

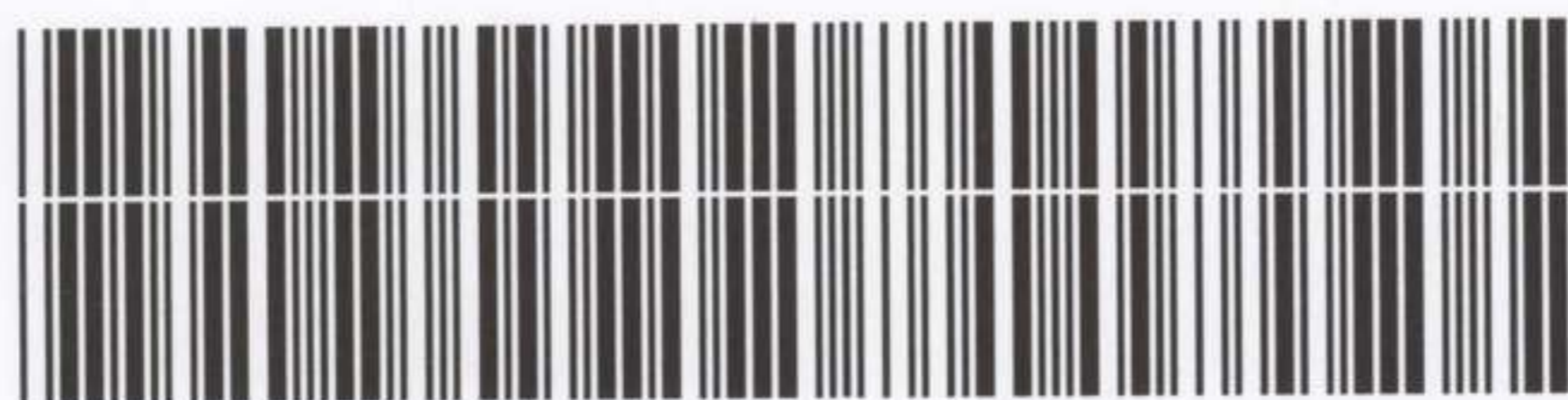
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/69/13

Title: 52nd Infantry Battalion

April 1917



AWM4-23/69/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 1003

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

52nd BATTALION A.D.F.

Sheet. No. 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1.4.17		At noon shifted Battalion Headquarters to Square C.29.a.4.2. at Cross Roads S.W. of LAGNICOURT. At 5.0 p.m. issued Operation Order No.50 to meeting of Company Commanders and fully discussed proposed operations with them. Line of Picquets C.24.d.8.6. - C.18.c.8.3. - C.17.b.4.3. heavily shelled about midday with several casualties., and in afternoon. Quiet night.	Map 1/20,000 57c.N.W. ----- Copy attached +++----- App. No.1.
	2.4.17		Action to capture NOREVIL commenced 5.15 a.m., objective of 52nd Battalion made good 7.20 a.m. viz :- left of line pushed forward to C.11.d.1.0. with 2 Companies in line, 1 in support C.30.a.4.7. in Sunken Road, 1 in Reserve C.29.a.4.2., Right of 50th Battalion did not get touch with our left, gap existing until 5.0 p.m., when their Right was found to be at Fork of Roads C.11.c.2.4., Gap of 500 yards covered by Vickers Guns. Gap made good during the night. On our Right 54th Battalion moved forward about 5.0 a.m. but were driven back to Road C.24.d.9.5. and our Right Company was therefore unable to make any forward movement. Our casualties during forenoon were light, but later in day we suffered from shell fire. Reconnaissance by Left Company seeking touch with 50th Battalion was good. Snow fell 8.0 p.m. At 9.0.p.m. 4.2.German shell fell near Battalion Headquarters killing two mules of Ration wagon. Our casualties during day 6 killed 19 wounded. At 1.30 a.m. a German Lieutenant and a soldier taken prisoner by our patrol. Quiet night.	
	3.4.17		Quiet day, improving new Picquet Posts. At 11.55.p.m., 52 Battalion having been relieved by 15th Battalion, moved to Sunken Road at C.25 Central West of VAULX. No casualties during relief. Heavy rain and roads very muddy.	
	4.4.17		Sleet and snow, but Battalion in good spirits making dugouts and resting.	
	5.4.17		Lieut.MENDOZA reported from School LA CHAUSSEE to take over duties from Adjutant from Capt.FRANCISCO. Capt.PARKINSON also reported from 13th Field Ambulance to take over from R.M.O. from Capt. STEELE.	
	6.4.17		After reconnaissance by C.O. during day Operation Order No 51 was	

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

App. No. 2.

WAR DIARY

Sheet No 2.

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	6.4.17	-	<p>issued to Company Commanders and other Officers concerned. Conference was held at 5.30 p.m. and situation discussed. Battalion moved to new position at 8.0 p.m., Companies on nearing their respective positions moving independently thereto. Night wet and drizzly. Very favourable for operation- By midnight all Companies had taken position indicated by Operation Order 51 except Support Company (D) for which Sunken Road was found to be best position at C.0.a., Picquet line was established during night, with Sentry line on Railway C.4.b.8.6. to crossing at W.27.d.2.4., Touch obtained with 2nd/7th West Yorkshire Regt. on left and 51st Aust. Battalion on right. Frontage approximately 1500 yards - our patrols in touch with German wire. Capt FRANCISCO left for Senior Officers school ALDERSHOT., Capt. STEELE left to rejoin 13th Field Ambulance.</p>	
	7.4.17		<p>Orders received that 46th & 48th Battalions would take over line held by 52nd Battalion. Intermittent shelling on NOREUIL - LONGATTE ROAD and on Picquet Line. Fourth Aust. Inf. Bde. made H.Q. at C.23.b.4.8., Relief arranged with Battalions named and relief completed at 2.40 a.m., when Battalion H.Q. details marched off from C.17.d.0.1. to trenches South of VAULX, H.12. a. and b., arriving 5.0 a.m. 8.4.17, and having had only two slight casualties since moving out at 8.0 p.m. on 6.4.17.,</p>	
	8.4.17		<p>Easter Sunday. Magnificent fine, warm day. Church Parade at 4.0 p.m.,</p>	
	9.4.17		<p>Battalion to be loaned to 4th Brigade for certain operations. C.O., to H.Q., 4th Brigade at C.23.b.4.8. and received preliminary instructions. On return to Battn. H.Q., Coy. Comdrs. were given all available information and sent to reconnoitre ground N.E. of NOREUIL by night. At 8.0 p.m. orders received for 52nd. to be ready to move at a moments notice. Snow fell during night.</p>	
	10.4.17		<p>C.O., to 4th Brigade H.Q. 10.30. a.m. Informed operation proposed had been cancelled. At 6.0 p.m. orders received from 4th Bde.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Sheet No 3.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10.4.17		for Operation to commence 4.30 a.m. 11.4.17., Operation Order No.52, issued at Conference of Officers. Companies to move independently to position allotted. C.O. and Adjutant attended Conference of 4th Bde. officers at 4th Bde. H.Q. at Midnight., Senior Major supervising move of Battalion.	App.No/3
	11.4.17		By 4.30 a.m. 52nd Battalion covered line from C.12.Central (linking with 10th Battalion) to C.5.8.8., in touch with 51st Batt. Assault on HINDENBURG LINE by all Battalions of 4th Brigade was not successful. At 1.0 p.m. G.O.C. called at party to assist collection of wounded in Square U.29- Lieut JULIN with party from "A" Company were detailed, and succeeded, by shewing a very bold front, in bringing a large number. The Germans finally permitted the party to work without firing on them., though at same time parties of Germans came out for purposes of repairing wire. Snow on ground, wet and muddy all day. During night put three Companies (D, A, & C) into line (1750 yards front) with 1 Coy. at C.4.d. Sunken Road in SUPPORT (No RESERVE) this giving a strong front line in view of possibility of German counter-attack. Considerable shelling and machine gun fire during night. 13th Brigade tookover from 4th Brigade during afternoon.	
	12.4.17		Quiet day dispositions not altered. Weather miserably cold & wet.	
	13.4.17		Intermittent shelling on all parts of Battalion., 11 a.m. to 4.0. p.m., Arrangements made during day for relief of 52nd Battn by 17th Battalion. Relief carried out at 9.30 p.m. to 1.20 a.m. Regimental Units marching independently to Billets at FAUVREUIL Complete at 5.0. a.m., Billets very poor.	
	14.4.17		Orders received, Battalion to catch 9.30 a.m. train at BAPAUME for BECOURT CAMP. Marched from FAUVREUIL 10 a.m., Owing to shell having disabled a locomotive in BAPAUME RAILWAY YARD traffic disorganised. Eventually Battalion entrained in 3 Decauville trains, holding about 200 of all ranks apiece, closely packed, the last leaving 3.45 p.m., for BAZENTIN, Battalion arrived at BECOURT, having marched from BAZENTIN. at 7.30 p.m., all correct.	

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52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

52nd BATTALION A.I.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet No 4.

483

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																		
	14.4.17		Weather delightfully fine.																																																			
	15.4.17		Battalion resting. 84 Reinforcements received.																																																			
			<u>Casualties while in Line 27.3.17 to 15.4.17.,</u>																																																			
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Officers.</td> <td>-</td> <td>Other Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>132</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sick to Hospital -</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> <td></td> <td>-----</td> </tr> </table>			Officers.	-	Other Ranks.	Killed	-	2		32	Wounded	-	2		97	Missing		-		3			-----		-----			4		132	Sick to Hospital -		3		118			-----		-----			7		250			-----		-----	
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	16.4.17		Inspection of feet and boots, Haircutting, and repairs of clothing. etc. Pay issued.																																																			
	17.4.17		Company re-organisation, etc., Baths.																																																			
	19.4.17		Left BECOURT 10.30 a.m. and arrived at Billets at DERNANCOURT 12 noon., Weather showery.																																																			
	20.4.17		Inspection of Transport which has got into generally poor condition standing at BEAUGNATRE while Battalion was in line. Weather fine.																																																			
	21.4.17		Transport Brigaded for inspection by G.O.C., In afternoon Battalion Sports.																																																			
	23.4.17		2/Lieut. Lieut. W.V. KEATS reported from 13th Training Battn.																																																			
			2/Lieut. W. CONWELL reported from Reinforcements.																																																			
	25.4.17		ANZAC DAY. Holiday. Brigade Church Parade in morning and Sports Shareh in afternoon at BUIRE. Battalion won Tug-of-War. Extra comforts issued charged to Corps fund. Fine day enjoyed by all troops. ranks.																																																			
	27.4.17		Court of Enquiry reported re 95 Missing- finding 94 Killed in action (93 from MOUQUET FARM action 3.9.16 & 1 on 14.8.16)																																																			

Training Syllabus Attached. App. No4.

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Sheet NO 5

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29.4.17		One man on list at present on duty.	
	29.4.17		Brigade Church parade at BUIRE, 11 a.m., Military Medal Ribbons issued by General BIRDWOOD, who also addressed newly appointed Officers. In afternoon Polling for Federal Election ; Issue of Pay ; and disinfection of Blankets. Weather fine since 20.4.17	
	30.4.17		Rolling completed.	

H. J. O'Keefe
Lieut' Colonel
Comm^d 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 50.

by

Lieut-Colonel H. POPE O.B.
Commanding 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

Battalion H.Q. 1st April 1917.

Reference Map :- 1/20,000.

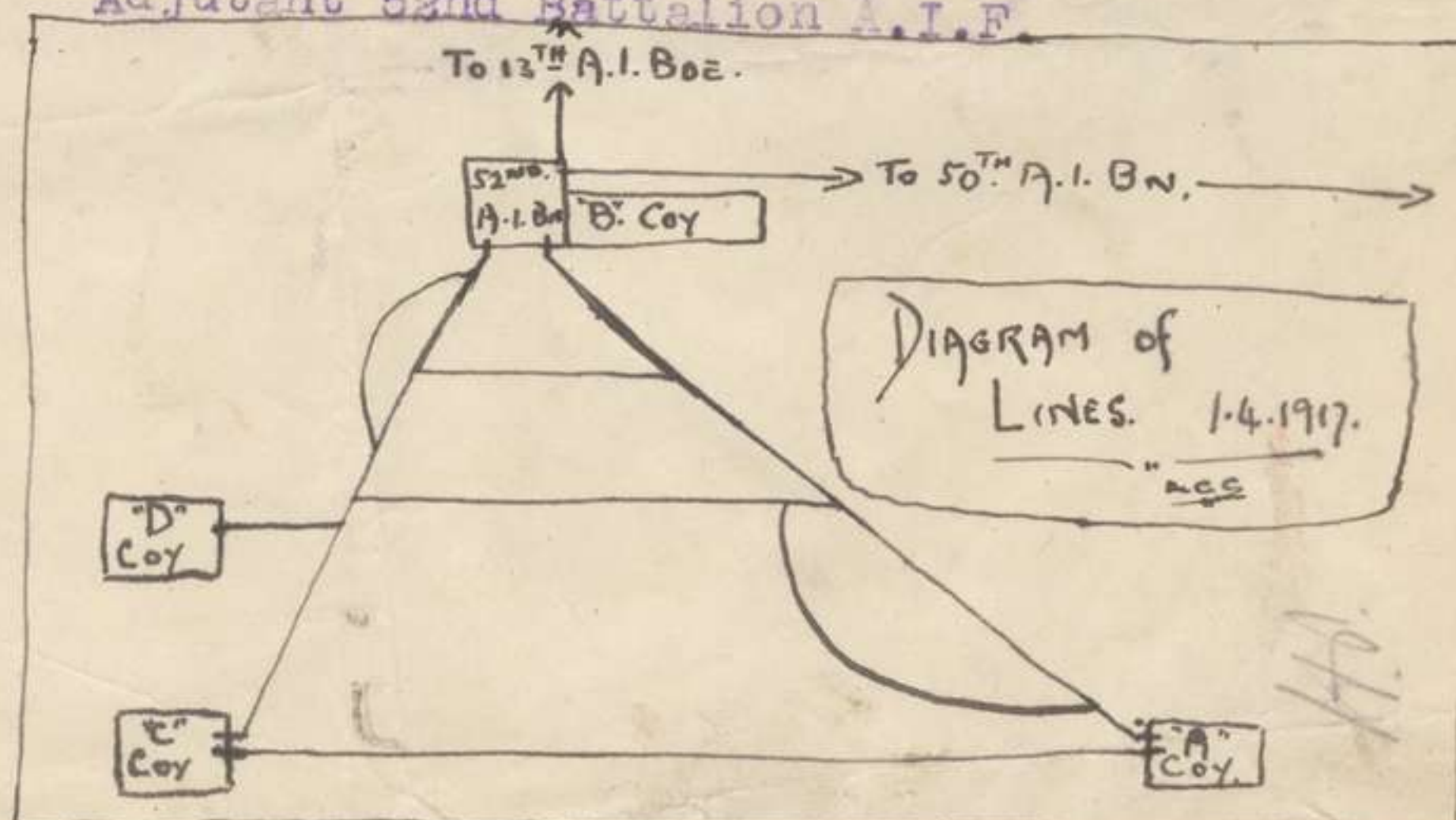
1. The 13th Brigade will tomorrow morning capture NOREUIL and high ground North East thereof.
On our LEFT the 20th Brigade will co-operate and capture LONGATTE, and on our right the Fifth Australian Division will capture LOUVERAL and DOIGNIES.
The objective of the 13th Brigade will be the road running North west of LAGNICOURT through C.11.c, C.11.a., C.10.b., and C.4.d
2. The 50th Battalion on our left will attack NOREUIL from present line of its Sentry Groups, and with its left flank resting on road that runs from C.22. Central to C.16.a.55.
3. The 52nd Battalion will extend its left to C.11.d.1.0. to cover the right flank of movement of 50th Battalion. The line C.11.d.1.0. through C.18.c.8.3., to C.24.d.8.6. will be held at all costs by "C" and "A" Companies, supported by "D" Company.
4. O/C "D" Company will place two platoons at disposal of ~~of~~ O/C "A" Company for support of left of 52nd Battalion line and for use in extension thereof if necessary. The remaining two Platoons of "D" Company will be held for support of the line as required.
5. RESERVE ("B" Company) will remain at present position, but will be in readiness to move NORTH to Sunken Road C.17.d.1.
6. Vickers Guns will co-operate from following positions :-
 - C.24. d 7.7.
 - C.24. b.2.6.
 - C.18. c 3.0.
 - C.17. d 8.4.
7. "C" Company will co-operate in any forward movement of 54th Battalion on our RIGHT, and will take advantage of any opportunity to move forward into D.19.b. and towards D.13. Central.
"A" Company will conform to any movement so made.
8. A Contact Aeroplane will fly over the line about 7-0 a.m. when flares, well distributed along the line are to be lit.
9. Zero time will be issued later.
Details of Artillery Barrage affecting 52nd Battalion are issued herewith.
10. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. will be at C.29.a.3.2.

C. J. Francis
 Captain.

Copies to :-

- No. 1 - File
- 2 - War Diary.
3. - C.O.
4. - "A" Coy. ✓
5. - "B" " ✓
6. - "C" " ✓
7. - "D" " ✓
8. - I.O.
9. - R.S.O. & R.M.O.
10. - 50 B.M.

Adjutant 52nd Battalion A.I.F.



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Appendix No 2

Appendix No 2

7

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

OPERATION ORDER NO.51.
 by
 Lieut-Colonel H. POPE C.B..
 Commanding 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

Reference Map. 1 / 20,000.

Battn H.Q. 6/4/17

-
1. The 13th Brigade takes over the line from C.6. Central to U.27 d.2.4., tonight. The 3rd Brigade will be on the Right; the 185th English Brigade will be on the Left.
 2. The 52nd Battalion will take over the line from C.4.b.8.6. to U.27.d.2.4., The 51st Battalion will be on the Right; the 2nd/7th West Yorks Battalion on the Left.
 3. OUTPOST COMPANIES. :-
 "B" Company :- C.4.b.8.6., to angle of Railway at U.28.c.8.4.
 "A" Company :- U.28.c.8.4., to Road crossing at U.27.d.2.4., (not inclusive of Road)
 Picquet Posts are to be established on the Railway Line - LOCAL SUPPORTS not more than 350 yards in rear.
 4. SUPPORTS :- "D" Company to take most suitable position on or about Road C.4.c.4.0., to C.4.e.4.2.,
 5. RESERVE :- "C" Company on SUNKEN ROAD C.9.a.b.d.,
 6. Arrangements have been made for the issue of 100 shovels and 50 picks per Company., 220 Rounds S.A.A., 2 Mills Grenades, and 24 hours rations to be carried. Packs to be dumped at C.M.Store.
 7. Battalion Headquarters will be at C.9.d.9.4., and R.A.P., in vicinity.

H. Pope
 Lieutenant.,
 Adjutant 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

- Copies to :-
1. - File.
 2. - War Diary.
 3. - C.O.
 4. - "A" Coy.
 5. - "B" "
 6. - "C" "
 7. - "D" "
 8. - I.O.
 9. - S.O., R.M.O.
 10. -

HA

S E C R E T.OPERATION ORDER NO52.BYLIEUT- COLONEL H. POPE C. B. COMMANDING KEEP BATTALION.Reference Map 03I D24.
I/20,000

Battn H. Q. IO/4/I7

- (1) This Battalion has been placed at the disposal of G. O. C. FACE BRIGADE who will carry out an operation against the HINDENBURG LINE as already explained verbally to officers
- (2) FACE BRIGADE will be formed up in rear of its jumping off line at 4-0a m, At 4-30a m, barrage fire commences and Tanks move forward. ZERO TIME 4-30 a m,
- (3) After FACE BRIGADE advances KEEP Battalion will be responsible for holding the Outpost Line linking with IOth Battalion at about C 6 Central on the right and 51st Battalion at about C 5 A 25 on the left.
- (4) Outpost Companies:- To be in position by 4-0a m, D Company will hold the line from Right of IOth Battalion (about C 6 Central) to C 5 B 55. C Company will hold the line from left of D Company and connect with 51st Battalion about C 5 A 25 .
- (5) C Company will be responsible for maintaining communication with 16th Battalion, whose Right Rear will be at U 30 A24
- (6) The position of Supports and Reserve Companies will be notified later, if not notified earlier O/C B Company will report at Battalion Head Quarters at 3-30 a m, ready to bring his Company to Support position, and O/C A Company at 4-0 am, ready to bring his Company to Reserve position Companies to be left South of NOREUIL.
- (7) Battalion H.Q. will be at C IO C.68 lately occupied by FAD Battalion.



Lieut.

A/Adjutant.



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SYLLABUS OF WORK FOR WEEK ENDING 21st April 1917

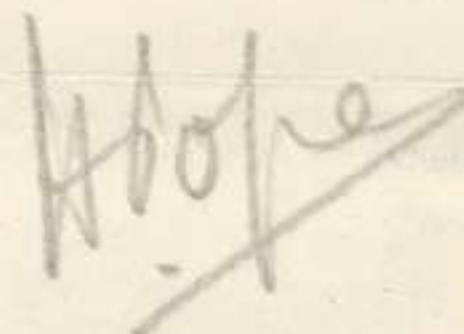
Day & Date	: Hours of Work	: Nature of Instruction.
EUNBDKY 17th April	9 to 10am.	Platoon and Company Commanders Inspection and Refitting Equipment.
	10 to 10-20am 10-30 to 12am	Rifle Exercises by Sections. Reorganisation of Platoon and Close Order Drill.
	2p.m. to 3-30 p.m.	Section and Platoon Drill. Attention being paid to saluting by individuals and Parties etc.
Wednesday. 18th April.	Ditto	Ditto Ditto
Thursday 19th April.		Companies Route March of 7 miles, Fighting Order. Route to be notified later.
Friday 20th April.	9 to 9-30am.	Inspection.
	9-30 to 10-20 a.m.	Rifle Exercises and Section Drill.
	10-30 to 12am	Musketry. Special attention being paid to <i>Rapid</i> Loading.
	2 to 3-30pm.	Bayonet Fighting. Guards and Sentries.
Saturday 21st April.		Same as Friday.

SPECIALIST TRAINING:

Lewis Gun Sections, Signallers, Bombing Sections, Scouts, and Snipers will be trained during afternoon hours shown above in accordance with Syllabus submitted by Officers detailed for their instruction. Course of instruction for Stretcher Bearers will be carried on with.

OFFICERS:

All Company Officers will assemble at rendezvous to be notified at 3-30p.m. daily to receive instruction re lectures etc.



Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 52nd Battalion A.I.F.

