

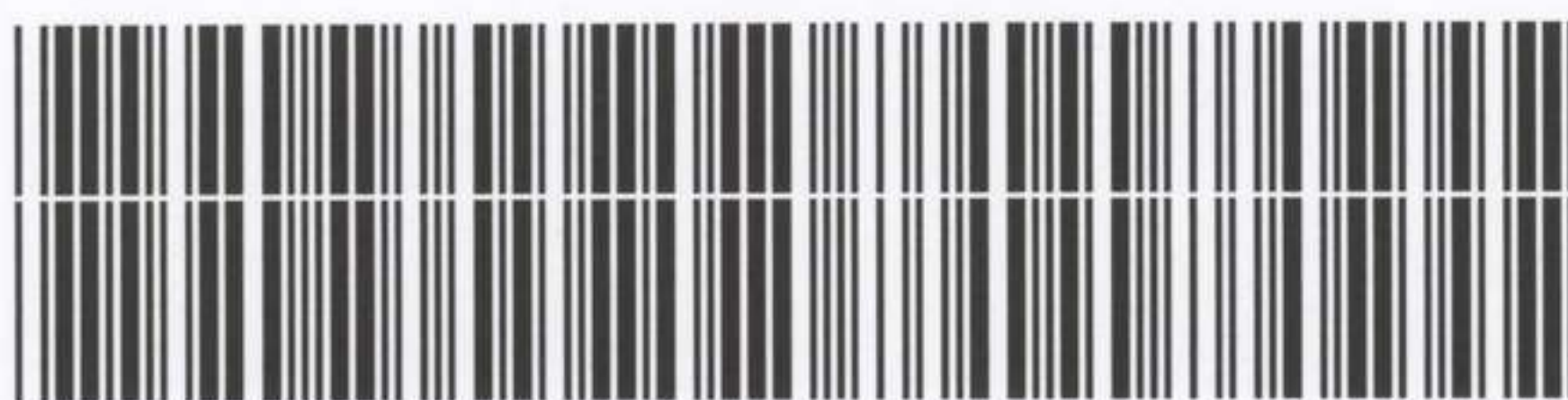
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/65/21

Title: 48th Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/65/21

48th Bn

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(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
Westhoek Ridge	1/10/17		The 104 Battalion 3rd Brigade relieved the 48th on night of September 30/100. Enemy heavily shelled area during the relief. we moved back to Westhoek Ridge and relieved the 49th Bn and remained in this position until the night of Oct 1/17 when we were relieved by 124 Bn 3rd Brigade. Enemy heavily harassed position during the day and continued into the night, bombardment becoming intense between 8pm and 10pm. the relief was completed at 12.15 am. 2/10/17 and the Battalion moved back to Haeifort Camp. during the hours of duty we had the following casualties. 6 OR killed 2 OR died of wounds. 35 OR wounded. then moved back in good order and arrived at Camp 3.30 am, where they had hot meal, blankets and blankets. Food.	
HAEIFORT Camp	2/10/17		Moved to STEENVORDE area by Bus at 9.30 am morning of the 3rd Oct. accommodations very bad - even allotted the Battalion, more than half the Battalion were out in the open for the first night. a few Tents and Shelters have been secured today. It would be much better to secure ground and build huts which could be permanently and by troops in the back area. It is extremely hard to keep the men fit when they are housed in such filthy quarters after	2 11 Oct 2 2
STEENVORDE	4/10/17			

WAR DIARY

OR

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(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENROOPE	7/9/17		Having had a strenuous time in the front line. Weather still wet. Work has been carried out during the Platoon Drill. Boyard Fighting. Platoon in attack position. On the whole the health of the troops is good, the weather has been wet during the past few days. Consequently there are a number of men suffering with Colds. Hot Cocoa is provided at 6.30 before early morning powder. We have to thank the Australian Comfort Fund for this. In my opinion no one has done more to help keep up the health and fighting efficiency of the troops than this body. Church Powder was called for this evening, but on account of the wet weather dismissed. Orders were issued for the move of the Bn to Zannetake area the following day.	Major a/c. O. 487m
WESTHOEK RIDGE	9/10/17		The Bn anchored at Steenroope for 24 hours.	
	10/10/17	7.30am	The Bn anchored at Steenroope for 24 hours. marched to Abela Station this morning & entrained for Ypres arriving about 3.20 pm. & then moved forward to Westhoek Ridge arriving about 8.30 pm. & took up position for the night in trenches & pill boxes.	
	11/10/17		Orders were received from Brigade that the Battalion in conjunction with 47 th Bn would attack a section of the enemy defences between Zannetake & Paschendale Ridge with the 3 rd Amb Division on our left flank & the 15 th A.F.B.	

WAR DIARY

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Passchendaele Ridge	11/10/17 12/10/17		<p>on the night in accordance with attached Operation Order by Lt Col R L Leane R.S.O. M.C.</p> <p>At 12.15 a.m. the Battalion left Westhoek Ridge to take up position on the jumping off tape. The ground was particularly bad & the conditions owing to heavy rain previously & during the time of moving forward were very trying, but the Bn got into position eight minutes before zero hour & jumped off to town. Up to the time of reaching the jumping off line we had sustained casualties 1 Officer (Lt Redley) killed & approximately 80 R. wounded & killed. During the attack & subsequent operations the Bn sustained heavy casualties, three Officers being killed, Lt McNay, Redley, Whittington, also Lt Brinkington died of wounds three days later & Lt Guthrie reported missing & eight Officers wounded including the Commanding Officer Lt Col R L Leane R.S.O. M.C.. The casualties amongst O.R. was 359 killed, wounded & missing out of a total strength of 21 Officers & 600 O.R. which took part in the operation. Both the 48th & 47th Bns gained the objective but owing to the 3^d Division (9th Brigade) not gaining their objective & joining up on the north of the Roulers Railway which marked our left flank we were unable to hold on when counter attacked by the enemy at 4 p.m. & the subsequent withdrawal to our original line was carried out in accordance with the attached report on the</p>	<p>McNay</p>

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ypres	12/10/17		operation, combining the attack & withdrawal. After withdrawing to our original line the Battalion held that position until the night of the 14 th Oct when they were relieved by the 14 th Battalion at 8 p.m. & moved back to the Infantry Barracks at Ypres. The relief was completed without casualties & Ypres was reached about midnight. Owing to Lt Col Leane being severely wounded on the afternoon of the 12 th Oct, Major H. B. Marley took command of the Battalion on the morning of the 13 th Oct.	H. B. Marley Major
Ypres	13/10/17		During the 13 th Oct a muster parade was held & all men medically inspected by the M.O. & it was found that sixty men were suffering from various ailments due to exposure mostly sore feet & they were certified by the M.O. as unfit to go into the line again within a fortnight. On the day intervening the Battalion rested & carried out reorganisation & a general clean up as men's clothing & equipment were very dirty owing to being covered in mud during the previous days in the line. Seven Officers & 110 O.R. rejoined the Bn today from the re-inforcement Camp at Caste where they had been resting. At 12.30 today the Battalion moved forward again into Support at Angae Ridge & relieved the 49 th Bn, (13 th Bde) & up to midnight had sustained six O.R. casualties. Working parties of 3 Officers & 150 O.R. supplied to Engineers to	
Ypres	14/10/17			
Ypres	15/10/17			
Ypres	16/10/17			
Ypres	17/10/17			
Ypres	18/10/17			
Ypres	19/10/17			
Ypres	20/10/17			

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

206

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Canal Area (Ypres)	21/10/17		Build roads at Westhoek Ridge vicinity to enable guns to be got out of the mud & worked till 3pm. when the Bn moved from Anzac Ridge back to Canal Area (Ypres) as the 11 th Brigade took over the 12 th Brigade Sector then & relieved the 12 th Brigade. The Battalion remained at Canal area until the morning of the 22 nd /10/17 when it moved back to Halifax Camp at 10 am. From the 22 nd to the 26 th /10/17 was spent in cleaning up & reorganisation. At 12.30pm the Battalion entrained at Brandhoek Station with other units of the 11 th Division for the Bony Area, detraining at 5 pm. at Wigenmes. At 6 pm. the Bn embarked at Wigenmes & went to Cuhem arriving there about 8.45 pm. after the Motor Column had lost the road three times, at one time taking a road which ran into a dead end in the middle of some farm buildings. After disembussing the men were placed in their billets & were all comfortably placed, but C Coy remained at Envy St Julien that night. A light programme of training has been carried out during these days including a Battalion Route March of about 8 miles on the 30 th . The health of the men has been good since coming out of the line & all are looking forward to enjoying the long looked for spell. C Coy moved to Beaumetz on the 29 th on account of congestion in billets at Envy St Julien.	
HALIFAX CAMP (Brandhoek)	23/10/17			
	26/10/17			
CUHEM	27/10/17			
	31/10/17			

B. Weathers Bay

SECRET

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Copy No _____

48th Battalion Operation Order No 47
by Lieut-Col R.L. Leane D.S.O., M.C.
Commanding Officer.

1st October 1917

The 48th Battalion will be relieved by the
12th Australian Infantry Battalion tonight the 1st/2nd October and on
relief will move to HALIFAX CAMP H 19 c 5.2

Parties will not move in greater numbers
than 12 o/ranks with intervals this side of BELGIAN CHATEAU

At BELGIAN CHATEAU Coys will be met by
guides whi will guide them to new camp.

West of BELGIAN CHATEAU Coys will not move
in ^{larger} ~~greater~~ parties than platoons with 50 yards intervals.

All Coys must move out with full equipment
no excuse will be accepted from any man who moves out minus any part
of his equipment.

Lewis Guns and Dixies will be brought under
Coy arrangements to Battalion Dump where Lewis Guns were picked up on
way into the line. N.C.O in charge of party will report to Col Williams
Hd Qrs Lewis Gunners, at Dump and hand over guns and dixies to him.
Parties will then report back to their Coys. Parties must be at the
Dump at 9.30pm. Large bodies of men must not congregate together.

The Q.M will have hot meal ready when Batt-
alion moves into new camp.

Last Coy moving out will supply a rear party
of one officer and 20 O/ranks. Coy Commanders will see that no man
falls out on line of march.

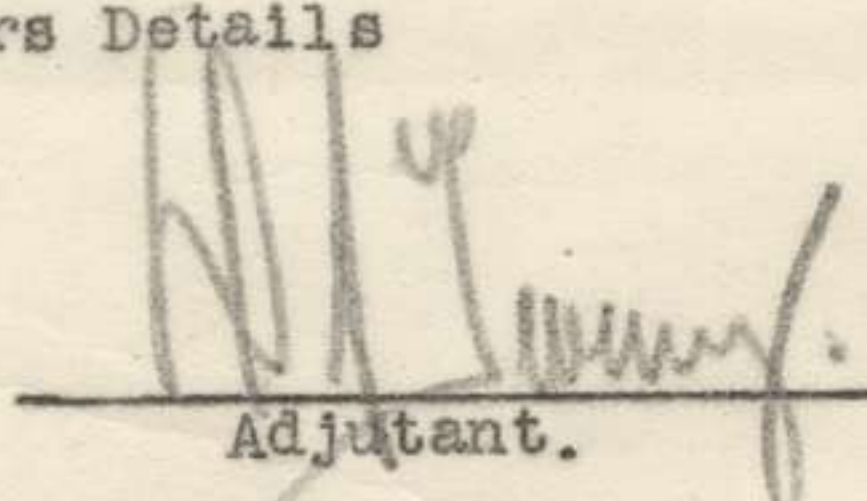
Trench Stores will be handed over and receipts
in duplicate will be handed to B.O.R at new camp.

Completion of Relief will be notified ~~by~~
to Bn Hd Qrs.

A C K N O W L E D G E

Copy sent to :-

1	File
2, 3, 4	War Diary
5	"A"
6	"B"
7	"C"
8	"D"
9	Adjutant
10	Hd Qrs Details


Adjutant.

Captain

48th Battalion Operation Order No 93
by Lieut-Col R.L. Leane D.S.O., M.C.
Commanding 48th Battalion

30th September 1917

The 48th Battalion will be relieved by the 10th Battalion in Right Sub-Sector (Supports) tonight the 30th inst

On completion of relief Battalion Hd Qrs will move into trenches at WESTOEK RIDGE and relieve the 49th Battalion there.

All maps, information concerning the sector, Trench and Area Stores will be handed over and receipts obtained in TRIPLICATE. Two copies will be forwarded to Bn Hd Qrs on the Battalion moving into WESTOEK RIDGE.

All movement to new area will be made in parties not greater than 12 O/ranks with intervals.

Lists of All Trench and Area Stores taken over from 49th Bn will be sent to Bn Hd Qrs on 49th being relieved.

Scouts who take Coys of 10th Battalion to Green Line will lead Coys back to their new area.

Relief complete will be notified to Bn Hd Qrs by the word "COOEE". Notification must be sent in immediately on Completion of Relief.

Coys will also notify Bn Hd Qrs as soon as relief with 49th Battalion is complete.

8 *Acknowledge*

Copies sent to	1	File
	2,3,4	War Diary
	5	Adjutant
	6	"A"
	7	"B"
	8	"C"
	9	"D"
	10	I.O

D. J. Leane

Adjutant 48th Battalion Captain

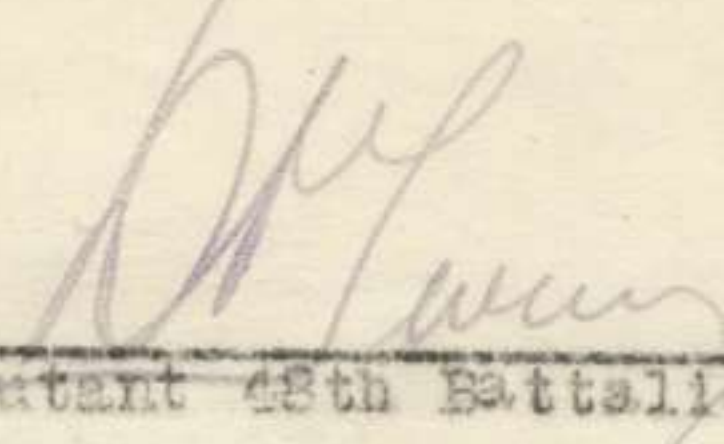
48th Battalion Operation Order No.94,
By Lieut-Col. R. L. Leane, D.S.O. M.C.
Commanding 48th Battalion.

2/10/17

1. The 48th Battalion will move to STEENVORDE tomorrow 3/10/1917.
2. Dismounted personnel will move by bus. Transport will rendezvous at 10a.m. at G.24.d.1.0 and move under orders of Captain D.B.Payne, Brigade Transport Officer.
 - a. Order of march:- 47th, 48th, 45th, 48th 12th Aust. Inf. Bde, 12th A.L.T.M.B. 24th M.G.Coy.
3. Baggage wagons have reported to Units today, in addition one motor lorry per Battalion will report to Bde Headquarters at 8a.m. tomorrow. Quartermaster will detail Sgt.Fish to report to Assistant Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters at 8a.m. to guide lorry.
4. Units will move in the following order and be in position ready to embus at 8.30a.m. with the head of column resting at H.14.c.3.5 facing VALEMERTINGHE:- 46th, 12th A.L.T.M.B., 45th, 47th, 48th 12th Aust.Inf.Bde.

Lieut.Stabback will act as Brigade Embussing Officer. Lieut. Arnold, and 1 Officer per Company and Headquarters Details will report to Lieut. Stabback at H 14 c 3 5 at 8.30 a.m. Lieut. Arnold will act as Embussing Officer and will obtain states from B.O.R. before reporting. Each Officer per Company and Headquarter's Details will act as embussing Officer for their Company.
5. DRESS: Full marching order, as per Operation Order No.88 para 5.
6. Reveille 6a.m. Breakfast 6.30a.m. Companies to be at Starting Point ~~xxxxxx~~ (road in front of WINNIPEG Camp) at 8a.m.
7. VALISES: Officer's valises and B.O.R. Gear to be ready at 7.30a.m. for Transport Officer.
8. RATIONS: Divisional Train will deliver rations tomorrow in the new area. Rations will be drawn by First Line Transport on the 4th instant. Time and location to be notified.
9. SANITATION: Os.C.Companies will render certificate that their area is in a clean and sanitary condition to B.O.R. by 8a.m.
10. No man will be allowed to leave the busses without permission from the Officer in charge of the bus.

Copy No.	1	File
	234	War Diary
	5	Adjutant
	6	A
	7	B
	8	C
	9	D
	10	I.O. Lt Challen, Lt.Allen, R.S.M.
	11	T.O. Q.M.


Adjutant 48th Battalion. Captain

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

APPENDIX.

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 95
 By Lieut-Col. R. L. Leane, D.S.O. M.C.
 Commanding 48th Battalion.

9/10/17

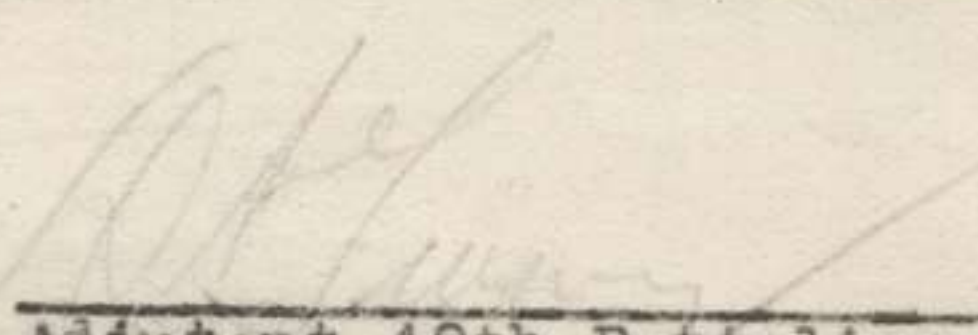
The 48th Battalion will entrain at 400 yards south of ABEELE station at 9.20a.m. tomorrow. Debussing point YPRES, station. Lieut. Logan of "B" Company will report to Lieut. Patterson, 47th Battalion, (Brigade Entraining Officer) with embussing strength of Battalion at ABEELE Station at 8.15a.m.

Head of column passes starting point at 7.30a.m.

Packs will be dumped at 6.30a.m. and not 7.30a.m. as stated in Administrative Instructions.

All movement forward of BIRR CROSS ROADS will be by Platoons or Sections at distance of 100 yards.

Transport to call for B.O.R. gear 7a.m. Horses for C.O. M.O. Adjutant and four companies required.


 Captain
 Adjutant 48th Battalion.

Copy No.	1	File and R.S.M.
	234	War Diary
	6	Adjutant
	6	T.O. & Q.M.
	7	Lieut. Allen (For HQrs)
	8,9,10,11	A, B, C; D

48th Battalion Administrative Instructions
For move 10/10/1917
By Lieut-Col. R. L. Leane, D.S.O. M.C.
Commanding 48th Battalion. 9/10/17

1. The 48th Battalion will move to WESTHOEK RIDGE Area tomorrow 10/10/1917. Time to be notified.

2. STARTING POINT: Estaminet at junction of roads 100 yds past "D" Coy.

3. ORDER OF MARCH: Headquarters, A, D, B, C, Rear party (1 Officer and 20 o/r from "C" Company.) Guard will march with Headquarter's Details.

4. DISTANCES: The following distances will be maintained:- 800 yards between Battalions, 200 yards between Companies, 400 yards between Transport and other troops.

5. DRESS: Fighting Order, blanket rolled and attached to belt, water bottle full, unconsumed portion of the day's rations and iron ration also oil sheet to be carried in the haversack. Steel helmets will be worn

6. REVEILLE: 5a.m. BREAKFAST: 6a.m.

Tents and trench shelters will be struck, and pegs and poles bagged ready at Company Headquarters for Transport at 5.15a.m. O.S.C. Companies will obtain receipts from Drivers for tents and trench shelters handed over. T.O. will collect these and take them to Area Commandant STEENVORDE and obtain receipt in triplicate. Receipt to be handed to Adjutant by 7a.m.

Transport will call for cockers at 7a.m.. Three (3) dixies per Company and Headquarters will be carried empty by Company cooks, with the exception of one (1) cook per Company who will go with Company cooker.

7. PACKS: Greatcoats and hats will be in packs and will be dumped at Transport Lines by 7.30 a.m. under Company arrangements. Officers valises will be ready by 6.30a.m. for Transport to call for at Company Headquarters. Q.M. to make arrangements.

Sandbags, ammunition and extra waterbottle will be issued in GORDON AREA. Each man will carry 5 bombs, 220 rounds S.A.A., 4 sandbags, and two sandbags as putties forward. These will be issued tomorrow at Debussing point. Putties will be collected at GORDON DUMP and sent back to Transport Lines.

Strict attention will be paid by all Officers to care of files, lewis guns, ammunition and equipment, boots and feet. Soles and uppers of boots must be thoroughly dubbed. Three pair socks per man will be carried. When in the line wet socks will be exchanged for dry. In view of the wet state of the ground and the men will be constantly in mud and water, it is of greatest importance that every Officer supervises the constant massaging of feet and changing of socks. It should be a point of honor with every Officer and man to maintain the reputation this Battalion held during last winter on the SOMME. This can only be maintained by constant care by Officers. Neglect in this matter will call for strong disciplinary action.

Baggage Dumps will be established as before at Transport Lines.

Ammunition Dumps are at present located at:-

Main Dump	(Barry)	H.22.b.9.2
Advanced Div. Dump		J.7.b.7.4.
Forward (Cemetery) Dump		D.22.d.6.5.

BILLITING: Lieut. Murray, 4 CQM's and two Signallers from Headquarters Details will report to Area Commandant, GORDON AREA, 11 a.m. tomorrow. Lieut. Murray will report to Adjutant tonight for instructions.

P.T.O.

Lieut. Hendry, 48th Battalion, will be Brigade Salvage Officer and will be located at Transport Lines.

Marching out states to be at B.O.R. with TATOO tonight.
Marching in states as soon as arrival.

ACKNOWLEDGE. The 48th Battalion will move to W...

3. STARTING POINT:

3. ORDER OF MARCH:

Adjutant, 48th Battalion.

DISPATCH 4

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STENVOERDE and obtain receipt in triplicate. Receipt to be handed over. T.O. will collect these and take them to Area Command. Companies will obtain receipts from Drivers for tents and trench poles bagged ready at Company Headquarters for transport at 5.15 a.m. Tents and trench shelters will be struck, and

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This

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Tomorrow at Debussing point. Patties will be collected at GORDON H.
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issued in GORDON AREA. Each man will carry 5 bombs, 230 rounds G.A.
Sandbags, ammunition and extra waterbottle will

will call for strong disciplinary action. Neglect in this matter only be maintained by constant care by Officers. This reputation this Battalion held during last winter on the SOMME. It should be a point of honor with every Officer and man to maintain the supervises the constant massaging of feet and changing of socks. It is in mud and water, it is of greatest importance that every Officer dry. In view of the wet state of the ground and the men will be carried. When in the line wet socks will be exchanged and uppers of boots must be thoroughly dabbled, Three pair socks of flannel, Lewis guns, ammunition and equipment, boots and feet. Strict attention will be paid by all Officers to

Forward (Cometary) Dump	D. 22.4.8.5.
Advanced Div. Dump	J. 7.4.7.4.
Main Dump (Barny)	H. 22.4.8.2.

Ammunition Dumps are at present located at:-

Transport Lines.

Baggage Dumps will be established as before at

tomorrow. Lieut. Murray will report to Adjutant tonight for instructions. Headquarters Details will report to Area Commandant, GORDON AREA, 11 BILLING: Lieut. Murray, 4 COM's and two Signallers from

48th Battalion Operation Order No.95

By Lieut-Col., R.L.Leane, D.S.O. M.C.

11/10/1917.

Commanding 48th Battalion.

Reference:- Special map attached and part of Sheet 28.

The 12th Australian Infantry Brigade will attack in conjunction with the 9th Australian Infantry Brigade on the left. The 47th Battalion will attack and capture the RED LINE. The 48th Battalion will attack and capture the BLUE LINE, as per special map herewith. After capturing the BLUE LINE "D" Company will establish a post at E.7.c.5.3 connecting with a post of 3rd Australian Division.

The Companies will form up as follows for the attack:- 1 hour before ZERO which time will be notified later. Reading from right to left:-
A Company, "B" Company, "D" Company.
"C" Company will move forward in Support and act as required. ~~xxx~~

"D" Company will detail special party to work on the NORTH side of the ROULERS RAILWAY, and is responsible that touch is maintained with the 9th Brigade. The 9th Brigade will also detail a special party to work on the SOUTH side of the ROULERS RAILWAY.

Special attention must be given to mopping up. Each Company is responsible for its own area and will see that all PILLBOXES and DUGOUTS are thoroughly dealt with.

The Barrage will move forward at 100 yards in eight (8) minutes commencing with stationary barrage from 8 minutes on first barrage line.

The 48th Battalion will move on in rear of the 47th Battalion, care being taken that direction is maintained. The left flank resting on the ROULERS RAILWAY. The left flank of the 47th Battalion will rest on the RED LINE as shown on special map. When the 48th Battalion reaches the RED LINE its left flank resting on ROULERS RAILWAY they will remain here until the Protective Barrage ~~xxxxx~~ lifts at ZERO plus ~~xxxx~~ 180. When this barrage lifts they will move forward each Company from right to left covering the ground and deploying into position facing half right.

When all the objectives are taken "A" Company will be in touch on the right with the 47th Battalion, and "D" Company on the left at ROULERS RAILWAY E.7.c.15.20. With 9th Special post will be shoved in advance of this at E.7.c.5.3. (Bde)

Prisoners will be despatched under escort and handed over to Police at Battalion Headquarters, ~~xxxxxxx~~ D.17.c.6.9.

INFORMATION: It is absolutely essential that constant touch be kept between Units in the attack, and with ~~xxxxx~~ Battalion Battle Headquarters D.17.c.6.9.

Progress will be reported constantly. Runners will be despatched when Companies are 1. In position, 2. Moving off, 3. Reached RED LINE. 4. Advancing from RED LINE. 5. In position in BLUE LINE. Approximate casualties must be forwarded through at once.

P.T.Om

CONSOLIDATION: BLUE LINE will be placed immediately in a state of defence. Lewis Gun posts being pushed out in front.

All Officers and N.C.Os must give constant attention to the state of Lewis Guns, Rifles and S.A.A. ~~XXXXXX~~

One Mortar from the 12th A.L.T.M.B. will remain in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters (which will be at) D.17.c.6.9) and will be used as required.

FLARES: Contact will be maintained with Aircraft, in positions shown on BLUE LINE, by means of RED and WHITE ground flares. Os. C. Companies will see that they are in possession of these flares ~~XX~~ and that special men are detailed for communication with Aircraft.

Signalling Officer will be responsible that supplies of S.O.S.x Grenades and Flares are issued to each Company. He will also arrange for sufficient supply of pigeons at Battalion Headquarters.

Companies will be reorganised on BLUE LINE as soon as possible after reaching this line. Officers will be responsible that dumps are made of surplus bombs and flares on reaching the BLUE LINE. ~~for~~

"D" Company will be responsible ~~that~~ liason with 9th Brigade and 48th Battalion. Special junction will be effected at ~~XXXXXX~~ DETROIT CROSSING.

Each man will carry 48 hours rations, two water bottles filled, and 220 rounds S.A.A. 3 Hand Grenades, 2 Rifle Grenades, 5 sandbags, 1 shovel and 2 ground flares (1 red and 1 white).

DRESS: Full fighting Order.

The 12th Australian Machine Gun Company will send one section forward with the 48th Battalion to establish two guns near DECOY WOOD firing South West and two guns in E.18.b.2.8 approximately firing down BROUBEEK.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

Smoke shells will be fired by Artillery when Protective Barrage covers RED LINE to show position

B ~~XXXXXX~~ Captain
Adjutant,

Copy No. 1 File

234 War Diary

5 Adjutant

6 A

7 B

8 C

9 D

10 Lieut. Allen, Lieut. Ford, Lieut. Henderson, R.S.M.

11 12th Aust. Inf. Bde.

12 12th A.L.T.M.B.

13 12th M.G. Coy

REPORT ON OPERATIONS of 13-14th OCTOBER, 1917
IN ACCORDANCE WITH BRIGADE ORDER No. 171.

48TH BATTALION.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

ATTACK ON PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE.

MOVEMENT PRELIMINARY TO ATTACK: At 12.10a.m. on the 13/10/17 the Battalion moved in the following order from WESTOEK RIDGE (KIT AND KAT) "A", "B", "D", and "C", to take up a position on jumping off trench slightly in advance of line running approximately from ROULERS RAILWAY D.17.b to D.17.c. held by 45th Battalion. Owing to the bad state of the ground and the rain which fell from 2a.m. onwards on the 13th the time taken in reaching this point was longer than anticipated, and the Battalion got into position eight (8) minutes before ZERO hour when Companies took up the following formation for attack. From left to right:- "D", "B", "A", with "C" Company in close support. The casualties sustained in moving to this position was 1 Officer and approximately 12 o/ranks.

THE ATTACK: Exactly at ZERO hour the barrage fell about 150 yards in advance of the line taken up and in accordance with barrage timetable lifted and commenced to move forward. From the commencement of the attack it became evident that the troops of the first wave had not all got into position and it devolved upon troops of "B" and "A" Company 48th Battalion to fight through to DEAD LINE COPSE and forward towards ASSYRIA HOUSE. The points at which the 47th Battalion failed to take up position were from the right of "D" Company 48th Battalion to centre of "A" Company 48th Battalion frontage and the whole of this gap was therefore filled by the abovementioned companies. For the purpose of making the movements of the Battalion clear from the moment of the attack I propose dealing with Company movements separately from left to right.

1. "D" COMPANY. After the barrage had moved forward to a distance of about 200 yards "D" Company moved forward to the attack and after advancing approximately 300 yards it was noticed that the Brigade on the left (North of ROULERS RAILWAY) had not moved to the attack. It, therefore, became necessary for this Company to conform with the Railway line so as to protect the flanks of the Companies on the right, at the same time to assist the advance of the Brigade on the left by engaging the enemy on left Brigade frontage. This was done by Lewis Guns and parties of riflemen taking place from a point about 300 yards from the jumping off trench along the ROULERS RAILWAY right up to RED LINE; and a Stokes Mortar was also brought in action with this Company against enemy machine guns on left Brigade frontage. After one and a half hours had elapsed troops of left Brigade came up on a level with our jumping off trench and it was three hours after ZERO before they reached a position slightly in rear of left of RED LINE. As this Brigade advanced the men on the left flank of this Company holding Railway Line were brought forward to RED LINE and consolidated there. Up to this time casualties sustained by this Company were approximately 1 Officer and 25 o/ranks. The barrage by this time was a long way ahead and it passed over a number of enemy machine guns which were firing heavily on this Company's sector, fire coming chiefly from a point 18.d. Central. Owing to this fire, together with the fact that the left Brigade could not move forward it was found impossible for this company to advance any further.

2. "C" COMPANY. Noticing that the left Brigade had not advanced and that "D" Company were conforming and fighting their way along the ROULERS RAILWAY this Company moved to support "D" Company there and took up a position along the Railway to assist in securing the left flank of the Battalion and greatly assisted in keeping down enemy fire on left Brigade frontage and allowing the left Brigade to come up.

3. "B" COMPANY: "B" Company moved forward to a depth of about 400 yards in conjunction with the 47th Battalion and "A" Company on its right. At this point it was noticed that Companies on the left were conforming to the Railway and with the left flank of this Company about 40 yards in front of DEAD LINE COPSE and 100 yards to the South of the ROULERS RAILWAY it was found impossible to advance further on the left as Companies on left were not moving any further forward, but the right flank of "B" Company was

pushed forward to a point about 100 yards to the left rear of ASSYRIA HOUSE.

The barrage had now gone forward about 400 yards ahead of this point and there was no visible movement or occupation by the right Companies of either 48th or 47th Battalion, except that of about 50 men who had gone forward nearly to the crest of the left of ASSYRIA HOUSE it was decided to dig in as the field of fire was good and the situation demanded it. The line now ran from a point about 300 yards in advance of the jumping off trench on the ROULERS RAILWAY up the Railway to DEAD LINE COPSE and across the slope to a point about 100 yards to the left rear of ASSYRIA HOUSE.

4. "A" COMPANY: This Company also moved forward in conjunction with the 47th Battalion but during the advance got mixed up with "B" Company 48th Battalion and Companies of the 47th Battalion in operation. This Company in conjunction with men of the 47th Battalion (about 50 men in all) moved on forward and established posts to the left of ASSYRIA HOUSE about 300 yards in advance of "B" Company's right flank.

CONSOLIDATION: When the Battalion had reached the line stated consolidation was commenced and re-organisation carried out.

COMMUNICATION: Disposition reports with message maps showing the approximate line were sent back by Companies about 8a.m. and contact was made with aeroplane about this time, after which no further contact was asked for and very little seen of any further air reconnaissance on our frontage by our planes. Owing to the heavy machine gun and sniper's fire communication was most difficult and many dispatches which were sent from front line never reached Battalion Headquarters even though sent in duplicate which, therefore, made the position somewhat obscure and no definite reports could at the time be sent back to Brigade.

NOTES ON OUR BARRAGE: At exactly ZERO hour our barrage fell at a distance of about 150 yards in advance of jumping off trench and thereafter was worked according to barrage timetable previously notified. The barrage was not heavy at this time and did not appreciably thicken as it proceeded, many shells falling over 100 yards short of the barrage line and even before the advance begun we had several casualties. Owing to the condition of the ground over which the advance was made it was found that the barrage moved forward too fast to allow of men getting forward and at the same time dealing effectively with Pillboxes and other strong points.

ENEMY ACTION: 1. ENEMY BARRAGE: Enemy barrage fell heavily about four minutes after ZERO on to a line just in rear of jumping off trench and was well placed and evidently showed that the enemy were alert.

2. ENEMY RESISTANCE: Up to the time of reaching line previously stated little enemy opposition was encountered on our front, and casualties during the advance were light and mostly caused by machine gun fire across ROULERS RAILWAY from the left Brigade frontage and from the extreme right flank. During the work of consolidation on the new line enemy sniping and machine gun fire became very persistent and heavy and almost every man who showed himself became a casualty, and the battle resolved itself into a duel between our Lewis Guns and rifles and enemy machine gun positions strongest amongst which were posts called ASSYRIA HOUSE on our right and VIENNA COTTAGE on our left, firing from both of which caused many casualties. As most of this fire was directed from loop holes in concrete dugouts our fire was not effective in finally stopping it.

ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACK: The enemy counter-attack was preceded by a barrage on our positions which fell at 3.30p.m. and continued in comparative severity until 4p.m. when the enemy attack developed on our front from a point to the left of ASSYRIA HOUSE. The attack opened by a wave of infantry about 400 yards wide and very well sustained in good line until destroyed by our Lewis gun and rifle fire. It was succeeded by a second and larger which advanced more slowly and cautiously and consequently did not offer such a good target to our fire. This attack was successful in driving back the forward posts which had been placed in advance of the new line, covering fire being given to their retirement by Lewis guns and rifles from our main line. Very few,

3.

206 if any, of these men really got back to our final position as they were caught by snipers as they came past ASSYRIA HOUSE, some being outflanked and apparently captured. The S.O.S. was fired by 47th Battalion at 4p.m. and repeated by this Battalion at 4.3p.m. from Front line, and at 4.6p.m. at Battalion Headquarters, but no barrage was noticed to fall in answer to the signal except on the extreme right flank near ASSYRIA HOUSE which appeared to be very destructive. The frontal attack had again broken down and was being easily held by our Lewis gun and rifle fire. A further counter-attack was then noticed to have developed on the left rear of our forward lines and along the ROULERS RAILWAY forward of our left flank. This was launched with great strength and it was found necessary at 5p.m. to withdraw behind DEAD LINE COPSE to line

running North and South to the right of "D" and "C" Companies. This retirement was made under cover of the Lewis guns with comparatively few casualties. When this point was reached it was found that the 3rd Division on the North of the ROULERS RAILWAY had withdrawn to their jumping off trench which movement necessitated the withdrawal of the Battalion on to its original line so as to conform with the Brigade on the left. This point was reached at about 5.35p.m. and the work of consolidation and re-organisation immediately commenced. The enemy did not attempt any further advance on this line which had been reached.

1. WITHDRAWAL: The withdrawal was carried out under covering fire from our Lewis guns which held the DEAD LINE COPSE LINE until the Battalion had reached a line approximately on the jumping off position, when Lewis guns came back singly covering their own retirement. No further action was attempted by the enemy previous to the line being handed over to the 14th Battalion at about 8p.m. on the night of the 14-15th October, 1917.

CASUALTIES:

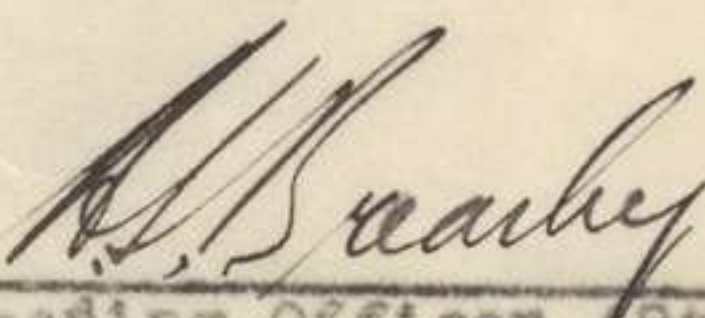
The casualties sustained by the Battalion chiefly occurred after line in advance had been reached and while the work of consolidation was being carried out, and during the withdrawal, and the subsequent two days in the line. It was found impossible to evacuate the stretchers from the forward area in advance of the original jumping off line, but all walking cases were brought out and as far as is known no wounded were left in the area occupied after the withdrawal. Our **approx. casualties, killed wounded and missing, were 13 Officers 359 o/r.**

GENERAL:

In my opinion the whole operation as far as the 12th Brigade was concerned was carried out well and as intended and I feel quite certain that all objectives could have been gained and maintained if the action had been successful by the Brigade on our left. It was carried out under very trying ~~conditions~~ and difficult conditions and Officers and men of this Battalion and the 47th Battalion did all in their power to attain a success out of an operation which promised full reward, but which was unfortunately snatched from our possession over no fault of the 12th Brigade as could be seen from the fact that the frontal attack they delivered in strength against our positions was comparatively easily beaten off and held in check and had the action gone smoothly on the left I feel sure that the Brigade would have handed over the objectives aimed at to the Relieving ~~Brigade~~ Brigade.

During the operation approximately 3 Officers and 200 o/ranks of the enemy were taken prisoner by the 48th Battalion.

In the Field,
17/10/17


Major
Acting Commanding Officer 48th Battalion

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 96

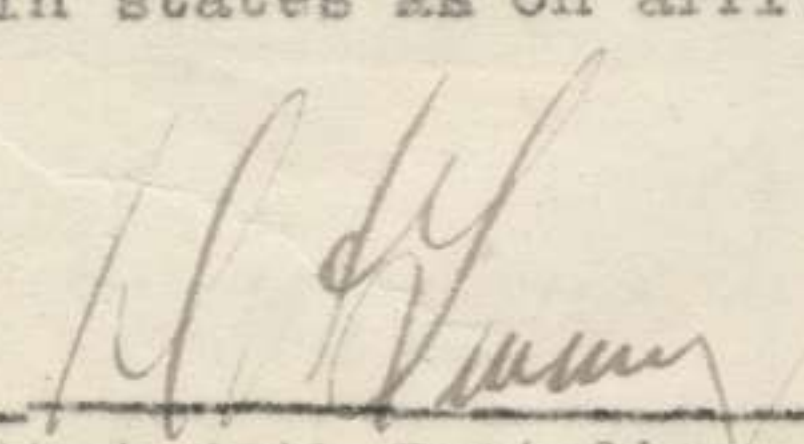
By Major M. S. Brearley,

Commanding Officer 48th Battalion

18/10/17

REFERENCE; BECELAERE Map
and OOSTHOEK attached.

1. The 12th Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 13th Australian Infantry Brigade on the right sub-sector, 4th Division Front, tomorrow 18th instant.
2. The 48th Battalion will relieve the 49th Battalion in SUPPORTS.
3. ORDER OF MARCH: Headquarters, D, B, A, C (rear party of 1 Officer and 12 o/ranks from "C" Company).
4. STARTING POINT: Battalion Headquarters.
5. TIME: 12.30p.m.
6. DISTANCES: Companies will move from this area in parties of half platoons at 50 yards distance.
7. DRESS: Full fighting order. Blankets attached to belt under haversack; oil sheet under flap of haversack; emergency ration; unconsumed portion of the day's ration and 24 hours rations will be carried in haversacks. P.H. Helmets and Box Respirators ~~xxxx~~ (the latter at the ALERT) will be worn. Steel helmets will be worn. Waterbottles will be filled. Each man will carry two bombs and 220 rounds S.A.A.
8. PACKS, ETC: Greatcoats, felt hats, putties and packs will be dumped outside Battalion Headquarters at 9.30a.m. Putties and hats in packs. Os. C. Companies will be held responsible personally that all packs are clearly marked. Four sandbags per man will be carried - two of which will be worn at putties.
9. COOKERS: Sergeant Cook and two cooks per Company will move with Headquarters and carry two dixies per Company.
10. MEALS: Hot meal (mid-day) will be at 11.30a.
11. SALVAGE: Os. C. Companies will make every endeavour to salvage in new areas.
12. SANITATION: Companies will leave their present areas in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition. Certificate to the effect that area is clean and sanitary to be rendered to B.O.R. by 11.30a.m.
13. CARE OF ARMS ETC. Attention is directed to 48th Battalion Administrative Instructions issued on 9/10/17 re. care of arms, etc.
14. MARCHING STATES: Marching out states to be rendered to B.O.R. by 11.30a.m. Marching in states as on arrival in new area.

 Captain
Adjutant 48th Battalion

Copy No. 1 File. R.S.M. Sgt. Cook

234 War Diary

5 Adjutant

6 Q.M. T.O.

789 10 A, B, C, D

11 Lts. Challen. Henderson. Pavey (who is responsible for all Headquarters)

48th Battalion Operation Order No. 97
By Major M.S. Brearley,
A/Commanding Officer.

31/10/17

Reference:-

1. The 48th Battalion, minus First Line Transport, will move to WINNIPEG Camp, H.19.b.3.5. tomorrow 22/10/17.
 2. ORDER OF MARCH: Pioneers, Police, Sigs, Band, B, C, D, A, and rear party of 30 men from "A" under Lieut. REID. These men will report to Lieut. Reid at 9.15a.m.)
 3. STARTING POINT: Belgium Chateau. TIME: 10a.m.
 4. Companies will fall in on their own parade ground at 9.40a.m. and be inspected by Gs.C. Companies before moving off.
 5. DRESS: Full marching Order; Blanker on banderole round pack, bottom of blanket level with pack; oilsheet under flap of haversack, steel helmet under supporting straps on back of pack
 6. DISTANCES: The distances between Companies will be 100 yards.
 7. TENTS & SHELTERS: All tents and trench shelters issued will be handed over by Lieut. Limb to the Area Commandant at Belgium Chateau by 9a.m., and receipts obtained in triplicate.
 8. BILLETING PARTY: Lieut. Challen, 4 COMS's and two sign will report to Area Commandant, MONTREAL CAMP, H.19.b.5.6. at 9a.m. sharp. COMS's and Sigs report to Lieut. Challen at 8a.m. sharp.
 9. RATIONS: Rations will be delivered to Units in Halifax Area tomorrow by Div. Train.
Hot tea will be prepared enroute for mid-day meal. Transport will call for Cokers at 8.30a.m. sharp.
 10. TRANSPORT: First Line Transport will move out of present area occupied by them at 9a.m. tomorrow 22nd, direct to HALIFAX Camp. All details, Q.M. Stores, etc., must be clear of the rear camps by 11a.m.; These Camps and lines must be left in a thoroughly clean and sanitary conditions. Lieut. Hammond will detail Sgt. ELKAN to hand over tents and trench shelters to a party of 1st Division who will report at Transport Lines at 9.30a.m.
- 1 Motor lorry will report at present Camp at 7am for baggage. Officer's valises, B.C.R. and Company Gear will be ready at 7.30a.m.
- Personnel at Corps Reinforcement Camp will rejoin Battalion at HALIFAX Camp tomorrow.
- Lieut. Reid will obtain receipt from Camp Commandant that present Camp is left in a clean and sanitary condition. Gs.C. Companies will see that their area is cleaned, latrines filled and ground (fouled) is so marked, and render certificate to this effect by 9a.m. Transport Officer will see that all Headquarters horses are at present camp at 8.30a.m. Lieut. Henderson will act as guide for the Battalion, ROUTE:- being via DENROCKEN JAGER CABT H.14.b.5.8. to WINNIPEG CAMP. Brigade Transport Starting Point will be at Transport Lines.
- Strict march discipline will be maintained throughout the march.
- Marching in states to B.C.R. 9a.m. Marching in states as soon as arrival.

R.D. Lewis
Captain
Adjutant 48th Battalion

48th Battalion Operation Order No 98
By Major M.S.Brearley
A/Commanding Officer

25/10/17

Reference :- 1/40000 map.

The 48th Battalion will entrain at BRANDHOEK to WIZERNES on the 26/10/17 by second train.

ENTRAINING TIME 9.30am.

DEPARTURE TIME 10.35am.

The Battalion will be at BRANDHOEK at 9am;
On arrival at WISERNES the Battalion will embus for BOMY Area.

STANDING ORDERS Special entraining onstructions are attached

TRANSPORT Transport will proceed in two echelons. Lieut Martin will be in charge of "B" Echelon.

EMBUSSING OFFICERW Lieut Henderson will be Battalion Embussing Officer and will report to Captain Brooks, 46th Battalion, at detraining station.

DRESS Full marching order, blankets en banderole round packs, bottom level with edges of blankets, oilsheet under flap of haversack, steel helmet under supporting straps on back of pack, 24 hours rations and full water bottle to be carried.

ORDER OF MARCH Police, Pioneers, ~~Stags~~, Band, "A" "B" "C" "D"

COOKING GEAR Three dixies per Company and Headquarters Detail will be carried. All cooks will accompany their company. Wet rations will be carried by companies, Rations up to breakfast 27th.

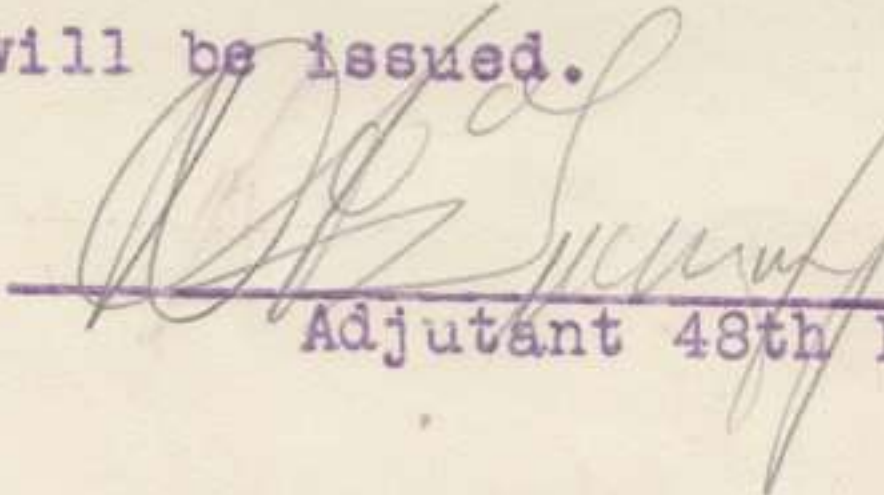
VALISES, GEAR, etc Officer's valises, B.O.R, Company and Signaller's gear to be ready for transport at 5am

STARTING POINT WINNIPEG CAMP Time 8.15am

SANITATION Present area must be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Latrines to be filled in and foul ground marked. Os C Companies will render certificates to Adjutant at 8am that their area has been left in a clean and sanitary condition. Lieut Limb will inspect the area before the Battalion moves off and render a report to the Adjutant

STATES Marching out states to B.O.R at 7.30am
Marching in states on arrival.

Further instructions will be issued.

 Captain
Adjutant 48th Battalion

Copy No	1	File
	234	War Diary
	5	Adjutant
	6	A
	7	B
	8	C
	9	D
	10	Lieuts Pavy, Ford, Allen (incharge of Band, Police, Pioneers (L.G and Bombers
	11	G.M and T.O

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