

1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (with forward portion of Cookers) will carry out a Test Route March to-morrow, 25th inst.  
(b) "D" and "B" Cos. will join the Column as it passes EBBLINGHEM.  
(c) Companies and Transport will maintain a distance of 100 yds. between Companies.  
(d) Lewis Guns will not be loaded.
2. Order of March:

HEADQUARTERS.
"C" Co.
"A" Co.
"D" Co.
"B" Co.
TRANSPORT.
3. Starting point: BATTALION HEADQUARTERS at 9 a.m.
4. (a) All Ranks will wear Battle Order with steel helmets.  
(b) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.  
(c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout march.  
(d) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.  
(e) Parades to be as strong as possible.
5. Marching Out States to B.O.R. at 8 a.m.
6. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

(Sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at noon, 24th inst., by runner.

"A" Co.  
"B" Co.  
"C" Co.  
"D" Co.  
L.G. Officer.  
T.O.  
Q.M.  
C.O.  
War Diary.  
File.



56th BATTALION ORDER No. 43.  
=====

Map ref. Sheet 27 1/40,000  
" 36a 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
27th August '17.

1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (less Cookers) will march to MONT DUPIL to-morrow, 28th inst., and carry out a Rehearsal Parade.  
(b) Headquarters Details will march with their respective Companies.
2. Order of March from SHRINE: -
 

"A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
TRANSPORT.
3. Starting Point:- "A", "C" and TRANSPORT. From "A" Co. Billet at 8.5 a.m.  

"B" and "D" Cos.	From (SHRINE)
B.6.b.7.4	at 8.20 a.m.

The Head of "B" Co. will not pass SHRINE. Companies will join in Column as it passes in accordance with para. 2.
4. (a) DRESS for Dismounted Officers and other ranks will be Fighting Order - Haversack on back - Water bottle right side - Box Respirator on left side. Mounted Officers will wear Web Equipment, Belt and Braces.  
(b) All Ranks will wear felt hats.  
(c) Mid-day meal will be carried and water bottles to be filled.  
(d) Strict March Discipline will be maintained.  
(e) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
5. (a) Companies will not parade over strength of 150 other ranks.  
(b) Men selected are to be particularly smart and well clothed.  
(c) Companies will ~~size~~ as for ceremonial.
6. Parade States will be handed in at B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.
7. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at same hour.

Issued by runner at 2 p.m.

(Sgd) A.C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

"A" Co.  
"B" Co.  
"C" Co.  
"D" Co.  
T.O.  
C.O.  
War Diary.  
File.

F



56TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 44.  
=====Headquarters,  
28/8/17.Map ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000  
=====

1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (less Cookers) will march to MONT DUPIL to-morrow, 29th inst., where they will be inspected by the Commander-in-Chief.  
(b) Headquarter Details will march with their respective Companies.
2. Order of March from SHRINE
  - "A" Co.
  - "B" Co.
  - "C" Co.
  - "D" Co.
  - TRANSPORT.
3. Starting Points: "A", "C", and TRANSPORT from "A" Co. Billet at 9.5a.m.  
"B" and "D" Cos. from B.6.b.7.4 at 9.25 a.m.  
  
The Head of "B" Co. will not pass SHRINE. Companies will join in the Column as it passes in accordance with para. 2.
4. (a) Dress for Dismounted Officers and other ranks will be Fighting Order -Haversack on back -Water bottle right side -Box Respirator on left side & Water proof sheets will be neatly rolled and fastened on the web belt at the back. Mounted Officers will wear web equipment, belt and braces.  
(b) All other ranks will be armed with rifle and bayonet.  
(c) All ranks will wear felt hats.  
(d) Mid-day meal will be carried and water bottles to be filled.  
(e) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the March.  
(f) 100 yds. interval between Companies.  
(g) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
5. (a) Companies will not parade over strength of 150 other ranks.  
(b) Men selected are to be particularly smart and well clothed.  
(c) Companies will be sized as for ceremonial.
6. O.C. "A" Co. will detail 2 Markers will small signal flag to report on the ground at 10.45 a.m. to the Adjutant. He will also detail 2 Horse Holders to be at junction of roads B.27.c.95.95 at 10.30 a.m. Dress for Markers will be same as rest of Co., that of horse holders Belt and side arms.
7. Parade States to B.O.R. at 8 a.m. on 29th inst.
8. Watches to be synchronised at 8 a.m. 29th inst., at B.O.R.

(Sgd) A. C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at mid-night by runner.

- No. 2. "A" Co.
- 3. "B" Co.
- 4. "C" Co.
- 5. "D" Co.
- 6. T.O.
- 7. C.O.
- 1. War Diary.
- 8. File.



264

APPENDIX

Copy No. 1

24

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 45.

=====

Map ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000

Headquarters,  
31/8/17.

=====

1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (less Cookers) will carry out a Test Route March, to-morrow, 1st inst.  
 (b) The Battalion will practise protection of a Column on a march.  
 (c) Headquarter Details will march with their respective Companies.  
 (d) Lewis Guns will not be taken.  
 (e) Companies and Transport will maintain a distance of 100 yds. between Companies.
2. Order of March: "A" Co.  
 "C" Co.  
 "D" Co.  
 "B" Co.  
 TRANSPORT.
3. Starting Point. U.19.a.6.2 at 9 a.m.
4. The following dispositions will be taken up on the line of march where ground permits. The C.O. will issue order on the line of march as regards this.  
 "A" Co. Advance Guard.  
 "C" Co. Right Flank Guard.  
 "D" Co. Left Flank Guard.  
 "B" Co. Rear Guard.
5. (a) All ranks will wear Battle Order with felt hats.  
 (b) Range Finders will be carried by "A" and "D" Cos.  
 (c) Strict March Discipline will be maintained throughout the march.  
 (d) Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
6. Marching Out States to be at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.
7. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 7 a.m.

(Sgd) A.C. Chappell, Captain,  
Adjutant 56th Battalion.

Issued at 9 p.m. by runner.

- No. 2 "A" Co.
- 3 "B" Co.
- 4 "C" Co.
- 5 "D" Co.
- 6 P.O.
- 7 M.O.
- 8 C.O.
- 1 War Diary.
- 9 File.



264  
 56TH BATTALION NIGHT OUTPOST SCHEME.  
 =====

Map ref. Sheets 27 & 36a 1/40,000

In the Field,  
 31/8/17.

1. (a) Information has been received that a Hostile Force estimated strength 1 Division is bivouacked at CASSEL.
- (b) Air reports state that Hostile Mounted Troops have been seen in the vicinity of ZUYTPEEHE and BAVINCHOYE (O.8.central and O.16.central respectively) at 2 p.m.
- (c) Orders have been received from O.C. MAIN BODY that he is halting South of EBBLINGHEM in squares T.28, 29 and 30 for the night preparatory for an attack on the enemy's position to-morrow.
- (d) The Battalion will cease to be an Advanced Guard and will take up an outpost position from the road inclusive T.12.d.9.2 to junction of roads inclusive T.11.d.8.7.
  
2. (a) The following Company frontages have been allotted:-
  - "A" Co. from road inclusive T.12.d.9.2 to T.12.d.4.5
  - "B" Co. from T.12.d.4.5 to T.12.e.9.5
  - "C" Co. from T.12.e.9.5 to T.12.e.4.6
  - "D" Co. from T.12.e.4.6 to junction roads inclusive to T.11.d.8.7
- (b) On the Right flank 57th Bn. On the Left flank 32nd Bn.
- (c) O.C. "A" and "D" Cos. will arrange with the Bn. on their flank for the safe guarding of the road, also for inter-communications between Battalions.
- (d) Co. Commanders will take the usual precautions as regards fires, lights etc.
- (e) There will be no retirement from this line.
- (f) The Password for the ensuing 24 hours will be sent to Co. Commanders under separate cover.
  
3. (a) The Transport will stay with Main Body and act under orders of Bde. Transport Officer.
- (b) The Q.M. will arrange for rations and water for the outpost lines.
  
4. (a) Reports to Bn. Headquarters at junction of roads T.18.a.9.0
- (b) The M.O. will arrange an R.A.P. in vicinity of Bn. Headquarters.

Issued at 3 p.m., 31/8/17 by runner.

(Sgd) A.C. Chappell, Captain,  
 Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

No. 3. "A" Co.  
 4. "B" Co.  
 5. "C" Co.  
 6. "D" Co.  
 7. M.O.  
 8. T.O.  
 9. Q.M.

Copies to 14th A.I. Bde. No. 2.

No. 3 57th Bn.  
 10. 32nd Bn.  
 11. C.O.  
 No. 1 War Diary  
 12. File.