

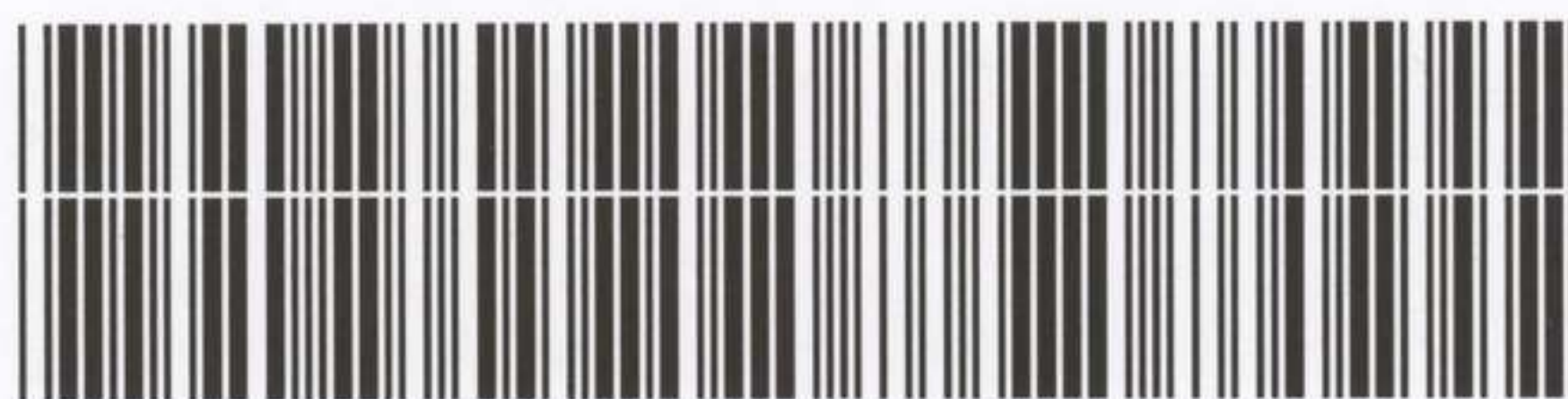
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/21

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/73/21

WAR DIARY

1. 264
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAFE BELGE	OCT. 1.		<p>Weather fine and warm.</p> <p>The day was devoted to resting the men as much as possible after their very strenuous time in the line. Only muster parades were held.</p> <p>4 p.m. Warning Order was received to the effect that the Battalion would move to RENINGHELST AREA to-morrow. Company Commanders, Q.M. and Transport Officer were informed.</p> <p>11 p.m. Brigade Operation Order No. 109 was received and acknowledged.</p> <p>At about 11 a.m. information was received to the effect that the Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel A.H. Scott, D.S.O. who had remained behind when the Sector was handed over the previous evening had been killed in action. Major Lucas thereupon assumed command.</p> <p>During the evening a party under Lieut. Leeves proceeded to the spot where Lieut-Colonel Scott fell, to bring his body back for burial. On arrival however it was found that he had already been buried in rear of the BUTTE DE POLYGON and the party returned to Camp.</p> <p>1 man was wounded during the day.</p>	
	2.	7 a.m. 9.30 a.m.	<p>Battalion Move Order No. 53 (as per copy attached) was issued.</p> <p>The Battalion, including Transport moved off in Marching Order less packs and blankets, Brigade having made arrangements for packs and blankets to be carried in 2 motor lorries.</p> <p>Camp was reached about noon, the Battalion being allotted to the Camp it occupied before proceeding to Forward Area.</p> <p>No parades were held during the afternoon.</p> <p>The Nucleus rejoined during the day, also Lieuts. Williamson (ex leave) and Rew and Heath (ex Schools).</p> <p>Major Simpson rejoined ex Divisional Headquarters during the day and took over Command.</p>	
	3.		<p>Weather fine during the day but in the night a little rain fell and a very strong wind sprung up.</p> <p>Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders for inspection and re-organization.</p> <p>Anti-Gas Drill also was carried out.</p> <p>Lieut. Williamson took over duty as Acting Adjutant.</p> <p>During the morning the C.O. visited Brigade Headquarters and at noon held a meeting of Company Commanders.</p> <p>7 p.m. Instructions were received from Brigade to hold party of 1 Officer and 50 other ranks in readiness to go forward for stretcher bearing at a moment's notice. Party was at once detailed.</p> <p>4 men were evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>Fatigue Party of 11 other ranks was supplied to Camp Commandant.</p>	

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RENING- HELST	OCTOBER 4.		The day generally was wet and very windy. Fatigue party was again supplied to Camp Commandant. The Battalion to-day had the use of the Baths and as many men as possible were put through for a bath and a change of clothing. Physical Training and Bayonet Exercises and Anti-Gas Drill was carried out. C.O. attended a Conference at Divisional Headquarters. Lieut. Rew, Bombing Officer, attended a Conference of Bombing Officers presided over by Divisional Bombing Officer. In the afternoon Divisional Gas Officer made an inspection of Anti-Gas equipment of the Bn. The equipment of the Battalion is proceeding satisfactorily. Lieut. Courtney rejoined ex 14th Training Battalion. 3 men rejoined ex leave and 3 men ex wounded. 6 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
	5.	10 a.m.	Weather was fairly cold and frequent showers fell. Training carried out was as follows:- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Companies at disposal of Company Commanders. 10 a.m. to noon. Route March by Companies, any open ground on route traversed to be taken advantage of for practising attack in new formation. Special training of Lewis Gunners, Signallers, Stretcher Bearers and Grenadiers was carried out during the above period. 2/Lieut. Keogh and 6 other ranks proceeded to Schools of Instruction and 1 N.C.O. left for 14th Training Battalion. 2 men proceeded on leave to United Kingdom. 2 men rejoined ex leave and 2 men ex Sick. Information was received during the evening to the effect that Major A.J.G. Simpson has been appointed to temporary Command of the Battalion and to rank of Temporary Lieut-Colonel while commanding.	
	6.		Weather showery and very cold. The Battalion was this morning taken for a Route March as per Order No. 56 (copy attached). Transport less Cookers accompanied the Battalion. Starting point was passed at 9.15 a.m. and the Battalion returned to Camp about noon. Before dismissing the Parade the C.O. briefly addressed all ranks congratulating them on their recent gallant exploits and sympathising with them on the loss of their late Commanding Officer. He also informed them of his promotion to command of the Battalion. In the afternoon as many Officers and N.C.O's as possible were given instructions in the	

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RENING- HELST	October 6		the working of the German Machine Gun by an Officer of the 14th Machine Gun Co. 2 reinforcements joined and 8 men rejoined ex sick and ex wounded.	
	7.		Weather was again very cold and rain fell almost incessantly.	
		10 a.m.	The Staff Captain verbally informed the Adjutant that the Battalion would move to pioneer and Canal Camp to-morrow. This information was confirmed by a telegram from Bde at 3 p.m.	
			Church parade was held during the morning.	
			A.F.G.C.M. sat at Battalion Headquarters from 1 p.m.	
		7 p.m.	Brigade Order No. 111 to the effect that the Battalion would move to pioneer and Canal XXXX Areas was received.	
		8.30 p.m.	Adjutant was informed that the Battalion would move the following day but that its destination had been changed from Pioneer and Canal Area. He was not then in possession of any further information.	
			3 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
			Lieut. Grimsley rejoined ex School and 5 men rejoined ex leave.	
	8.		The morning was fine but rain commenced to fall at about noon and continued throughout the remainder of the day.	
		1.30 a.m.	The following message was received from Brigade:- "Reference Brigade Order No. 111 aaa. "Route same to G.29.B.5.5 thence by OUDERDOM to St. HUBERTSHOEK ROAD aaa Advance parties to "Brigade Headquarters at 8.30 a.m and will meet Units on march aaa Same time as in order "No. 111 also distance and Anti-Aircraft precautions aaa Acknowledge."	
			This Order was immediately acknowledged.	
		7 a.m.	Battalion Order No. 57 (as per copy attached) was now issued.	
			Mobile Reserve of S.A.A. was made up to Establishment during the morning.	
		9.15 a.m.	Battalion including Transport moved off and at 11.20 a.m. reached Camp (Mic Mac Camp H.31.b.3.5) where XXXXXX accommodation was secured in huts and tents.	
		1 p.m.	G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalion Headquarters.	
		2 p.m.	G.O. held a meeting of Co. Commanders.	
			During the afternoon instructions were received from Brigade to detail same party as previously to report to pack Transport Troop at 9 a.m. to-morrow.	
			Nucleus comprising 51 other ranks remained behind when the Battalion moved off.	
		4 p.m.	Brigadier called at Battalion Headquarters.	
			3 men proceeded on leave.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OUDERDOM AREA	OCT 9		Weather was dull throughout but no rain fell.	
		12.15 a.m.	Instructions were received from Brigade to supply party of 30 other ranks to report at 8 a.m. at the THE RAMPARTS, YPRES for work under 15th Field Co. Engineers. The party was at once detailed. Information was also received to the effect that the 5th Australian Division would relieve 1st Australian Division in the line on the night of 9/10th inst. This Brigade would be in Reserve and would remain in its present location till further orders	
		6.45 a.m.	Fatigue party of 30 other ranks moved off, carrying 48 hours rations. Training as follows was carried out:- Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting, Steadying Drill and Anti-Gas Drill from 9 a.m. till 12.30 p.m. Specialists carried out training under Specialist Officers.	
		11 a.m.	G.O.C. Brigade called and watched the training carried out throughout the day. A/ F.G.C.M. under Major Lucas sat at Battalion Headquarters. The Battalion's quota of 13 other ranks left for duty with Pack Transport Troop. The ground dried up very considerably during the day.	
			1 man was evacuated to Hospital. Stretcher Bearer party rejoined.	
		10	The weather was fine till about 10 a.m. when rain commenced to fall and continued till about 2 p.m.	
			A Syllabus of Training was laid down for the day but had to be abandoned shortly after the commencement of parades on account of rain. Lectures were delivered by Specialist Officers to their men in the huts.	
			In accordance with instructions received from Brigade a party of 16 other ranks was supplied for work at Divisional Bomb Dump	
			7 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
		11	Weather throughout was fine.	
			The Battalion had the use of the Dominion Baths and practically all the men were enabled to attend there for a bath and a change of clothing. As Companies returned from the Baths they carried on with Physical Training and Company Exercises.	
		XXXXX 12.45 p.m.	Instructions were received from Brigade for 2 Officers and 100 other ranks to be held in readiness to go forward as Stretcher Bearers at an hour's notice. party was at once warned and all arrangements made for it to be ready to move when detailed instructions were received. 1 Charger and 1 Light Draught were drawn during the day making the animals up to establishment. 1 man rejoined ex Brigade Signal Section.	
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OUERDOM AREA	OCTOBER 12.		Weather was threatening till about 1 p.m. when rain commenced and fell throughout the remainder of the day. Training as follows was carried out from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.;- Steadying Drill, Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting, Anti-Gas Drill and all forms of Specialist Training. Under C.O.'s orders a short period was devoted to foot rubbing as a precaution against Trench Feet. This is to be a daily exercise for the future. In the afternoon in accordance with Brigade instructions a quantity of Foot powder and Medicinal soap was drawn. Lieut. Bentley rejoined ex 14th Training Battalion.	
	9.19 p.m.		The following message was received from Brigade:- "Your Advance party to be ready to move at 9 a.m. to-morrow a.m. Should be sufficient to provide guides for your Battalion a.m. Orders follow to-night." Advance party consisting of Lieut. McDonnell and 8 N.C.O.'s was thereupon warned.	
	13	2.45 a.m.	Brigade Order was received to the effect that the Battalion would relieve the 58th Battalion in the Support Line on the morning of 13th/14th inst. at WESTHOEK Ridge.	
		10 a.m.	C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and discussed the relief and emphasised the necessity of safe guarding against Trench Feet.	
		11.15 a.m.	Battalion Order No. 58. (as per copy attached) was issued. Owing to rain the move of the Battalion was postponed till 2.15 p.m. but rain was still falling when a move was made. Details and remainder of Transport moved off and reached CHATEAU SWAN AREA at about 6 p.m. No shelter of any sort was available but the men set to work themselves some quixx sort of shelter from the rain which fell throughout the night. 3 men evacuated to hospital.	
	14.		Weather fine. The day was spent in making shelters and cleaning up the camp. 2 Nissen Huts were also secured for Q.M. Store and Battalion Orderly Room. By nightfall all the men had secured good shelter. 1 man departed on leave.	
	13.	2.15 p.m.	The Battalion moved from PIONEER AREA at 2.15 p.m. Lewis Guns were carried in Limbers and 3 Cookers accompanied the Battalion. At 4.30 p.m. a halt was made on Warrington ^{PERRY} rd. where hot cocoa was provided and Lewis Guns were unloaded. At this point all transport was sent back and the Battalion moved forward at 4.50 p.m. arriving without casualties at WESTHOEK RIDGE at 7.30 p.m.	

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WESTHOEK RIDGE	OCTOBER 13.		<p>The 58th Battalion had already moved out leaving an officer behind to hand over. All men obtained shelter for the night.</p> <p>At midnight the following message was received from Brigade:- "Supply 150 working ranks under own officers as party for cable burying to-morrow to report to a guide from Div. Sig. Co. at 9.30 a.m. at J.3.D.3.8. Party is 300 strong halved between BUCKET and BUCKLE. Same party to be repeated each day at 7 a.m. unless otherwise ordered" "C" and "D" Companies were warned.</p> <p>Shelling on this area through night normal.</p>	
	14	11 a.m.	<p>Brigadier visited C.O. at this hour.</p> <p>During the day shelters were erected and existing shelters were improved. "A" Co. provided a party of 20 for this work under Engineers.</p> <p>This area was fairly free from hostile shelling.</p>	
		3.30 p.m.	<p>Rations arrived O.K.</p> <p>Company Commanders were warned to dry men's socks under Company arrangements and to pay particular attention to foot rubbing and inspections.</p> <p>"A" and "B" Companies were warned to provide cable burying party at 7 a.m. on 15/10/17.</p>	
		6 p.m.	<p>Bn. Gas N.C.O. reported night favourable for enemy gas shells and Companies were warned to take precautions.</p> <p>At 12 midnight the enemy opened a heavy bombardment of Gas shells mixed with H.E. A great number of Gas Shells fell in this area and the alarm was passed round quickly. All Companies were also advised by 'phone and reports were received from them that S.B.R. were adjusted. The bombardment continued all night and eased off at 5.30 a.m. 15/10/17</p>	
	15		<p>Weather again fine.</p> <p>The following message arrived from Brigade:- "Book wires. In view of enemy great artillery action during night consider enemy may attack at dawn. For your information."</p> <p>"A" and "B" Companies were warned to stand by and not move forward to the cable burying task until further orders.</p>	
		5.45 a.m.		
		6.45 a.m.	<p>Things now quietened down and 15th Brigade reported situation in front line O.K. so "A" and "B" Cos. were instructed to move off.</p>	
		10.20 a.m.	<p>the following message from Bde. dated and timed 14/10/17, 8 p.m. was now received:-</p> <p>"Supply parties as in my B.M. 586, also supply 70 men to Dump at J.8.B.4.9 to carry 20 bundles trench wire and 300 short corkscrews to J.3.D.2.9 under 14th F. Co."</p> <p>This extra party was sent off at 11.15 a.m. and following message sent to Bde:-</p>	
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WESTHOEK RIDGE	OCT 15		"B.M. 596 received 10.20 a.m. to-day aaa First party supplied at 7 a.m. as instructed in B.M. "586 aaa Second party left at 11.15 a.m. aaa Are gum boots available yet."	
		noon	Brigade Major visited C.O. and preliminary arrangements were made re dry socks and gum boots. Companies were advised that gum boots would be issued before moving into the line and ankle boots returned to Transport lines.	
			"D" Co. provided 30 men for work on shelters under Engineers.	
		12.15 p.m.	Cable burying party reported back -one slight casualty (remaining on duty).	
			At 1.30 p.m. second party reported back -two men of "C" Co. reported missing.	
		3 p.m.	2/Lieut. Scott of "D" Co. and 1 man reported to R.M.O. suffering from effects of Gas. The C.O. and R.M.O. immediately visited the pill Box occupied by "D" Co. officers, Signallers and Sgts. It was found that Capt. Plomley, Lieut. Creber and 2 other ranks who were in one of the two compartments of the pill Box were also suffering from Gas. On enquiries it was found that on the previous night a gas shell landed on top of the pill Box immediately above the entrance. The C.O. immediately pronounced the compartment unsafe and ordered all the officers out of it. The second compartment occupied by signallers and sergeants was also condemned, but as no one occupying it showed any symptoms of gas and its entrance was some distance away from where the shell burst it was decided by R.M.O. to keep all men out of it until 6 p.m., to see if any symptoms developed amongst them in the meantime.	
			Capt. Plomley, 2/Lieut. Scott and the two batmen were evacuated. Lieut. Creber was kept for treatment.	
		6 p.m.	The Signallers compartment was again occupied.	
			At 3.10 p.m. the following message was sent to Brigade:- "Please have officers available at "Reinforcement Wing up to three sent here as soon as possible aaa One officer, 2/Lieut. Scott "evacuated gassed to-day and probability of another one."	
			Following on this the C.O. rang up Brigade and asked for four (4) officers to be sent up. Brigade promised to do so if possible.	
			Companies were warned to make all pill Boxes and as many trench shelters in their sector as possible gas proof.	
		9.40 p.m.	The following message was received from Brigade:- "Supply same parties as in my B.M. 596."	
			parties were at once warned.	
		9.45 p.m.	A further message from Brigade read:- "Reference my G12/567 even date para one sub para "A" BUCKET and BUCKLE change with BLISS and BRACKET respectively and not as shown."	
		10 p.m.	Brigade Message G12/567 arrived warning that the Battalion would move up to Front Line on night of 17/18th inst.	

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WESTHOEK RIDGE	OCT 15.		Nothing of any consequence occurred at Details Camp. 3 men proceeded on leave.	
	16.		2500 Bisulphate Tablets were drawn in accordance with Brigade instructions. Weather again fine though a little rain fell during the night.	
		5 a.m.	It was found that the occupants of the second compartment of "D" Co. pill box were suffering from Gas. Five were evacuated and the remaining ten were removed into shelters.	
		10 a.m.	Lieut. Greber was evacuated, and Lieut. Rew of "B" Co. took over command of "D" Co. At 11.15 a.m. the following Order No. "A" warning advanced party was issued: - "1. One officer per Co. (in the case of "D" Co. 1 reliable sergeant) 1 Lewis Gun N.C.O. or senior soldier per Co., Intelligence Officer and 1 man, 1 A.M.C. detail, 1 Signaller and 1 H.Q. Runner will report to H.Q. 60th Bn. in line to-night the 16th inst. leaving this Camp at 4 p.m. The above will report to Intelligence Officer at rear of Bn. Headquarters at 4 p.m. 2. They will remain with the corresponding Companies and details of the 60th Bn. during night of 16/17th and act as guides to Bn. on night of 17/18th. 3. 48 hours rations and iron rations will be taken and full water bottles. 4. Intelligence Officer and 1 man will report back to Bn. H.Q. to-morrow, the 17th inst. before 1 p.m. with full information as to carrying of rations etc. He will also indicate place where guides will meet the Bn. and will himself guide Bn. from present position. His Intelligence man will report to T.O. to act as guide for rations etc., under separate instructions. 5. Should gum boots not be available this afternoon Companies will arrange to draw and take with them gum boots for their advanced party when same are issued. 6. The Bn. will take over the same dispositions as the 60th Bn. Issued at 11.15 a.m. by runner to O.C. "A", "B", "C", "D" Cos., Intell. Off., R.M.O."	
		Noon.	8 other ranks were evacuated gassed. The whole of "D" Co. were removed from area round the condemned pill box and were quartered in "B" and "C" Co. areas.	
		12.30 p.m.	Rations now arrived. 2 packs of dry socks per Co. were also received. Lieut. McDonnell with Advanced party left for front line at 4 p.m.	
		8 p.m.	Brigade Order No. 113 received re relief of 60th Bn. on night of 17/18th inst. Notice was also received that Lieut. Greive and Lieut. Thompson would report from Reinforcement Wing. Shelling during night was moderate. Socks are being dried at Detail Camp and sent up to the Battalion daily and the scheme is working satisfactorily. 20 pairs of Gum Boots were drawn for Transport Section.	

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WESTHORN RIDGE	OCT. 17.		Weather fine till 6 p.m. In accordance with Brigade instructions 200 pairs of Gum Boots were drawn from Advanced D.A.D.O.S. and sent up to the Battalion. "A" Co. received rather a severe shelling at 7 a.m. 2 other ranks were killed and 8 wounded. At 10 a.m. C.O. saw Company Commanders and gave instructions regarding relief. Lieut. McDonnell returned from front line with full particulars. Order "B" was now issued as follows:- "1. The 56th Bn. will relieve the 60th Bn. to-night in the Front Line, Companies taking over the areas of the respective Companies of the 60th Bn. "2. The Bn. will occupy the following frontages, "A" and "C" Companies in front line, "B" Co. in support and "D" Co. in reserve, with the following approximate frontages:- "XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX "A" Co. D.29.D.2.7 - D.29.B.2.2. "B" Co. D.29.C.55.60 "C" Co. D.29.B.22 - D.29.A.7.6 "D" Co. D.28.C.85.25- D.28.A.5.2 "3. Companies will be ready to move at 5.30 p.m. 4. Route via Helles Track; 5. Order of March. H.Q., "A", "C", "B". "D" Co. will move to its area at 4 p.m. A guide will be provided from Bn. H.Qrs. 6. (a) Distances of at least 20 yds between sections in file will be maintained. (b) precautions will be taken against enemy aircraft. (c) Each man will carry 2 sandbags, 120 rounds S.A.A. and 2 grenades. (d) Companies to arrange to draw them independently from dump. "7. Guides from 60th Bn. for each Co. will be at Bn. H.Q. at 5 p.m. 8. Advanced parties will meet Companies at the end of HELLES TRACK. 9. One man per Co. will report to Bn. H.Qrs. at 3.45 p.m. to act as guide for 31st Bn. These men will rejoin their Companies to-morrow with ration party. 10. All maps, photographs and documents relating to area and area stores to be taken over. 11. Bn. H.Q. will be at D.29.A.4.3. 12. R.A.P. will be at D.28.D.50.65. 13. On completion of relief the following code word will be sent to Bn. H.Q. "WATERWORKS". "Issued by runner to "A", "B", "C", "D" Cos at 1.25 p.m. The following note was added to the above Mover Order:- 1. Few casualties have been suffered by the 60th Bn. the reason being (a) Little movement as possible during daylight. (b) Trench covers if used at all must be taken down at "Stand to" as they are picked up very quickly by E.A. (c) Runners to be used as sparingly as possible. 2. Stand to 5.30 to 6.30 a.m." Lieut. Greibe and Lieut. Thompson reported, the former was appointed Works Officer and the latter attached to "D" Co. 221 Gum Boots now arrived. Ankle Boots were packed in sandbags and stowed in a shelter under guard for return to Details	
		11.30 a.m.		
		3.15 p.m.		

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WESTHOEK RIDGE			<p>Camp next day.</p> <p>"D" Co., H.Q. Sigs. and R.M.O. left at 4 p.m. Guides from 60th Bn. reported at 5 p.m. and the Battalion moved off at 5.45 p.m.</p> <p>The relief was completed by 8.15 p.m. No casualties occurred and the night was fairly quiet.</p> <p>Rain commenced to fall at midnight and did not cease until ".30 a.m.</p> <p>There was nothing to report from Dextik Detail Camp.</p>	
		18.	<p>Weather fine.</p> <p>Our guns opened a heavy barrage well on our left.</p> <p>Brigadier paid a visit to C.O.</p> <p>Lieut. Grieve was now appointed Works Officer.</p> <p>C.O. discussed proposed work on trenches and requisitions were sent for Duckboards, wiring material and sandbags.</p> <p>The following message was received from Brigade:- "It is probable that to-morrow night this Bde. will extend its left flank to the BROODSEINDE ROAD. This will be done by BUCKLE and BUCKET. Will adjust by taking over from BUCKLE as far as the STOKES positions about D.29 - D.28. Reconnoitre new ground in anticipation of orders to that effect."</p> <p>The C.O. visited H.Q. of 50th Bn. and got their dispositions. The sector allotted to us was held by them with one Company and as they were having an inter Company relief.</p> <p>That night Lieut. Courtney of "B" Co. was sent in with the relieving Co. to reconnoitre the sector.</p> <p>Rations arrived by "D" Co. O.K.</p> <p>The Adjutant visited "A", "B" and "C" Cos. and found everything O.K. 50 yds. of wire was erected in front of "A" Co. during the night.</p>	
		19.	<p>Weather cloudy. Very heavy rain and hail fell from 2p.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Enemy heavily bombarded "B" Co. sector until 5.30 a.m. Brigade was advised that an attack was considered unlikely.</p> <p>O.C. "D" Co. advised that his Co. had been intensely bombarded all through the night and 3 men had been killed and 7 wounded. The trenches occupied by them were practically wiped out.</p> <p>C.O. directed him to evacuate the dangerous area and dig in somewhere else.</p> <p>Brigade Major now paid a visit to C.O. He informed C.O. that nothing further had been heard re proposed new dispositions.</p> <p>C.O. now visited the Front Line and found "B" Co. O.K.</p> <p>At 10.30 a.m. Adjutant and Intelligence Officer went to R.A.P. and inspected HELLES TRACK.</p>	
		4 a.m.		
		8.30 a.m.		
		9.30 a.m.		

or

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WESTHOLK RIDGE	OCT 19		It was decided to leave the R.A.P. in present position. C.O. reported bad conditions of HELLES TRACK to Brigade Headquarters also lack of heavy artillery observers on BROODSEINDE RIDGE.	
		1 p.m.	Rations now arrived. "D" Co. ration party lost 1 other rank killed and 4 other ranks wounded. The 50th Bn. advised that they would be relieved by 46th Bn. to-night.	
		5 p.m.	Brigade was now asked whether anything definite had been learned about proposed extension of our front, as C.O. was anxious to relieve "A" Co. in front line.	
		6.30 p.m.	The following reply was received from Brigade:- "No. Carry on with your own proposal."	
		20	O.C. "B" Co. was instructed to reinforce "A" Co. with 1 Lewis Gun team and 1 Section.	
		8 a.m.	Weather fine and cold. Brigadier visited Battalion Headquarters and informed C.O. that proposed extension of front would be carried out to-night. Warning Order "C" was sent out to Companies which reads:- "1. The dispositions of the Battn. will be changed to-night as follows:- (a) "B" Co. will move from present position and take over sector occupied by Right Co. of 46th Bn. Frontage from the left of "C" Co. to BROODSEINDE ROAD. Guides will be provided. (b) "A" Co. will move into support (location to be notified later). The 54th Bn. will take over from "A" Co. that portion from Co. H.Q. to the right. (c) "C" Co. will ascertain where the left flank of the 54th Bn. rests and if necessary place an extra post to fill up the gap." Detailed orders later."	
		10. a.m.	C.O. visited 46th Bn. Headquarters and made arrangements for relief. Order "D" was now issued instructing "B" Co. to take over from the right Co. of 46th Bn. "A" Co. to move into Supports when relieved by 54th Bn. and "D" Co. to move from Reserves into Supports. The Relief was completed by 9 p.m.	
		9 a.m.	Instructions were received from Brigade for an Officer to meet Staff Captain at DICKIEBUSCH at 9.30 a.m. for purpose of arranging Billets for the Battalion.	
		10.30 p.m.	Brigade Order No. 114 received advising that 31st Bn. would relieve the Bn. on night of 21st/22nd inst. and that we would proceed to HALFWAY HOUSE and move on to DICKIEBUSCH the following morning.	
	21	8 a.m.	Weather fine and cold. Order "E" was issued to Companies which reads as follows:- "1. The 56th Bn. will be relieved to-night by the 31st Bn. 2. (a) One guide per Co. will report to xxxxxxxx at xxxxxxxx. Lieut. McDonnell at Bn. H.Qrs. at 11.30 a.m. as Advanced party (all gear to be taken). (b) One guide per Co. will report to L/Cpl. Mprton, Bn. H.Qrs. at 3.30 p.m. to	

A6945 Wt. Wit422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C/2118/14

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WESTHOEK RIDGE	OCT 21		<p>"to guide 31st Bn. in (clean fatigue as they return to their Companies). 3. (a) Company Commanders will make all preparations for a quick relief. (b) platoon guides will be sent to meet incoming Companies at this end of ANZAC TRACK at time to be arranged with Advanced Officers. (c) Where necessary tapes should be laid to isolated posts - a supply can be obtained at Bn. Headquarters. (d) All area stores, ammunition etc. to be collected and counted ready to hand over. (e) A receipt in duplicate to be obtained for all such stores and all maps, documents etc. 3. All food containers and empty petrol tins to be collected and returned to "D" Co. Headquarters by 11 a.m. O.C. "D" Co. will arrange to have as many as possible returned to CABLE HEAD. 4. On completion of relief the Bn. will move to HALFWAY HOUSE and stay there to-night. 5. Route ANZAC TRACK thence by CORDUROY from ANZAC to WESTHOEK thence HELLES and ZOUAVE. 6. Company Commanders will warn all ranks of destination and route and posts can go straight out as soon as they are properly relieved and have reported to O.C. Company. 7. Stretcher Bearers will move in rear of Company. 8. Gum Boots will be worn out and exchanged for ankle boots at HALFWAY HOUSE on the morning of 22nd inst. Co. Commanders will take steps to salve and take out as many gum boots as possible to ensure correct number being returned by the Bn. 9. On completion of relief the following code word will be sent to Bn. Headquarters "CABBAGE."</p> <p>The Senior Major at Transport Lines was advised to have Cookers, ankle boots etc. at HALFWAY HOUSE.</p> <p>Lieut. McDonnell with 1 guide per Co. left for HALFWAY HOUSE at 11.30 a.m. to arrange accommodation etc.</p> <p>3.30 p.m. 5 guides were despatched to WESTHOEK CROSSROADS to guide 31st Bn. in.</p> <p>At 3.45 p.m. Advanced Officer and N.C.O's from 31st Bn. arrived. Stores were handed over and arrangements made with Companies for guiding incoming Companies to their respective Cos.</p> <p>4 p.m. The enemy heavily bombarded BROODSEINDE RIDGE on our right for about an hour and a half. The following message was now sent to Brigade:- "Enemy heavily bombarding ridge from D.29.C.6.6 to the right for last hour. Can counter battery work be arranged." This message brought forth no response from the heavies.</p> <p>5 p.m. C.O. and Adjutant of 31st Bn. arrived.</p> <p>9.20 p.m. At this hour relief was reported complete without casualties.</p> <p>The Battalion arrived at HALFWAY HOUSE where all ranks were provided with hot food.</p> <p>3.30 p.m. Instructions were received at Details Camp to detail an officer to meet party of 100 Reinforcements at POPERINGHE and guide them to DICKIEBUSCH CAMP.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

13.
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HALFWAY. DCT. HOUSE	21.		Information was to-day received that Lieut. Cohen had been promoted to the rank of Captain. Also that Sgt. Court who had been attached to the pack Transport Troop during period 22nd Sept/1st October had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty. <i>whilst so attached.</i>	
	22.	8.30 a.m.	Throughout the day fine weather conditions prevailed but during the night heavy rain fell. Gum boots were changed for ankle boots.	
			At 10.30 a.m. Battalion moved from HALFWAY HOUSE to WALKERS CAMP arriving there at 12.30 p.m. The camp contains exceedingly good accomodation and it is sufficient for all ranks.	
			The afternoon was devoted to resting the men as much as possible. A great proportion of them are suffering from heavy colds and loss of voices, due no doubt to the effects of Gas. There were no evacuations, however, as a result of Sick parade which was held at 3.30 p.m.	
	23		A.I.F. Orders received to-day contain appointment of Lieut. A.M. Cohen to rank of Captain.	
			The day was fine but rain again fell during the night. Parade from 10 a.m. till 12 noon was held and was devoted to a thorough inspection of equipment, which had suffered a good deal during the recent tour.	
		12.30 p.m.	G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalion Headquarters.	
			At 9 p.m. instructions were received from Brigade for one officer to report to Staff Captain at WIPPENHOEK at 9.30 a.m. the following day. An officer was at once detailed.	
			7 men evacuated to Hospital.	
	24		The day was dull and rain fell at frequent intervals. The Battalion had the use of the Baths to-day and all men attended there for a bath and a change of clothing. This tended to "Buck up" the men considerably. Work of re-organization was carried on with as far as possible.	
		6 p.m.	Warning Order was received to the effect that the Battalion will move to WIPPENHOEK AREA to-morrow.	
		9 p.m.	Brigade Order No. 115 was now received, confirming the information contained in Warning Order.	
		9.15 p.m.	Battalion Operation Order No 59 (as per copy attached) was issued.	
			7 men evacuated to Hospital.	
			2/Lieut. Harvey was taken on strength from reinforcements.	
25			Weather fine with a heavy wind blowing.	
		9 a.m.	The Battalion followed by Transport moved off and proceeded by march route to WIPPENHOEK which was reached at 2 p.m. On arrival accomodation was found to be very scanty and arrangements were made after a short delay for the accomodation of all ranks. The mens' packs and blankets were carried by the Transport -also 20 men who were unable to march.	

WAR DIARY

14.
Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II,
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
WIPPENHOEK AREA.	OCT. 25.		The carriage of the packs and blankets was a great boon, and saved a number of men who have not yet recovered from falling out. As it was every man completed the march.	
		11 p.m.	Instructions were received from Brigade to return emergency rations. Information was also received that the Nucleus would rejoin to-morrow.	
	26		A rough sketch of the Battalion dispositions in front line during above tour is attached hereto. Rain fell practically without ceasing, and the Syllabus of Training laid down had therefore to be abandoned.	
			The Nucleus and Reinforcements consisting in all of 2 Officers and 252 other ranks rejoined at 1 p.m. No idea of the strength of the party was held and there was consequently no accommodation available for them. However 25 tents were drawn from the Area Commandant and they were all enabled to get shelter.	
	27		C.O. visited Brigade Headquarters during the afternoon. Weather fine.	
			The ground is in a very bad state on account of all the rain that has fallen.	
			Parades were held from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Steadying Drill, Equipment inspection, Saluting Drill and Physical Training were carried out.	
			2/Lieut. Harvey and 53 other ranks joined up from 15th Field Co. Engineers.	
			11 other ranks joined up from Divisional Bomb Dump.	
			11 other ranks also rejoined from Divisional Pack Transport Troop.	
			7 men rejoined ex sick and 2 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
	28		Weather fine and very cold - the first frost of the season.	
			Church Parades was held but no other parades.	
		noon	G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalion Headquarters.	
			5 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
	29		Capt. Mann and 2 other ranks proceeded on leave to U.K. and 2 other ranks rejoined ex leave.	
			Weather fine and cold.	
			Training was carried out from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and consisted of Steadying Drill, Bayonet Fighting, Physical Training and Gas Drill.	
			During the evening C.O. departed on leave to U.K. and Major Lucas ^{took over} assumed Command of the Battalion.	
			During the day "C" and "D" Company Details were moved from Reinforcement Camp to their Company Billets.	
			Captain Cohen, Assistant Adjutant, took over command of "D" Co.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C.2118/14.

03

(Erase heading not required.)

15

56TH BATTALION MOVE ORDER No. 53.
=====

Map ref. sheet 28, 1/40,000

In the Field,
1/10/17

1. The Bn. will move from its present location to camp recently occupied in RENINGHELST AREA, on 2nd inst.
2. The Bn. will pass the starting point at CAFE BELGE at 9.35 a.m.
3. Order of March:-

HEADQUARTERS
"A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
TRANSPORT.

An interval of 50 yds. to be maintained between Cos., and between Cos. and Transport 100 yds.
4. DRESS Marching Order without packs. Steel Helmets to be worn; water bottles to be filled. Unconsumed portion of days rations to be carried.
5. Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
6. (a) All tents and trench shelters will be stacked by 7.30 a.m.
(b) T.O. will make arrangements to collect them.
(c) Q.M. will hand them over to Area Commandant, obtaining receipt.
(d) Lewis Guns will be loaded under supervision of L.G. Officer.
(e) Sig. N.C.O. will arrange with T.O. to collect all signalling gear.
(f) Officers valises will be stacked outside Bn. and Co. Headquarters respectively, ready for loading at 7.30 a.m.
(g) Men medically unfit to march will report in Marching Order to B.O.R. at 8.45 a.m. and will be carried on Transport.
(h) Transport will, if necessary, make second trip for men medically unfit to march, surplus blankets etc.
(i) Men unfit to march with Unit will march in rear of column under a Sgt. nominated by O.C. "C" Co.
7. 1 N.C.O. from each Co. and 1 N.C.O. from Headquarters will report to Lieut. McDonnell at B.O.R. at 6.40 a.m. This party will move by bicycles and report to Major Mitchell, Area Commandant, at 8 a.m.
8. (a) Sanitary Section (under Sgt. Craig) will act as Rear party. Sanitary Sgt. will obtain a certificate from Area Commandant before moving off that the camps occupied are left in a clean and sanitary condition.
(b) Co. Commanders will render certificates to B.O.R. not later than 8 a.m. that the area occupied by their men are being left clean and in a sanitary condition, and that all shelters and tents have been returned.
9. Marching Out States will be handed in at B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
10. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.
11. Packs will be stacked at CAFE BELGE CROSSROADS at 8 a.m. They will be carried by Motor Lorry.

Issued at 6 a.m. by runner.

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

"A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
Q.M.
T.O.
C.O.
War Diary (2)
File.

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

Copy No. 47....

Map ref. sheet 28, 1/40,000

Headquarters,
5/10/17

1. (a) The 56th Battalion with Transport (less Cookers) will carry out a Route March to-morrow, 6th inst.
 (b) Headquarters Details will march with their respective Companies.
 (c) A distance of 50 yds. will be maintained between platoons and 100 yds. between Companies and Transport immediately after leaving Camp.
 (d) Lewis Guns will not be taken.
2. ORDER OF MARCH:
 - "A" Co.
 - "B" Co.
 - "C" Co.
 - "D" Co.
 - TRANSPORT.
3. STARTING POINT: G.28.A.4.6 at 9.15 a.m.
4. ROUTE: G.28.A.4.6, G.17.A.6.0, G.5.D.05.2
 H.3.C.3.1, Crossroads H.9.A.8.8, OUDERDOM,
 G.23.C.7.5, BILLETS.
5. (a) All ranks and dismounted officers will wear Full Marching Order (less Blankets) and steel helmets. Mounted officers will wear Battle Order and steel helmets.
 (b) Range Finders will not be carried.
 (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.
6. The Intelligence Officer and one Officer and 2 N.C.O.'s per Co. to remain behind to attend demonstration in German M.G. They will report to L.G.O. at B.O.R. at 9 a.m.
7. Marching out States to B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
8. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

Issued at 8.30 p.m. by runner.

(Sgd) G.A. Williamson, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

- No. 2 "A" Co.
 3 "B" Co.
 4 "C" Co.
 5 "D" Co.
 6 L.G. Off.
 7 T.O.
 8 Q.M.
 9 M.O.
 1 War Diary (2 copies)
 10 C.O.
 11 File.

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 57.
=====

Map ref. sheet 28, 1/40,000

In the Field,
8/10/17.

1. The 56th Bn. will move to the OUDERDOM area to-day.
2. The Bn. will pass the starting point, entrance to camp at 9.15 a.m.
3. ORDER OF MARCH: Headquarters,
"A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
Transport.
A distance of 200 yds. to be maintained between Cos. and 400 yds. between Transport and Cos.
4. ROUTE:- G.34.B.5.4, Crossroads G.29.B.5.5 thence by OUDERDOM to St. HUBERTSHOEK Road.
5. (a) DRESS Full Marching Order with blankets. Steel Helmets to be worn by all ranks. Unconsumed portion of days rations to be carried.
(b) No definite halts will be laid down and units will endeavour to maintain distances as traffic permits.
(c) Officers' valises, Co. Stores, and packs etc. of men absent on S.B. Party to be loaded on wagon near B.O.R. at 8 a.m.
(d) Lewis Guns to be loaded at 8 a.m. under supervision of L.G. Off.
(e) All trench shelters to be struck and placed in hut at end of camp.
6. Lieut. McDennell with 1 N.C.O. and 4 men from H.Q. to report to Brigade Headquarters at 8.30 a.m.
7. Nucleus will remain behind and report to Lieut. Bull. Rations up to and including the 10th inst. will be carried.
8. Co. Commanders will arrange for an officer or N.C.O. per platoon to watch for hostile aircraft. If an enemy plane is sighted Columns are to halt under nearest cover from view.
9. Cos. will take all baggage and stores with them from this area.
10. The Camp must be left thoroughly clean and Co. Commanders will render a certificate to B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m. to this effect.
11. Watches will be synchronised at 8 a.m. at B.O.R.

Issued at 7 a.m. by runner.

(Sgd) G.A. Williamson, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

- No. 2 "A" Co.
3 "B" Co.
4 "C" Co.
5 "D" Co.
6 T.O.
7 Q.M.
8 Intell Off.
9 M.O.
10 C.O.
1 War Diary (2 copies)
11 File.

BATTALION ORDER No. 59

=====

Headquarters,
24/10/17

Ref. Sheets 27 and 28, 1/40,000

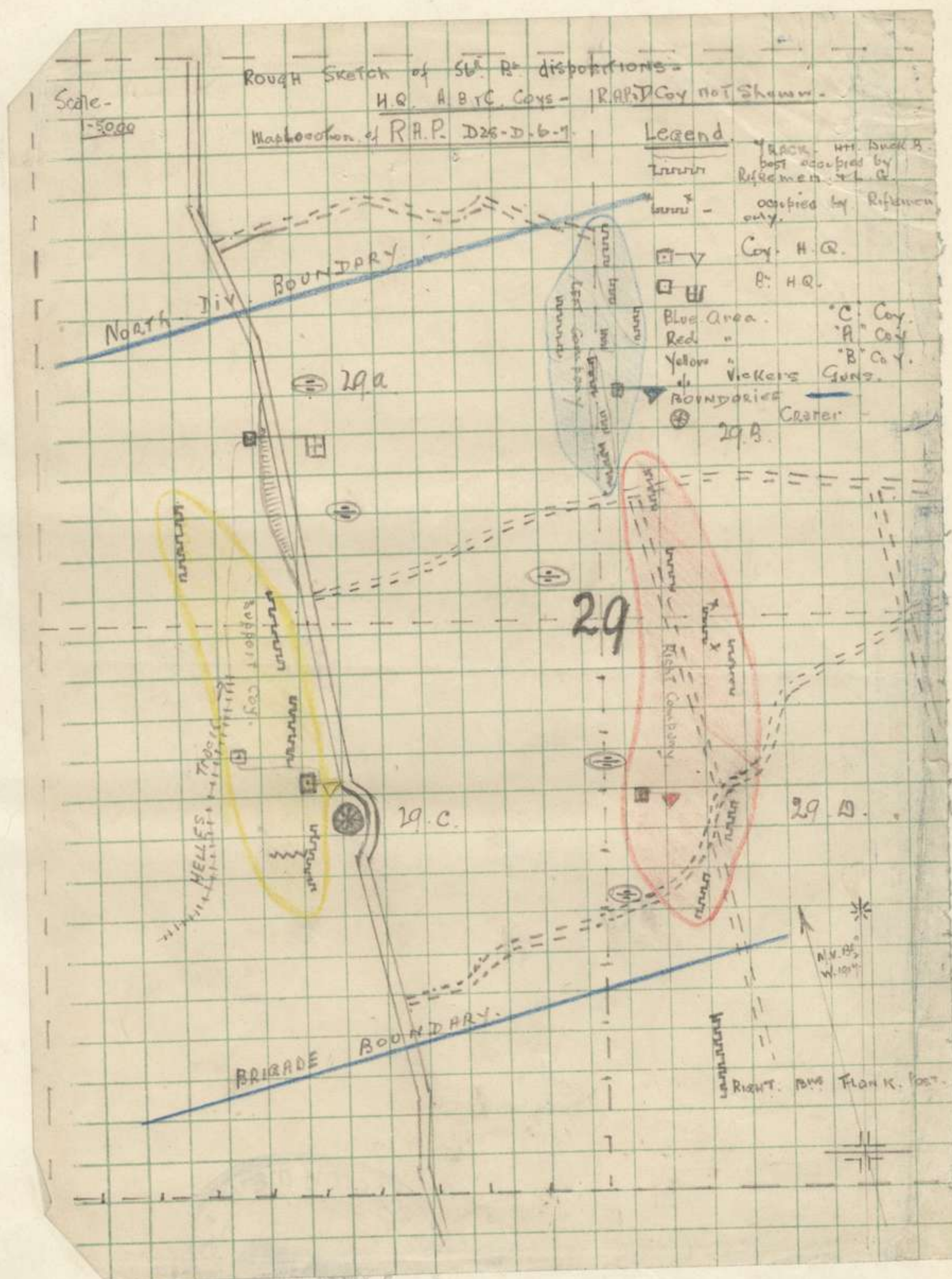
1. The Battalion will move to WIPPENHOEK to-morrow.
2. Order of March:

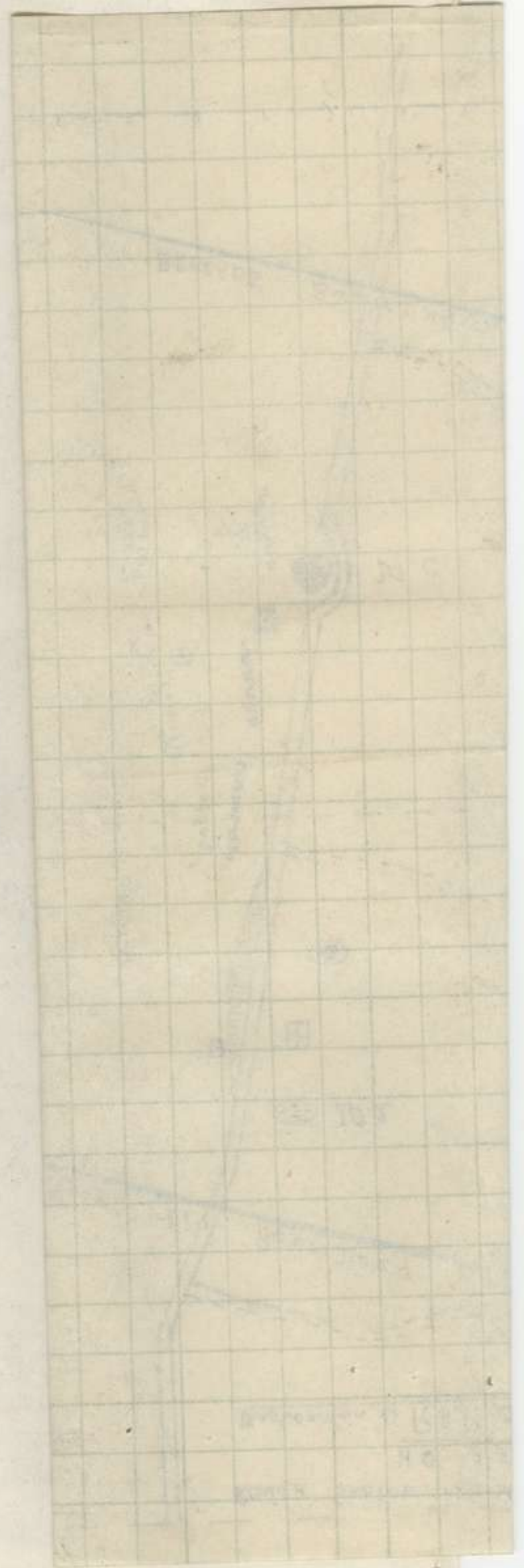
HEADQUARTERS
 "A" Co.
 "B" Co.
 "C" Co.
 "D" Co.
 TRANSPORT
3. Intervals between Companies will be notified later.
4. Times of Halts will also be notified later.
5. Starting Point will be small Battalion Flag on road 100 yards from Q.M. Store, at 9.10 a.m.
6. Marching Out States will be at B.O.R. by 8.30 a.m.
7. DRESS: Battle Order. Steel helmets will be worn. Haversacks will be carried on backs. Waterproof sheets will be carried on back of belts. Water Bottles will be filled.
- 7a. REVEILLE 6.30 a.m. BREAKFAST 7 a.m.
8. Sick Parade will be at 7.45 a.m.
9. Packs, packed square, with great coats and blankets, will be at Q.M. Store at 7.45 a.m. Officers' valises, and Company Orderly Room gear will be at Q.M. Store at 8 a.m. Lewis Gun gear and Signalling gear will be packed by 7.30 a.m. under Company arrangements and supervision of Signalling Officer respectively.
10. One N.C.O. and 1 man per Company and 1 N.C.O. from Intelligence Staff will report at B.O.R. at 6.15 a.m. The 2 men from "C" and "D" Cos. will travel by march route. The others ~~by~~ on bicycles.
11. Arrangements for men unfit to march or to march with Battalion will be notified later.
12. Officers' chargers will be ready at 8.50 a.m.
13. Battalion Headquarters will open at K.24.a.2.7 on arrival at destination.

Issued at 8.45 p.m. per runner to:-

(Sgd) A.M. Cohen, Captain,
A/Adjutant 56th Battalion.

- No. 2 "A" Co.
 3 "B" Co.
 4 "C" Co.
 5 "D" Co.
 6 Q.M.
 7 T.O.
 8 L.G. Off.
 9 Sig. Off.
 10 Intell. Off.
 11 ~~WAR~~ File
 1 War Diary (2 copies)





OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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