

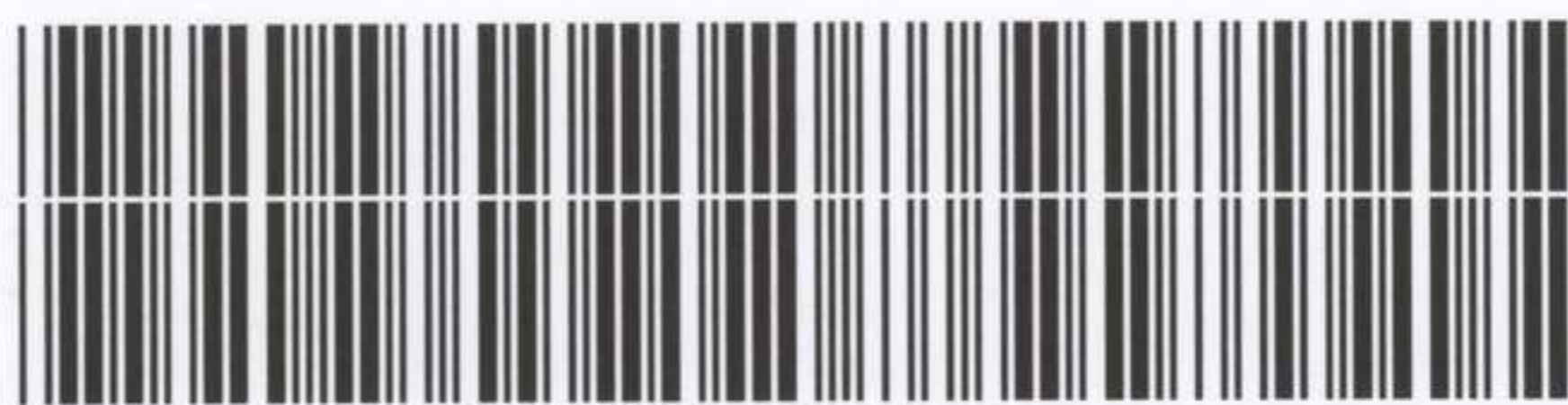
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/70/16

**Title:** 53rd Infantry Battalion

November 1917



AWM4-23/70/16

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																		
WIPPENHOEK AREA	1917 Nov. 1		<p>Effective Strength of Battalion -</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>With Unit</td> <td>Officers 23</td> <td>Other Ranks 680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brigade duties</td> <td></td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>in Hospital</td> <td></td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School</td> <td>5</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Command</td> <td>5</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>33</td> <td>784</td> </tr> </table> <p>Gas respirators and P.H helmets were inspected by the Divisional gas officer. A bayonet fighting course, completed by the Batt. Pioneers, became the scene of enthusiastic training. During the afternoon sand bag walls were erected around the tents to safeguard all ranks against bombs from hostile aircraft. Camouflage work was also carried out.</p> <p>The list of decorations in connection with the recent fighting at Polygon Wood - in which the Batt. played such</p>	With Unit	Officers 23	Other Ranks 680	Brigade duties		37	in Hospital		17	School	5	17	On Command	5	33		33	784	
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	2 <sup>nd</sup>																					

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIPPEHOOEK AREA.	NOV. 2		<p>a distinguished part, was received. The C.O. issued a special order (See Appendix II) adding his own congratulations to those of the Army, Corps, Divisional &amp; Brigade Commanders, to the recipients.</p> <p>The Batta<sup>n</sup> carried out a route march during the morning over a distance of 8 miles. The men plainly showed by their bearing the benefit derived from the recent bath, change of clothing and short rest. In the afternoon a military funeral was given to the late 4/cpl Mara W.G., one of our most gallant stretcher bearers, who was wounded in the recent fighting. Capt Lang M.C. was in charge of the funeral arrangements. A firing party from the Batta<sup>n</sup> paid a last tribute to the fallen soldier.</p>	<p>Decorations See Appendix II</p>
	NOV 3		<p>Capt<sup>AE</sup> Jackson M.C. returned from leave. Squads S.R. Eastment, who left the Batta<sup>n</sup> as a lance sergeant to attend the Cadet School at Cambridge, rejoined &amp; was posted to C Coy</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIPPEYHOEK AREA to NEUF BERQUIN AREA.	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The Battalion moved by route march to the NEUF BERQUIN AREA via FLETRE STRAZEELE, MERRIS &amp; OUTER STEENE. Packs &amp; Hanks were carried by motor lorry. The men showed their appreciation of this transportation by a particularly fine march which drew comments from the Brigadier &amp; C.O. Our billets were scattered over a large area, D Coy being one mile distant from Headquarters, but on the whole were comfortable.</p>	
Sheet 36 <sup>A</sup> F. Squares 15, 21, 22.	5 to 8 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup>		<p>After the first morning, which was given over to the improvement of billets &amp; selection of Training &amp; Sports grounds, Training was resumed. The hours of training were from 9 am to 1 pm. Baths were also allotted to Companies and a change of clothing arranged.</p> <p>The Intelligence Section, Signallers and Lewis Gunners trained under their respective Officers, the Lewis Gunners taking advantage of a miniature range for firing practice.</p> <p>Lt Colonel Chessman M.C. lectured to the Officers on Outposts.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEUF BERQUIN AREA to LOCRE AREA (SHEET 28 M 29 C 7-7)	Nov 10.		The Battalion moved by march route to WAKEFIELD CAMP in the LOCRE AREA, via OUTERSTEENE, a distance of 8 miles. Rain fell during the morning. The move was completed by midday.	
LOCRE AREA to KEMMEL AREA (SHEET 28 N 22 d 6.1)	11		The Battalion moved by march route to PARRAIN FARM in the KEMMEL AREA, via LOCRE and KEMMEL. This was a march of only 4 miles <del>was</del> but, nevertheless, a heavy one owing to the wet state of the roads. Both this Camp and the previous one, were extremely comfortable considering their proximity to the front line.	
	12		A party consisting of Major J. J. Murray M.C., Capt W. E. Smith, Capt J. Lang M.C., Lt J. Ridley 2nd Lt J. Denton and 127 privates proceeded to the transport lines at NORFOLK CAMP (SHEET 28 N 23 a 18) to form a Battalion nucleus. Their training was carried out while the Battalion remained in the line.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KEMMEL AREA to Support LINE.	Nov 12		<p>The Battalion moved at 4.15pm into the WYTSCHAETE sector and relieved a Wiltshire Battalion in the Support line. The relief was completed by 6.30pm without a casualty. Our dispositions were as follows. Headquarters TORREKEN FARM (SHEET 28.020d22), and a Company at The Catacombs (O1968.3), LANCASHIRE HOUSE (O19d9.9), LUMM FARM O26 d 2.7, and at O20 a 3.6 (See Appendix III).</p>	<p>Operation order see Appendix IV.                      Map of dispositions see Appendix III.</p>
Support Line to Front Line	13		<p>At night the Battalion relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorkshires Battalion in the front line. We held the area bounded on the north by the ROOZEBEEK and on the south by the WAMBEEK. with 2 Companies in the front line - with a line of fortified posts forward - and 2 Companies in Support. Accommodation in the front line was fair but, owing to lack of drainage and the recent rains, the forward shell hole posts were scarcely habitable.</p>	

## WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	NOV 13		The mud was as bad as that experienced on the SOMME in the early part of the year. Draining and muckment works were at once commenced, and the wiring around the forward posts strengthened.	
	14.		At 6 am an enemy patrol of 10 men attempted to raid C Company advanced post. They succeeded in crawling up to our wire and then commenced throwing bombs. Our men easily repulsed the enemy, with rifle fire and bombs, who retired leaving 2 killed. Several were obviously wounded, and carried off with difficulty.	
	15.		Enemy machine guns, which had been quiet during the day, opened briskly towards evening. At 9.50 pm a small party of the enemy attacked B Company's advanced post with bombs but was driven off. It could not be observed what casualties were inflicted by us. Previous to this our left front and left support Companies	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	Nov 15		<p>were relieved by the 5<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>. The relief was completed by 7.45pm without loss. Our front line now ran from (SHEET 28) O23a 9.6 to O23c 7.2. The 5<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> was on our right. The dispositions of the Battalion were now: Headquarters at TORREKEN FARM O20d 2.3, and Companies at CATACOMBS, LANCASHIRE HOUSE, SUPPORT LINE and FRONT LINE. (See Appendix III)</p>	<p>Operation order see Appendix V  <u>Appendix III</u></p>
	16		<p>Much work had been done to improve the accommodation in OUSE trench so as to permit the fourth platoon of the Support Company - hitherto sheltered at ORIEL trench - to occupy that trench.</p>	
	17		<p>The enemy attempted a small raid on one of our posts but, after sustaining several casualties, retired.</p>	
	18		<p>Our own patrols scoured Roman land and searched</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	Nov 18		<p>the valley of the Wamboek. At daybreak a party of the enemy numbering about 30 crept to within 50 yards of an unoccupied <sup>portion</sup> of our line before being observed. They threw bombs into the trench and then beat a hasty retreat along the valley of the Wamboek, carrying their casualties off with them. At least 4 were wounded.</p>	
	19		<p>Enemy Artillery bombarded our front line but did little damage. A patrol of 5 reconnoitred RIFLE FARM (O23a 29) which was found to be strongly held and heavily wired. All the patrol returned safely. The wiring of our front trench was now complete and stretched across the whole of our sector. Also 3 new advanced posts were completed in place of the existing ones. These posts were properly sited, drained, had a good field of fire and afforded cover for the Garrison.</p>	
	20		<p>Plut W. S. Wilson, who left the Battalion last March to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Division and Sgt J. B. Hastings who, when a Sergeant,</p>	

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**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	Nov 20		<p>was selected to attend the Cadet School in England, rejoined the Battalion. A patrol searched the Valley of the Wambeek and secured useful identification of the enemy. We had 1 Casualty. (See Appendix I). Our active patrol policy was obviously having the desired effect for, while a week ago the enemy patrols almost nightly raided our advanced posts, our patrols now traversed No Mans Land without finding a trace of an enemy party.</p>	Appendix I
	21		<p>A Battalion relief was carried out at night and all Companies had changed round by 7 pm without loss. A patrol left our lines with the object of reconnoitering Wam Farm - an enemy strong point at O 23 d 10.75 - and if possible to make an entry. The enemy, however, showed much activity and our patrol, after making an examination of the wire entanglement, came under the fire of several machine guns. They retired safely to cover.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	Nov 21		Capt J. V. Silva returned to the Battalion from the 6th Aust Division. Our snipers who had been considerably hampered for some days by the low visibility obtained excellent results. A working party was scattered at extreme range and one killed, while an officer - riding at 1000 yards - was shot from his horse.	
	23		Capt J. Lang left the Battalion to report to the India Office, London, with the object of joining the permanent forces in India. A patrol reconnoitred an enemy trench 300 yards in advance of our line without finding trace of the enemy. This trench had previously been used as a jumping off place for raiding parties. An inter Company relief was carried out in the early part of the night.	
	24-26		Our patrols were active and gained important knowledge of the enemy's doings and dispositions. The Intelligence Section observed considerable movement during the 26th.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE	Nov 24-25 <sup>th</sup>		and, on one occasion, gave information to the Artillery of a working party which was successfully shelled. On the same day the Battalion Headquarters were heavily shelled. No material damage resulted.	
	27		<p>Summary of work. During the 16 days the Battalion had been in the line large parties were engaged daily, on the improvement of defences and extension of accommodation, while others carried material from dumps. Much of the material was salvaged. (For weekly reports see Appendices VII, VIII)</p> <p>5 new posts were dug and consolidated while, in OLG A trench, 16 shelters were constructed to accommodate 64 men, duckboards relaid &amp; wired, and the drainage system improved. Similarly Ouse Trench, R.A.P. and Manchester Street - the last named in conjunction with the Divisional Pioneers - were improved till now, it can safely be said that the Sector is in good condition. The whole of our front was revised.</p>	<p>Works in } Line } Appendices } VII, VIII</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LINE to KEMMEL AREA	Nov 18		<p>The Battalion was relieved by the 60th Aust Battalion (Appendix VI) The relief was carried out soon after dusk and completed by 6.30pm without a casualty. The last Company arrived at our new quarters - RAMILLIES Camp, (Sheet 28. N 27 a 9.3) - at 9pm when a hot meal was served to the men. The nucleus party had arrived during the afternoon and made all arrangements for the reception of those from the line. The Battalion was fortunate during this tour of 16 days for not only was the weather favorable most of the time, but our casualties were slight. (see Appendix I). A number of those wounded have already rejoined.</p>	<p>Operation Order see Appendix VI Casualties Appendix I</p>
	29		<p>Baths were allotted to the Battalion and a change of clothing issued to the men. Pay was distributed. RAMILLIES Camp was most comfortable and, besides a sufficiency of huts, possessed most of the conveniences of a modern camp.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KENNEL AREA	Nov 29 30		<p>Reinforcements were allotted to Companies. Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders for reorganisation, inspection of equipment and kits, and general training. The Sports Committee arranged a programme of events with the object of selecting the Battalion's representative teams in the coming Divisional Sports. Inter Company rivalry was as keen - if not keener - than usual and good contests assured.</p>	
Strength of the Battalion -			Officers    privates	
with Unit			28	649
Brigade duties				48
In Hospital				31
School			2	15
On Command			6	95
Total			36	838

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>casualty Return</i>	
	<i>Nov 20</i>		<i>Killed on patrol. Lieut Lufane</i>	
	<i>29</i>		<i>Total casualties during tour in line -</i>	
			<i>Officers      ORanks</i>	
			<i>Killed            1            1</i>	<i>(Lieut Lufane)</i>
			<i>Wounded        1            5</i>	<i>(Capt Swobbers)</i>
			<i>Evacuations                    26</i>	
			<u>                  2            32</u>	

APPENDIX /



## SPECIAL ORDER.

By  
LIEUT. COLONEL W. J. R. CHEESEMAN, M.C. COMMANDING 53RD BATTALION, A. I. F.  
2/II/1917.

Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has awarded the under-mentioned Decorations :-

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER. (D.S.O.).

Captain P. T. ROBERTS.

THE MILITARY CROSS. (M.C.).

Captain G. A. JHONSON.

Lieut. A. C. ELLIOT.

Lieut. H. S. GELDARD.

THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL. (D.C.M.).

2121 Sgt. A. M. ALLISON.  
4905 Sgt. G. L. DOLAN.  
6074 L/Cpl. H. HUBBERT.  
2244 Pte. G. C. A. SMALL.

Under authority granted by His Majesty the King, the Corps Commander has awarded the MILITARY MEDAL to the under-mentioned N.C.O.s and Men:-

1879 Pte. BROMWICH W.  
5448 Pte. ROWLEY J. R.  
5416 L/Cpl. McCALLUM A.  
2518 L/Sgt. RALPH P. E.  
3261 Sgt. COOLING S. F.  
582 L/Cpl. YOUNIES G. E.  
1559 Pte. HOCKLEY H.  
5382 Cpl. JACKSON R. A.

The Army, Corps, Divisional and Brigade Commanders wish to convey their congratulations to the recipients.

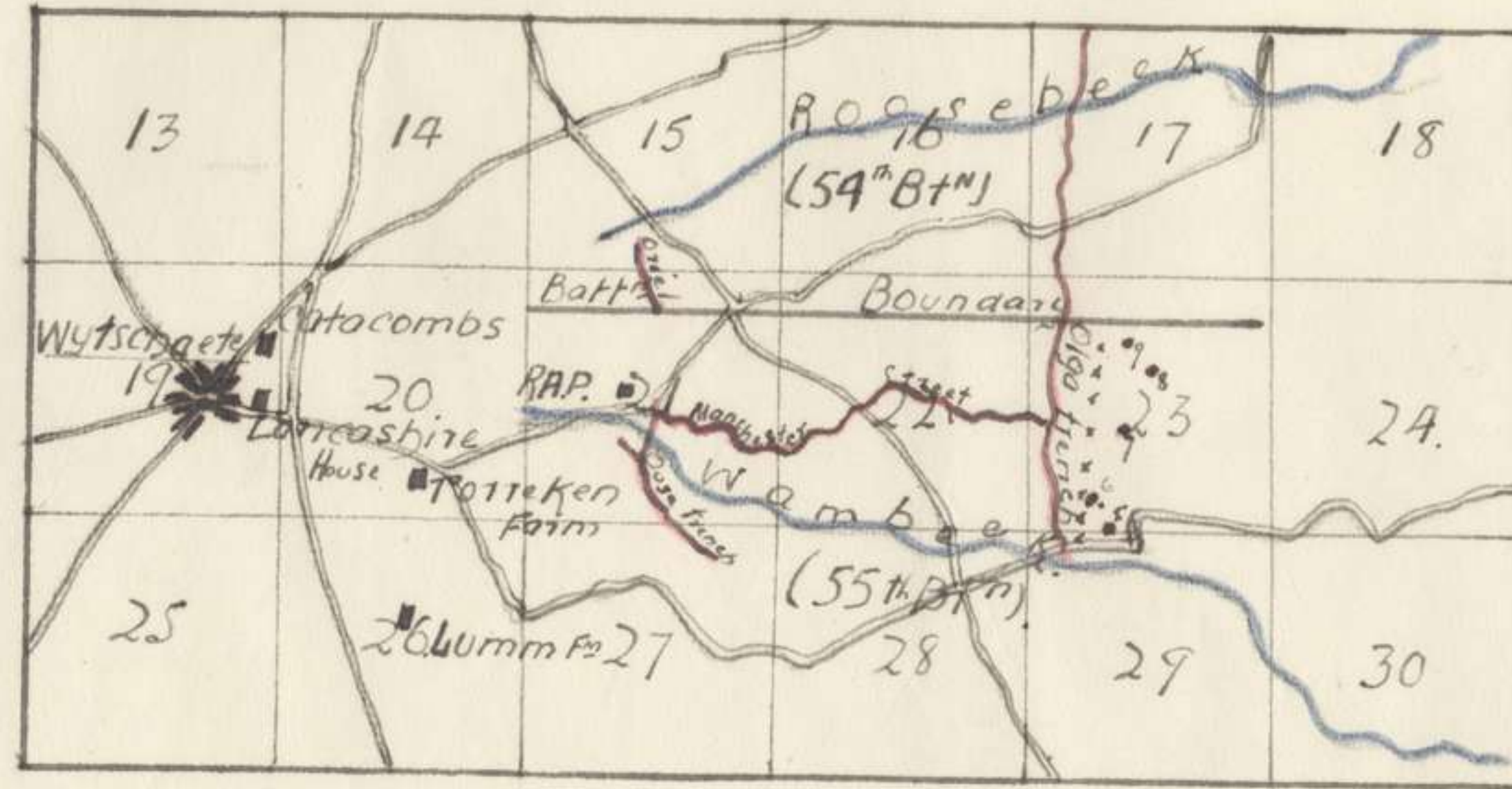
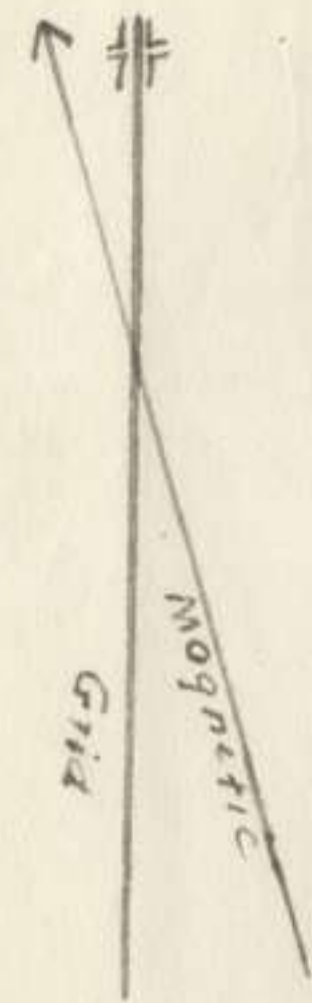
The Commanding Officer desires to add his congratulations.

*A. C. Elliot*

Lieut.  
Adjutant 53rd Battalion, A. I. F.



SHEET 28. O. Squares 13-30.



Scale 1:40,000. Sides of Squares 1000 yds.

OPERATION ORDER No. 5

Volume 21 Appendix

- (1) The 14th Australian Infantry Brigade will relieve the 21st. Infantry Brigade in the Line on the nights 12th:13th and 13th:14th. November.

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- (2) The 53rd Battalion will relieve the 2nd. Bn. Wiltshire Regt. in the Support Line on the night of 12th/13th and the 2nd Bn. Yorkshire Regt. in the Front Line Left Sub-sector on the night of 13th/14th.

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- (3) Relief on 12th/13th. will be as follows-  

"A" Coy., 53rd Bn.	will relieve	"D" Coy., Wilts.
"B" Coy., 53rd Bn.	"	"C" Coy., Wilts.
"C" Coy., 53rd Bn.	"	"A" Coy., Wilts.
"D" Coy., 53rd Bn.	"	"B" Coy., Wilts.

One guide per platoon and one for Headquarters will meet incoming Units at Lamp Post Corner (O.19. c. 5.6.) at 5 pm/

---

- (4) Relief on 13th/ 14th will be as follows.  

"A" Coy., 53rd Bn.	will relieve	"A" Coy. Yorks.	in front line	(O. 23. c. 2.6.)
"B" Coy., "	"	"B" Coy. "	in Right Support Line	(O.21.c.9.4.)
"C" Coy., "	"	"C" Coy. "	in Front Line.	Right (O.23.c.2.6.)
"D" Coy., "	"	"D" Coy. "	In Left Support Line	(O.22.a.3.9.)

Battalion Headquarters will be at PRINCE RUPERT'S Dug Out (O.20. b.2.2.)  
Guides will report to Company Headquarters at 4.30PM on 13th.

---

- (5) All movement east of a line drawn North & South through O.19. c.50.65. will be after dark; and by Platoons with 100 yards interval. Movement West of this Line will be by Companies with 200 yards interval.

---

- (6) All anti-aircraft defence positions as at present distributed will be taken over by Battalions.

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- (7) All trench stores; ammunition, defence schemes, secret documents and details of work in progress will be taken over. Duplicate receipts will be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible.

---

- (8) Advance parties of I Officer, C.S.M., and I Signaller per Coy., will proceed as follows;-  
On 12th/13th to meet Guides from 2nd Wilts., at Lamp Post Corner at 2-30 P/M.  
On 13th/14th. to report at Support Battalion Headquarters, TORRENKEN FARM (O.20. d.2.3.) at 3 P.M.  
"A" Coy. Advance Party will remain at "C" Coy. Headquarters till dark enough to proceed to WALL FARM.

*Charles Elliot Pratt*  
Lieut  
Adjutant  
53rd Batt

- (9) Lewis Guns and Magazines and Signalling Gear will be loaded on Limbers at 3 P.M. under the direction of the Lewis Gun Officer "A" & "D" Coys. will share 1 Limber and "B" & "C" Coys. 1 limber. Each Coy. will detail one No. 1 Lewis Gunner to accompany Limbers which will move in rear of the Battalion and be unloaded at "DUD CORNER" (O.20. c.2.8.) O. C. Coys. will send a party to fetch guns and Magazines from Dud Corner on arrival; also 1 Signaller to remove Signalling gear.
- 
- (10) The Battalion will move from its present Camp in the Following order;- "HQ", "B"; "A"; "D"; "C";. The head of the column will pass the camp entrance at 4.15PM. The following intervals will be maintained ;- between platoons ..... 100 Yards.  
" Companies..... 200 Yards.
- 
- (11) Regimental Aid Post will be situated as follows;-  
When in Support Line. LANCASHIRE HOUSE (O.19. d.9.9.)  
When in Front Line (O.21. c. 9.9.)
- 
- (12) On completion of reliefs the words "RUM JAR" will be sent by telephone to Battalion Headquarters.
- 
- (13) The Battalion will move off to-day 12th inst., in FULL MARCHING ORDER-- Both Blankets will be carried-- Sandbags to be worn instead of Puttees which will be carried in packs. Respirators to be carried at the "ALERT". 120 Rounds of S.A.A to be carried on the man.
- 
- (14) Rations; 24 Hours Rations will be carried on the man.  
Water; Each Company will send 5 men to draw water from DUD CORNER on arrival to-night. Water tins issued to-night are to be dumped at Front Line R.A.P. when Companies pass same on the way to the Line to-morrow night.
- 
- (15) Gun Boots. "A" & "C" Coys. will draw Gun Boots from the Gun Boot Store at O. 20 b 7 5 on their way to the Front Line to-morrow night 13th/14th inst. Ankle boots will be kept in packs. Each of above Companies will send forward one N.C.O and 3 men with a list of the number and sizes of the boots required in sufficient time to enable them to have the boots ready on the arrival of the Companies.
- 
- (16) Socks. O. C. Companies will ensure that socks are changed daily and dirty socks returned by Ration Party to R.A.P. These socks to be rolled in pairs and tied in sandbags, securely labelled shewing Company and number of pairs in each bag.
- 
- (17) Anti-trench-foot Precautions. A Certificate will be rendered to B.O.R. by 3-30PM to-day that all men have washed their feet in hot water with ~~Sap~~ Saphor Soap and dusted them with Foot-Powder and put on a dry pair of socks. During the period the Battalion remains in the forward area a certificate will be rendered daily that all feet have been inspected and rubbed with foot-powder. Every possible opportunity should be taken of washing feet in hot water.
- 
- (18) Salvage. Unit Commanders are again reminded of the importance of salvaging all material. Any Salvage by this Unit will be dumped at VERNE DUMP ( O21 central, approx) and a receipt obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters. Owing to the scarcity of water tins in this area all Water

OPERATION ORDER NO.5. (Continued)

Tins must be returned to R.A.P. for return to Transport Lines. Owing to the shortage of Sandbags strict supervision in their use must be exercised to ensure that none are wasted.

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(19) ~~Additional~~ Attention is drawn to Divisional Memos already circulated in reference to camouflaging all new works and the works pomicy while in the Line.

(20) Reports etc. While the Battalion is in the forward area the following Reports will be required; Ration State and Casualty Return, daily Intelligence Summary. The above must reach Battalion Headquarters by 6am Daily.

(21) Marching Out States to be at B.O.R. by 3 pm this afternoon.

- Copy No. 1 Filed
- " 2 "A" Coy.
- " 3 "B" Coy.
- " 4 "C" Coy.
- " 5 "D" Coy.
- " 6 Headquarters.
- " 7 R/Q/M & Transport Officer
- " 8 Officers Mess.
- " 9 C.O.

*Abellios*

Lieut.  
Adjutant 53rd. Battalion A.I.F.

14/11/1917.

261 Sheet  
28 S.W. 2  
10900

Volume 1 - Appendix

1. The 54th. Battalion will take over the Left Sector of the present 53rd. Battalion front on the night of 15th./16th. inst.
2. The following reliefs will take place:-  
 " " Company, 54th. Battalion will relieve "A" Coy., 53rd. Bn. in Front Line Left.  
 " " Company 54th. Bn. will relieve "D" Company 53rd. Bn. in Left Support.
3. The following Battalion Reliefs will also take place:-  
 "B" Coy., 53rd. Bn. will relieve "C" Coy., 53rd. Bn. in Front Line Right.  
 "D" Coy., 53rd. Bn. will relieve "B" 53rd. Bn. in Right Support.
4. On relief "C" Coy., 53rd. Bn. will move to LANCASHIRE HOUSE and "A" Coy., 53rd. Bn. to CATACOMBS.
5. O.S.C. "B", "C", & "D" Coys. will make mutual arrangements re Guides, taking over etc., reporting completion of Reliefs to Battalion H.Q. by sending the word "WHISKEY" by 'phone.
6. O.C. "D" Coy. will send 1 Officer to Battn. H.Q. at 2 p.m. to hand over to Advance Party of 54th. Battn. the position occupied by "D" Coy. when the Battn. was in supports.
7. O.C. "D" Coy. will supply Guides to meet incoming Battn. at DUD CORNER at 5 p.m.  
 8 Guides will be required - 4 to guide Company relieving "A" Coy. and 4 to guide Coy. relieving "D" Company.  
 The Guides for Company relieving "A" Coy. will guide 2 platoons to "A" Coy. Picquet Line and remainder to Coy. to WALL FARM.  
 Care must be taken that these Guides know exactly where to lead incoming Unit.  
 An Officer will be in charge of these Guides and will report to Battn. H.Q. at 4-30 P.M. for Instructions.
8. "B" Coy. will arrange with R.S.M. at Gum-boot Store to draw Gum-boots during the day BY SMALL PARTIES.
9. "A" & "C" Coys. will send out parties of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men to report to C.Q.M.Sgts. at R.A.P. at 6 P.M. to load Coy. Packs on limbers and unload them on arrival at new Coy. H.Q..
10. Cooking for Support and Front Line Coys. will be done at R.A.P. Remaining Coys. will cook under Company arrangements. Support Company will arrange Carrying Parties for Front Line Coy. Rations.
11. All maps, Stores, etc., will be handed over and receipts obtained and forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 6 A.M. on 16th. inst.
12. Coys. will make a careful check of all Gum-boots returned and obtain a receipt from Gum-boot store. A copy of this receipt to be handed to Bn. H.Q. by 6 a.m. on the 16th. inst..
13. "B" Coy. will stack packs at R.A.P. during the afternoon BY SMALL PARTIES. "D" Coy. will provide a Pack Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to relieve "B" Coy's. Guard at R.A.P. by 2 P.M..
14. "D" Coy. will make arrangements with R.E. Officer working in the vicinity of their new position to provide accommodation for the Platoon at present in ORIEL TRENCH to be accommodated with the rest of the Company as soon as possible. In the meantime 1 Platoon will remain in ORIEL TRENCH.
15. Battn. H.Q. will move to TORREKEN FARM (O.20.d.2.3.) on completion of Relief.

16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

- Copy No. 1 Filed.
- Copy No. 2 "A" Coy.
- Copy No. 3 "B"

*Al Ellis*

Lieut.

Adjutant 53rd

OPERATION -  
SECRET -  
I/40600.

OPERATION - ORDER No. 7, 53rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

Copy No.

27th November, 1917.

Volume 1 - Appendix

1. The Battalion will be relieved on the night of 28th/29th November by 60th Battalion, A.I.F.
2. The relief will be carried out as follows:-  
 "D" Coy. 60th Bn. will relieve "C" Coy. 53rd Bn. in Front Line.  
 "B" Coy. 60th Bn. will relieve "B" Coy. 53rd Bn. in Supports.  
 "C" Coy. 60th Bn. will relieve "D" Coy. 53rd Bn. at LABOASNIERE BARRIERS.  
 "A" Coy. 60th Bn. will relieve "A" Coy. 53rd Bn. at CASAGNON.
3. I Guide from "A" & "D" Coys. and H.Q. will meet Advance Parties of 60th Battalion at MAIN DRESSING STATION (G.I.S.I.S) at 12 Noon to-morrow, 28th instant.  
 "D" Company will supply 10 guides to be at LAST POST CORNER (G.I.S.S.S) at 4.45 p.m. These guides will be allotted 1 for each platoon and 1 for company H.Q. of both Front Line and Support Company.  
 H.Q. will supply 1 guide to be at same place at same time to guide Battalion Headquarters.  
 O.C. "C" Coy. will arrange for guides for each shell-hole post to be ready to meet relieving posts on arrival at Picquet Line.
4. No troops are to move before 5 p.m.
5. All maps, aeroplane photographs and documents relating to the sector, Gun spots, ammunition, grenades, etc. will be handed over and receipts forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 10 a.m. on 29th instant.
6. (a) All Anti-aircraft Lewis Gun positions will be handed over to incoming units.  
 (b) Detail of all working parties to 12th Field Coy. will be handed over to incoming units.
7. On completion of relief the word "JUBILANT" will be phoned to Battalion Headquarters.
8. Limbers as under will be available for carrying Lewis Guns and magazines, etc.:  
 H.Q. ... One and a half Limbers to be at Junction of VASSE ROAD and packboard Track at 5 p.m.  
 "A" and "D" Coys. ... 1 Limber to be at DUB CORNER at 5 p.m.  
 "B" and "C" Coys. ... 1 Limber to be at R.A.F. at 5 p.m.  
 Salted cart to be at R.A.F. at 5 p.m.  
 "C" Companies Packs will be taken to H.Q. Store by Transport to-night.
9. O.C. Units will ensure that all Trenches, dugouts, shelters, etc. occupied by them are left in a clean and sanitary condition, and will forward certificates to this effect to H.Q. by 10 a.m. on 29th instant.
10. On relief Companies will proceed to BAILLES CAMP. Guides to be furnished from Details will meet Companies at H.S.I.S.S.S (entrance to BAILLES).
11. H.Q. will arrange for a Hot Meal to be ready on arrival of Companies.
12. O.C. Details will make arrangements for taking over and allotting the new camp, also for supplying guides as in para. 10.

**ACKNOWLEDGE**

- Copy No. 1 File.
- Copy No. 2 "A" Coy.
- Copy No. 3 "B" Coy.
- Copy No. 4 "C" Coy.
- Copy No. 5 "D" Coy.
- Copy No. 6 Headquarters.
- Copy No. 7 Quartermaster.
- Copy No. 8 O.C. Details.

*(Signature)*  
 Adjutant, 53rd Battalion, A.I.F.  
 Lieut.

WORKS REPORT for week ending 20th Novr. 1917.  
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Work has been continuously carried out by the Battalion during the week and most of the men have been engaged daily.

ADVANCED POSTS. The existing posts were unsatisfactory owing to the lack of drainage and cover and they only commanded a poor field of fire. Three posts have already been completed in the place of Nos 5, 6 and 7; These posts are properly revetted, well drained and have an excellent field of fire. Good accommodation has also been provided for. The work of replacing the two remaining posts is in progress.

TRENCHES. OLGA TRENCH was in a poor state of repair and much work was necessary to provide proper drainage and accommodation. Seven (7) weather and splinter and proof shelters, capable of holding 4 men each, have been completed and existing shelters improved. The duckboards in this trench are now properly laid and the whole Revetment work is in progress.

Wired.

OUSE TRENCH, (Support), which previously sheltered 3 Platoons necessitating that the 4th Platoon of the Support Company be detached at ORIEL TRENCH - has been extended and accommodation added and improved to permit of the whole Company occupying the trench.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION. MANCHESTER STREET. Our parties have been engaged on this sap-in conjunction with Pioneers - laying duckboards, draining etc., and have wired some 200 yards.

2 Duckboard tracks have been laid from VERNE STREET to the R.A.P. and a track from VERNE STREET to TORREKEN FARM.

BATTAL ON HEADQUARTERS. Several improvements have been made at TORREKEN FARM to provide for better accommodation.

R.A.P. The R.A.P. which previously consisted of one small shelter has been improved by the addition of 2 underground chambers capable of holding 20 men.

WIRING. Wiring parties have been at work daily strengthening the wire in front of OLGA TRENCH and have completed the wiring on the right of our sector to the Battalions boundary. The entanglement is now continuous across the front of our sector. Fencing wire has also been erected. All the Outposts are well protected by barbed wire entanglements.

MATERIAL. Much material has been required for these works and improvements necessitating large parties daily and salvage work and carrying.

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## 53rd BATTALION A.I.F.

WORKS REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 27th 1917.

- Volume 21 - Appendix III 261*
- ADVANCED POSTS.** Improvements have been made to Posts Nos. 5, - and 7 by the addition of duckboards and revetment work. A new post has been completed in lieu of No. 9 Post which commands a better field of fire and has a poorer approach for the enemy. The location of this post is O.23.a.8.5. Cover has been provided for the garrison and duckboards laid on the bottom of the post.
- TRENCHES.**
- OLGA TRENCH.** A party of 25 men have been engaged daily on the erection of shelters in this Trench under the supervision of an Engineer. The number of weather and splinter proof shelters has been increased from 7 to 15 affording extra accommodation for 32 men. All shelters have been duckboarded and are now well fitted for the oncoming winter. The drainage of this trench has been improved and revetment work carried out. The trench is now able to accommodate a garrison of 110 men.
- OUSE TRENCH.** Further improvements have been effected to the drainage of the trench, and the accommodation increased by the erection of shelters : There is now sufficient shelter for 130 men:
- WIRING:** A second row of barbed wire has been erected around posts Nos. 5 6 7 & 9 at a distance of more than bombing range. An additional 80 yards of wire entanglement has been put out on the left of OLGA TRENCH and most of the line across our front strengthened.
- LINE OF COMMUNICATION** The duckboards tracks (2) leading from Verne Road to the R.A.P. and from Verne Road to Torrenken Farm have been wired. A second overland telephone wire has been laid to connect Battalion Headquarters with the Support and Front Line Companies.
- BOMBS.** All bombs at the Battalion dump - POLKA ESTAMINET - have been detonated.
- MATERIAL CARRIED FORWARD.** Besides the parties required to carry P.E. material from the Railway Dump and salvage material to the front line for the Battalion's works, and a party of 30 to carry up rations, others have carried Stokes' for the L.T.M.B. or material for the 177th Tunnelling Coy., at In-de-Sterkte CABARET. A large party has also worked on the construction of strong points near MANCHESTER STREET under the 14th Field Coy Engineers. An idea may be formed of the improvements carried out in the front system of defence by the following list of material carried forward by our parties during the past week.

Concertina	Barbed wire	65 Coils.
Plain Wire		5 "
Corkscrews, long & medium		360
Iron Cupolas		44
Sandbags		1200
Duckboards		90
Camouflage		17 Rolls
Malthoid		10 "
Galvanised Iron		107 sheets
Mining sets		8
"A" Frames		7