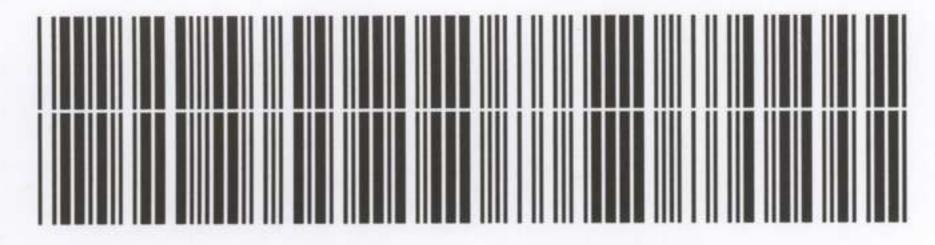
AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/22

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

November 1917



AWM4-23/73/22

WAR DIARY

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIPPEN	NOV.		Weather fine and mild.	
	10		Syllabus of Training carried out during the morning comprised Battalion Drill, Company Exercises, Bayonet Fighting etc.	
			7 men were evacuated to Hospital and 2 men rejoined ex schools.	
	2.		Weather dull and mild. Training was carried out in accordance with Brigade Syllabus: Company Exercises and Steadying Drill.	
			During the morning Advanced Party from a Canadian Unit arriwed and took over the camp occupied by the Reinforcements. Arrangements were made to draw sufficient tents to	
			accomodate them from Wippenhoek Area. After a good deal of delay these were drawn and erected in proximity to the remainder of the Battalion Billets.	
	3.		Lieut. Bentley and 4 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital. 4 men left to attend Signalling School. Weather fine.	
	0.		The Battalion including Transport carried out a Route March, as per attached March Order Nop60, returning to Billets at 12,30 p.m.	
		11.45 a.m. 12.15	The following message was received from Brigade: - "The Brigade will move to BERQUIN AREA " to-morrow aaa Send Advance party to report to Brigade at 2 p.m." A further message from Briggde reads: - "Strength of Advance party 1 Officer and 1 N.C.O.	
		p.m.	"per Co." Orders were also received to draw 80,000 rounds of S.A.A. at 2 p.m. The Advance Party was detailed but reported to Brigade a little later owing to all ranks	
			being out on the Route March. S. A. A. was drawn during the afternoon.	
		9.45 p.m. 10.15	Brigade Order No. 126 was received to the effect that the BnL would move to BERQUIN Area to-morrow. Battalion Move Order No. 61 (as per copy attached) was issued.	
	4.	p.m.	1 man evacuated to Hospital. Weather dull and cold.	
		9.10 a.m.	The Battalion moved off and joined the remainder of the Brigade in the march to BERQUIN Area, which was by way of GODEWAERSVELDE - FLETRE - STRAZEELE to about 2 Kilos S.W. of	
			The Battalion had the use of 2m motor lorries to carry the mens' packs and blankets. A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

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	NOV.			
BERQUII			The marching throughout was very good and no men fell out. Distance about 25 Kilos.	
AREA	4.		Billets taken over on arrival were good but very much scattered.	
	5.		Weather fine. Training was carried out from 10 a.m. to 12,30 p.m. and was devoted to Inspections, Platoon	
			exercises, Steadving Drill and Rifle Exercises,	
			on made an inspection of all Rillets and supervised the training carried out.	
			G.O.C. Brigade visited the Battalion area during the morning and made inquiries and made	
			how the Battalion was fixed up.	
			1 man departed on leave.	
			4 other ranks left to attend Brigade Signal School.	
			12 men rejoined ex sick and ex wounded.	
	6.		Weather fine.	
		THE REAL PROPERTY.	The following Syllabus of Training was carried out: - Company Inspections, Lectures on Advance	
			and Rear Guard work with Billiard Table formations, and practice of Advanced and Rear Guard work. In addition all Specialists and Lewis Gunners carried out training under their res-	
			pective Instructors. Staff parades of Corporals and Lance Corporals took place during the	
			afternoon. 10% other ranks were supplied for duty with 14th Machine Gun Co. and 5 other ranks for 14th	
			L.T.M.B. These men if suitable will be transferred to the above Units.	
	14 6. 74		3 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
3.00	7.		Weather throughout the day was showery and cold.	
	(0		In addition to Speciabist Training Company Inspections, Physical Training, Organized Games	
THE STREET			and Company Drill were carried out.	
			Staff Parade of Corporals and Lance Corporals was held as yesterday.	
		-	Tieut T watt rejoined ex wounded and Lieut C.T. Bentley ex sick.	
			Lieut. J. Rew proceeded on leave to U.K. and Lieut. A.H. Grimsley to G.H.Q. Small Arms School.	
1	-		3 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
			le other Ranks rejained ex Sick and ex Wounded and 3 men ex leave.	
			During the evening the Divisional Concert party gave a performance in the Battallon Area which	
	E BEAT	12.74	was much ampreciated by all ranks	Currier Size
		10,15	Information was received from Brigade to the effect that the Battalion will move to CORPS	
		p.m.	STAGING AREA on the loth inst.	
	-		A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	
	The State of	Tool .		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BERQU AREA.		11. a.m. 9 p.m.	The morning was fine and cold but the afternoon was dull with occasional showers. Specialist Training, Platoon and Company Drill, Rifle exercises and Company inspections were carried out. G.O.C.Brigade and Staff Captain called at Battalion Headquarters. At 5.30 p.m. Captain Smythe M.C. delivered a Lecture to all Officers. Instructions were received from Brigade for Advanced party of 4 Officers and 8 N.C.O's to report to Staff Captain at LOCRE at 10 a.m. to-morrow. Party was at once detailed. O Brigade Order No.117 was received and acknowledged. Information was also received that 2 lorries would be at disposal of the Battalion. The following message was also received: "S.O.C. will visit Forward Area to-morrow. Car will call for C.O. between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m."	
	9		Weather fine and cold. Companies were to-day at disposal of Company Commanders for training from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. G.O.C.Brigade called for C.O. and they then proceeded to Forward Area. Lieut J. Admas rejoined ex wounded.	
	10	8.25 a.m.	Battalion Order No.62 (copy attached) was issued regarding the move to LOCRE. Weather cold and wet. The Battalion moved off. Transport followed in rear and had the assistance of two motor lorries to carry blankets and stores. No men fell out on the march and the Camp was reached about noon. There was ample accommodation for all ranks and the camp generally was very good. C.O. held a meeting of all Officers and discussed the impending tour of duty in the line.	
		mid-	Advance Party of 2 Officers and 4 N.C.O's went forward to LINDENHOEK Camp in accordance with instructions. Lieut. D. A. Meehan M.C. and 1 N.C.O.left for 2nd Army School. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital. Lieut. B.F. Pennefather rejoined ex leave. (See Bw. Order 7263 a Wached) Brigade Order No.118 received and acknowledged.	
		7.45	Weather dull and cold. Brigade Order No.119 received and acknowledged. The Battalion moved off at 9 a.m. and reached LINDENHORK Camp at about 10.30 a.m. No lorries were to-day available and all impedimenta had to be carried by the Transport. Here again the Battalion was fortunate in obtaining a first class camp. A6945 Wt. W11422/N1160 350,000 12/16 D.D.&L. Forms/C./2118/14.	CUS

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T 7377	DENTITO TH			
	ENHOE NOV		After arrival in camp the Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders for inspection	
O PIET	11.		etc. Lieut-Colonel A.J.G. Simpson rejoined ex leave and resumed Command.	
			Captain G. H. Mann rejoined ex leave.	
		11,15	Reserve Brigade Defence Scheme was received.	
NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.		p.m.	At 4 p.m. C.O. held a meeting of all Officers.	
	12		Weather fine and mild. There was the first frost of the season.	
May Land			Training was carried out from 9 a.m. till 12 noon. It embraced inspection, platoon drill and Company exercises.	
A 1800 TO			Amendment to Reserve Brigade Defence Scheme was received.	
			During the afternoon the Intelligence Officer went forward and reconnoitred the ground to be taken over by the Battalion.	
		4	G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalion Headquarters and interviewed a candidate for Cadet Battalion.	*
007		p.m.	At 6 p.m. C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and discussed the forthcoming tour in the	
			line,	
			B/Libeut, R.F.Keogh and 7 other ranks rejoined ex schools. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital.	
	13		Weather fine and fairly cold.	
	-		The day was devoted to making arrangements for the move forward,	
		100	During the morning the Adjutant visited Brigade Headquarters to obtain instructions in con-	
			naction with Specialists to be left behind and accomodation for them.	
		1.30	Battalion Move Order No.64 (as per copy attached) was issued	
		p.m.	At 2 p.m. Advance party of 4 Officers and 4 other ranks went forward.	7 150
			The Battalion moved off. 5 Officers and approximately 200 other ranks remained behind.	130
		p.m	Accommodation for them for the night was arranged in the present Camp. During the evening the Battalion relieved the 53rd Battalion in TORREKEN FARM line, the relief	
		10 20	being comp leted by 7.30 p.m. The following message arrived from Brigade: - "Under instructions from 5th Aust. Div. the 14th	
		70 00	A. I. Bde. will take over the front of the 15th A. I. Bde. and hold it in addition to front taken	
BUILDING	129	7.0.0	over from 21st Bde. The 56th Bn. will relieve the 59th Bn. on or about the 15/16th November	
			and the 54th Bn. will take over half the frontage at present held by 53rd Bn. Maps showing	
		No. 12 To	Bde, and Bn, boundaries will be forwarded as soon as possible. Unit Commanders and Officers	
	-		concerned will make themselves familiar with the area to be taken over. Detailed orders for	
		1 2 2 2 2 2 2	A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000, 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

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HOLLE	BEK E			
SECTO			Weather dull and mild. Visibility bad.	
		10	C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and discussed the tactics to be followed while the	
		a,m.	are being cooked at respective Company Headquarters, "A" and "B" Cos. rations are being cooked	
			near "A" Co. Headquarters. The ground is in a bad state and is drying only very slowly. A good deal of work in the	
			direction of trench improvements etc. was carried out.	
			In accordance with Brigade instructions party of 1 Officer and 60 other ranks was supplied for work under R.E. party to be supplied daily until further notice.	
			During the evening Battalion Headquarters move to HONRAET FARM where there is more accommodation	n.
			Captain S.G.Gibson R.M.O. was evacuated to hospital. 2/Lieut. Keogh left for duty with lith Field Co. Engineers and Lieut. Wilson, who has been	
			appointed Divisional Gas Officer.	
	14 15-17	10 15	Brigade advised that the enemy were going to send over Gas Shells at 11 p.m. Companies were	
	3.2	p.m.	immediately informed but nothing eventuated.	
			Lieut. Grimsley rejoined ex School. 44 Reinforcements including ex sick and ex wo unded rejoined Battalion.	SHOPPING THE STATE OF THE STATE
			patrols from the Battalion were sent out during the night and reported nothing unusual.	
			So far no casualties have occurred.	
	17		There was a heavy fog during the morning but the day turned out fine. Visibility however	
			was poor.	
		10	C.O. visited the various Companies and inspected the work carried out. A good deal of work	
		a.m.	is being done in improving the various posts, shelters etc. and laying duckboards.	
			The day was very quiet. O.lo.d. was shelled intermittently with 77's and 4.2's. Our	
			artillery shelled enemy front system but the effect could not be properly observed.	
	100		patrol left our lines at 0.11.c.8.4 at 7.30 p.m. and patrolled MILITARY ROAD down as far as	
Y			0.11.d.8.0. They were fired on by machine guns from direction of THE TWINS. Sounds of	
			enemy work being carried out in the vicinity of THE TWINS were heard during the day. Our	
			Lewis Guns opened fire and the sounds ceased. Both our own and the enemy aircraft were very	
			quiet. Our snipers claimed to have inflicted two casualties. Not many flares were seen	
		4	during the night. At about 10 p.m. a white flare was sent up and was immediately followed by machine gun fire.	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	
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WAR DIARY

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	prepared i	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OLLEBE	IE No		Weather was again dull with visibility bad. G.O.C.Brigade called about 1 p.m. and proceeded to the Front line. En route he discussed with C.O. matters in general regarding the tour of the Brigade in the line. 4 men on fatigue with 173rd Tunnelling Co. R.E. were wounded by shell fire. Enemy shelling was not heavy during the day. A few shells were fired at duckboards and approaches to THE RAVINE. OLIVE TRENCH was fired on with 77's and 4.2's from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at intervals of about 20 minutes. HOPE FARM and 0:11.b.1.5 received some attention from 2 to 3 p.m. Battery was located at p.14.2.2.6 to p.3.c.5.3. Our heavies fired on these targets with apparently good effect. Enemy patrols very active and their aircraft was aggressive. A.I.F.Orders received to-day showed the promotion of 2/Lieuts. Bullock, Burton and Scott to the rank of Lieutentant. An enemy aircraft flew low over our lines at about 8 a.m. and set fire to one of our balloons	
			An enemy alrerant liew low over during the state of the state of enemy planes flew over at intervals and were engaged by vickers and Lewis Machine Guns. During the evening "C" Co. relieved "B" Co. in the front line without any camualties. (See Bn. Order Our patrols were very active. One patrol left No. 7 Post FORRET FARM and patrolled road running South to about 0.11.d.8.5. No enemy encountered. Patrol returned vic. 0.11.d.65.85 to 0.11.d.2.3 thence to FORRET FARM. Another patrol left No. 1 Post at 0.11.d.15.25 and patrolled road to 0.11.d.55.05. No enemy encountered. Both patrols reported enemy quiet and did not come under any rifle or M.G. fire. Our aircraft was faitly active chiefly spotting the artillery during the afternoon. Enemy were signalling during the morning and afternoon from 0.24.b.90.91. Our artillery got	g
	19		on to the target and apparently knocked it out. At 2.10 p.m. themy was picked up by one of our observers. I man was evacuated to hospital. I man missing as a result of an alleged raid on one of our posts. He is though to be an absent weather remains dull with a fairly heavy haze which makes observation difficult. The work of improving the posts, Communication trenches etc, and laying of duckboards was pushed on with during the period and satisfactory progress is being made. All possible pushed on with during the period and satisfactory progress is being made. All possible	tee
			Our artilbery was active -firing on enemy positions and engaging his troops. Working parties A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place		Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBE	E No		parties were dispersed at 0.12.b and 0.17.b.90.35. The light was not favourable for sniping but our Snipers made the most of it and fired on	
0.50 2.01			any enemy who showed themselves. Enemy artillery was about normal and fired on OLIVE TRENCH, RAVINE, FORRET FARM and O.IO.d without causing any damage of a serious nature. His machine guns were inactive. RAVINE	
			was fired en intermittently from longe range. Enemy trench mertars fired a few rounds en O.II.d. 05.45 and 0.17.b.1.7 but could not be located.	
			Both our own and the enemy's aircraft were active. Several attempts by enemy planes to cross our lines were frustrated by Lewis Gun fire.	
			Signalling from HOUTHEM CHURCH was again observed but swing to mist could not be picked up.	
	- 100		A patrol left our lines at O.II.b.8.6 at 6 p.m. Patrol went to O.II.a.15.40 thence to	
			but after going about IOO yards it was found impossible to proceed further and patrict lettaced its steps to point at which it left our lines. No enemy were sighted.	
		2	22 reinforcements of ex sick and ex wounded men joined Battalion.	
	20		2 men were wounded - one by shell fire and one by M.G. Ilre.	
	~~		Our artillery was active and effective shelled enemy strong points SPUD FARM, GREEN FARM THE GIANTS etc. KORTWILDE was shelled by our heavies between I.30 and 2 p.m. About 7.30	
			p.m. OLIVE TRENCH was blown in in two or three places. O.10. a and O.11. a were sireraft	
			were net active. Very little mevement could be detected bening enemy line.	
			During an alleged raid on one of our advanced posts 12 man was evacuated to	
	21		Rain fell throughout almost the entire day. Our artillery was active throughout the period. Enemy battery near HOUTHEM was engaged	
			and the shooting appeared very good. Supposed position of I renth post at IO. 45 p.m. and	
			meved out along Hedge at O.II. central to Cross ROADS near THE TWINS. From there patrol moved to	2581
		1	A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35:,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	000

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be prepa	red in	manusc	cript. (Erase heading not required.)	
Place D.	ate	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE	NOV.	•	to 0.11.d.60.85. No enemy encountered and patrol returned at 4.30 a.m. 22nd inst. An Officer patrol which was out from 10.45 p.m. to 4 a.m. heard nothing of the enemy. Route from No.6 to No.1 Post thence to CROSS ROADS near THE TWINS via MILITARY ROAD back to No.6 Post. There was not a great deal of enemy artillery fire. At 11.45 p.m. about 20 gas shells were	· s
			fired on 0.10.d. a number of which fell in THE RAVINE. 2 red flares were followed by bursts of M.G.fire on 0.16.2.85.92. No great aerial activity on either side. Improvements were carried out on existing defences. Some wiring was done in front of shell holposts. New duckwalk tracks from ROSE DUMP to DENYS WOOD was commenced. 2 new dugouts completing RAVINE. Party under Engineers were engaged on Strong Point near DELBSKE FARM. 2/Lieut. THREEKELD joined up from reinforcements.	ted
	22.		Weather very dull with occasional light showers. Our artillery was active. 18 pounders fired on No.5 LOCK, THE GIANTS and THE TWINS and POLL Halso approaches and tracks thereto. Our heavies were firing at intervals but light was too po	io r
		p.m.	Artillery replied to an S.O.S. call from somewhere on our right. The fire was not intense. Barrage took from 6 to 7 minutes to fall. Work of patrols was limited but each post had a listening post out. Sniping inactive. Machine Guns fired regularly throughout the night on LOCK 5. THE GIANTS, THE TWINS, PUMP FARM, GREEN FARM and CROSSROADS at 0.12.c.65.80. RAVINE WOOD was shelled heavily by enemy during afternoon for about half an hour but no material damage resulted. OLIVE SAP was considerably damaged in places with 10 and 15 c.m's. At 6.30 p.m. high ground in Oplo.b. and d. was heavily shelled for 10 minutes. Company Headquarters at 0.11.d.2.1 and 0.11.b.05.65 received some shelling with shrapnel. Enemy Trench Mortars were fairly active in the early morning. No new enemy work observed. Three trains were seen between WERVICQ and MENIN. Signalling from HOUTHEM CHURCH was frequently seen. Our aircraft was very active and repeatedly flew over enemy lines. Enemy attempts to cross our lines were repulsed by aircraft guns, Lewis Guns and Machine Guns fire. Anti-aircraft gun fire has lately been very good on our sector. Work was carried out in the matter of repairs to OLIVE TRENCH and laying of duckboards. Wire in front has been strengthened, parapets reinforced and trendes generally improved. Enemy Balicons were up during the early part of the day but did not remain up long. Our planes were too active. No casualties were incurred during the past 24 hours. 23 reinforcements joined up Battalion.	
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	· cc

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Appendices
HOLLEBEKE SECTOR.	NOV 23		4 men were evacuated to Hespital.	
	23		Weather quite fine and mild. Enemy defences were heavily shelled all day. Hits were observed on practically every known	
		2.30	place occupied by him. At 12.30 p.m. the heavies lired into Helled at a fight. Usual	
		p.m.	harassing fire was kept up during the night. Our light was actively perfect as fired a few	
			rounds on THE GIANTS and THE TWINS. Enemy shelled the datas places of the interest wood	
			DENYS WOOD and DUCKWALK through DENIS WOOD. Active and continually fired on our planes during during the night. Enemy Muchine Guns were active and continually fired on our planes during the day. Enemy Trench Mortars were quiet. Our planes actively patrolled the front but the day. Enemy planes were quiet. Usual number of flares were fired. 200 yards of wire was put down enemy planes were quiet. Usual number of flares were fired.	
			during the night. Duckwalks repaired and cleaned. OLIVE TRENCH cleaned It is all	
			duckbearded and pumps have been installed to keep it dry. Parapet built up and reinferced. Duckwalk to ROSE DUMP repaired. Salvage work is preceeding satisfactorily. No casualties.	
	24		Weather fine and celd with a very high wind blowing. The attention of the heavies was	
			restricted to HOUTHEM. Medium Trench Mertars lired about 20 rounds into line land with an action of the land of the land and suspected	
			pesitions and approaches through the night. Enemy artiflery more as a short space of time/	
			during the afternoon. OLIVE TRENCH, NEAR FARM, FORRES FARM wire International Machine Guns	
			firing into THE RAVINE caused the cessation of all work there for Moral Range Not much aerial activity	
			on either side. Several trains were seen well bening the risk of exposing themselves.	
			An anti-aircraft gun was observed in HOUTHHM CHURCH. Signating the night. Patrel of 1 Officer and	
			6 men patrelled MILITARY ROAD as far as 0,17.5.6.9 Patrel ten mething. Returning to 0,17.5.8.9	
			party came under machine gun fire. Two salves of 6 rifle grenades at point from which machine A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D.D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	
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Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II.
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will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OLLEBEKE	NOV 24.		gun appeared to be firing and it ceased. Party then returned to our lines -cut from 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Another patrol of 1 SgT. and 6 men at 7 p.m. moved from No. 9 Post down ready to Junction 0.11.d.60.85. Time was spent in listening and moving at intervals. No enemy heard or encountered. Patrol returned at 11.35 p.m. Work was carried on by Piencers in	
			OLIVE Communication Trench and it is now in good order. Progress was made on improvement to of Strong Points. Duckwalks were repaired where necessary. OAK SUPPORT TRENCH improved. A good deal of work was done in carrying up R.E. material.	
	-25		Lieut. Gerden was weunded during the afterneen by a piece of shell. No other casualties were incurred. Weather fine and very cold.	
	20		Our artillery have been active. 18 pounders kept up harassing fire on enemy positions. Shooting was very maximum accurate and volume of fire greater than on the previous few days.	
			The heavies fired into HOUTHEM and KORTEWILDE. Hits on HOUTHEM CHURCH were observed, COMINES and suspected Battery positions on ridge S.W. of VANDVOORDE. Our snipers fired when opportunity offered. Machine Guns fired on usual targets during the night. Enemy shelling was	
			net severe. About 30 5.9's were placed in 0.14.c.6.8 and damaged the tram track in a couple of places. DENYS WOOD and THE RAVINE were lightly shelled. One of our parties working on	
			Streng Peint 0.11.b.15.40 - 0.11.b.15.50 was shelled with 77's and 4.2's. Enemyy machine Guns very quiet. Net much aerial activity. At 8.30 p.m. bembs were drepped near duckwalk at 0.15.a.8.6 without causing any damage. Our patrels were active during the night but	
			were repaired where necessary. Existing sheltersin THE RAVINE were improved. A good deal	
			of salvage was done. Casualties NIL. 1 man was evacuated to hespital. Lieut. Rew rejoined ex leave.	
	26		Weather fine and very cold. Our artillery was fairly active firing on enemy defences and approaches. The heavies shelled ZANDVOORDE, HOUTHEM and KORTWILDE, the last named fairly heavily. Machine guns and trench mertars engaged the usual targets effectually. Our patrels were out during the night but no	
			enemy entireirereft and machine guns Enemy planes attempted to to cross our line but were	
			driven off by our fire. Very little enemy movement was noticed. Enemy artiflery was first principally on FORRET FARM, NEAR FARM, THE RAVINE, OLIVE TRENCH, DENYS WOOD and O.15.a and b.	,
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
OLLEBEKE	NOV 26.		ROSE WOOD also received a few shells during the day. No damage was done. Work on unfinished Strong Points was carried on with. Guide wire which had been broken in places by shell fire was repaired. OLIVE TRENCH repaired. During the evening "D" Co relieved "A" Co. in the front system, relief being completed by 6.45 p.m. No casualties were suffered.	
	27		Lieut. Cotton rejained ex 14th Training Battalian. 6 reinfercements joined up. 1 man was evacuated to hespital Weather dull with occasional light showers. It is not quite so cold. Our artillery kept up harassing fire throughout the day. The heavies fired frequently between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on rear areas and at 2.5 p.m. blew up an ammunition dump. At 3.30 p.m.	
			they fired on what was thought to be an enemy battery about p.l.c. and a large column of smoke was observed lasting 3 minutes. An Officer's patrol was out during the night. No enemy were encountered but they could be heard working at THE TWINS at 0,12,2,6,2. Machine Gun was locate at THE TWINS and pineapple gun at THE GIANTS. Very little sniping owing to lack of targets at THE TWINS and pineapple gun at THE GIANTS. Very little sniping owing to lack of targets.	id
			Our Machine Guns kept up the usual narassing life. Enemy at title y school RAVINE, ROSE WOOD, DENYS WOOD but actively shelled our forward posts with H.E. and Shrapnel. RAVINE, ROSE WOOD, DENYS WOOD	
			inte ROSE WOOD between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Enemy Trench Mertars fired on read in advance of our planes. Areas searched was 0.11.d.60.95 to 0.11.b.65.09. Enemy planes were not very plentiful. Our planes were active buth during the day and night and continually patrelled the front. They flew very low over enemy line during the night. Signalling from the GIANTS with a lamp they flew very low over enemy line during the night.	
			was ebserved. Work of improvements to dugeuts was carried out. Strong Point No.7 was pushed on with and OAK SUPPORT trench improved a little. A good deal of revetting material was salved Duckboards were repaired where necessary in OLIVE Trench. Information was received from Brigade that the enemy intended to raid on part of the Brigade Information was received from Brigade that the enemy intended to raid on part of the Brigade	
		5 p.m	front at 2.45 a.m. the fellowing merning. Posts were strengthened and a careful watch kept but nothing eventuated. 1 man was evacuated to hospital.	
	28		Weather fine. Our artillery were rather more active than usual both in the enemy front and rear defences. Machine Guns and Trench Mertars were also fairly active. Enemy indulged in the usual amount	
			of shelling on his set targets. A good deal of 5.9's was used but he datage was dent. Machine guns were fairly quiet. Our aircraft was again more active than that of the enemy. A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 35',000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	180

Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II.
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will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

will be p	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOLLEBEKE	28_	4 p.m.	Usual patrels were out during the night but encountered nothing unusual. Battalien Order No. 67 (as per copy attached) relating to the relief was new issued. Two of the enemy	
	1.	l p.m.	An enemy party of 10 men attempted to raid No.14 Post but without success. Two of the enemy were killed and it is thought that a number of others were wounded. The men killed belonged to 153rd Infantry Regiment. Our garrison sustained no casualties. Repairs where necessary to approaches were weakened and improvements to all positions	
			were carried out. 1 man evacuated to Hospital. Casualties nil.	
	2.9	10 a.	weather fine. n.G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalien Headquarters. Our artillery was actively engaged during the day. From 5 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. a heavy fire was kept on enemy positions and approaches on account of a suspected relief in the sector opposite.	
			Activity of our Machine Guns and Trench Mertars was about normal. Enemy artillery was fairly active attention was confined to the ususal targets. At 5.20 p.m. about 20 5.9's were fired into the RAVINE, OLIVE TRENCH, O.10.b. and d., DENYS WOOD and RAVINE WOOD but little damage resulted. Our planes were particularly active and a fair	
			number of enemy planes about. During the evening the Battalien was relieved by the 57th Battalien the relief being completed by a completion of the relief the Battalien moved to ROSSIGNOL CAMP, KEMMEL, where	
			all ranks obtained comfortable accommodation. A hot meal was issued to the men on their arrival in camp. 1 man was wounded during the afternoon.	
KEMMEL.	30		Weather dull and mild. The marning was devated to general cleaning up parades and a thorough foot inspection.	
	3	o a.m	G.O.C. Brigade called and made inquiries as to how the Battalien was accomedated. Information was received from 2nd. A.C.C.S. that Lieut. T.F.Gordon, who was wounded on 24th inst had died of wounds. 2/Lieut. Thompson rejoined ex duty as Camp Commandant, Lindenhoek.	
			2 men were evacuated to hespital.	, ;
			A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.	0.0

14

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 60

Ref. Map sheet 27, 1/40,000

In the Field, 2/11/17

- 1. The 56th Bn. with Transport will carry out a Route March to-morrow, 3rd inst.
- STARTING POINT: Crossmands K. 24. D. 9. 9 at 9. 45 a.m. 2.
- ROUTE: K. 4. B. 4. O. E. 22 D. 6. 5, E. 21. B. 5. 5, E. 28. D. 5. 3, K. 4. B. 4. O. 3. K. 24. D. 9. 9 to BILLETS.
- ORDER OF MARCH:

HEADQUARTERS

MA" Co.

"B" Co.

"D" Co.

TRANSPORT.

- Distances of 100 yds, will be maintained between companies and 5. between Transport and Companies.
- DRESS: Full Marching Order (less blankets) and Steel Helmets. 6. Mounted Officers will wear Sam Browne Belts.
- Halts will be signalled from Head of Column.
- (a) Cookers wild not accompany Battalion.
 (b) Lewis Guns will be carried on Limbers.
 (c) Usual precautions against enemy aircraft to be taken.
- Marching Out States to B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
- lo. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.

Issued at 6 p.m. by runner to

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

2. O.C. "A" Co. 3. O.C. "B" Co. 4. O.C. "C" Co. 5. O.C. "D" Co. 6. T.O.

7. M.O.

8. C.O.

1. War Diary

9. File.

56TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 61

Ref. Map: Sheets 27 and 36, 1/40/000

00py No. 4. . .

In the Field 3/II/I7

- I. The 56th Battalion will move to the Berquin Area tomorrow, 4th instant.
- 2. STARTING POINT Road Junction at K. 30 a. 3.9.

TRANSPORT

- 3. TIME 9.10 a.m.
- 4. ORDER OF MARCH HEADQUARTERS
 "D" Co.
 "C" Co.
 "B" Co.
 "A" Co.
- 5. Intervals of ICO yards between Companies. ICO yards between "A" Co. and TRANSPORT. HEADQUARTERS and "D" Co. will keep closed up.
- 5. ROUTE K. 35.d. 5.5 GODEWARRSVELDE FLETRE -STRAZERLE -VIEUX BERQUIN.
- 6. DRESS Marching order less packs. FELT HATS. Unconsumed portion of days ration to be carried. Mounted Officers will wear sam Briwne Belts. Other Officers Battle order.
- 7. Officers' Raggage and Company Mess gear will be stacked outside Battalion Headquarters Billet by 7.30 a.m.
- a. Cookers will be ready to move at 8 a.m.
- g. Companies will arrange to have packs with blankets and Co. Records stacked under supervision of Q.M. near Q.M. Store by 8 a.m.
- 10. Each Company will detail 4 men to act as Rear party under Sgt. Craig. "C" Co. will also detail I N.C.O. to assist Sgt. Craig.
- II. Usual precautions against enemy aircraft will be taken.
- 12. Marching out States to Battalion orderly Room at 8.15 a.m.
- 13. Watches will be synchronised at Battalion orderly Room at 8.15 a.m.

Issued at 10.10 p.m. by Runner to

- 2 "A" Co.
- g HypH
- A MOR
- 5 "D"
- 6 T.O.
- 7 Q.H.
- 8 M.O. 9 C.O.
- I War Diary
- IO File

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

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 62.

In the Field, 9/11/17. Ref. Maps sheets 28 and 36 1/40,000

The 56th Bn. will move to Corps Staging Area LOCRE on loth inst.

2.

STARTING POINT: LE PONT DE PIERRE, A.10.C.9.9

TIME:

8.25 a.m.

ORDER OF MARCH:

HEADQUARTERS "B" Co. "D" Co.

"C" Co.

TRANSPORT.

Distances of 100 yds, between Cos, and 100 yds, between "C" Co. and Transport. H.Q. and "B" Co. will keep closed up. Bn. Guard and prisoners will march at the Head of "A" Co.

ROUTE: 5.

via BAILLEUL.

DRESS: 6.

FULL MARCHING ORDER less blankets. Steel Helmets. Mounted Officers will wear Sam Browne Belts, other Officers Full Marching order. Unconsumed portion of days rations to be carried.

- A halt of 10 minutes will be made when the point S.20. B. 5.0 is reached. 7. No further halts will be made on the march.
- Usual precautions against Enemy Aircraft will be taken. 8.
- Officers' Valises and Co. Mess Gear will be stacked on road outside 9. Co. Billets by 7 a.m.
- Lewis Guns and gear will be loaded on to limbers at Transport Lines 10. at 4 p.m. to-day under supervision of Lieut, Greive,
- Co. Records and blankets (relled in bundles of 10 and marked properly) 11. will be stacked on the road outside Co. Billets by 7.30 a.m.
- Cookers will be ready to move at 7 a.m. 12.
- Each Co. will detail 4 men toggact as Rear Party under Sgt. Craig. 13. These men will mount guard over Co. blankets and load the lorries when they arrive.
- Marching Out States and certificates re cleanliness of Billets to 14. B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.
- Watches will be synchronised by runner to B.O.R. at 6.30 a.m. 15.

Issued at 1 p.m. by runner to

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

No. 2 "A" Co. 3 "B" Co. 4 "C" Co. 5 "D" Co. 6 T.O. 7 Q.M. 8 M.O. C.O. War Diary 10 File.

Copy No.

Ref. Map Sheet 28, 1/40,000

In the Field, 10/11/17

- 1. The Battalien will move to LINDENHOEK CAMP on lith inst.
- 2. STARTING POINT:

M. 35. B. 6. 2 Battalien Headquarters.

3. TIME:

9 a.m.

4. ORDER OF MARCH:

HEADQUARTERS

"B" Co.

"C" Co.

TRANSPORT.

Distances of 100 yds, between Companies and 100 yds, between "C" Co. and Transport. Headquarters and "A" Co. will keep closed up. Bn. Guard and prisoners will march at the head of "B" Co. Bayonets will not be fixed.

5. ROUTE:

Via DRANOUTRE.

6. DRESS:

Full Marching Order less Blankets, Steel Helmets, Mounted Officers will wear Sam Browne Belt, other Officers Full Marching Order. Unconsumed portion of days rations to be carried.

- 7. Usual precautions against Enemy Aircraft will be taken.
- 8. OFFICERS' VALISES AND CO. MESS GEAR, CO. RECORDS AND BLANKETS:

Headquarters, "A", "B" and "D" Co. will be stacked at Q.M.Store, and "C" Co. outside Co. Camp by 8 a.m. (Blankets to be relled in bundles of 10 and properly marked)

- 9. The Sanitary Sergeant and Sanitary Section will act as Rear party.
- 10. Marching out States and certificates re cleanliness of Huts to B.O.R. at 8 a.m.
- 11. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m.

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

Issued at 9 p.m. by runner to

No. 2 "A" Co.

3 "B" Co.

4 "C" Co. 5 "D" Co.

6 Q.M.

7 T.O.

8 M.O.

9 C.O. 1 War Diary

lo Fibe.

Pef. Maps sheet 25, 1/40,000 Wytschaete 28 S.W. 2. 1/10,000

In the Field, 13/11/17.

- 1. The 56th Bn. will relieve the 53rd Bn. in TORREKEN Farm Area on the night of 13/14th inst.
- Advanced Party consisting of 1 Officer and 4 N.C.O's per Co., 2. Signalling Officer, 2 Signallers and Bn. Gas N.C.O/ will leave at 2 p.m. and report to their corresponding Companies of the 53rd Bn. They will take over all S.O.S. Rockets, trench stores, ammunition, defence schemes, secret documents anddetails of work in progress. Duplicate receipts to be forwarded to Bn. H.Q. by 9 a.m. on 14th inst.
- STARTING POINT: 3.

Battalion Headquarters.

4. TIME:

4.30 p.m.

5. ORDER OF MARCH: HEADQUARTERS "C" Co. "A" Co. "D" Co.

Distances of 100 yds, between Companies and 50 yds, between Platoons will be maintained.

DRESS:

Full Marching Order and one blanket.

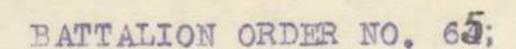
- Officers' Valises and extra blanket (rolled in bundles of 10 and 70 properly marked) to be stacked in Q.M. Store by 3 p.m.
- O's C. Companies will arrange to have hot meal before leaving. 8.
- Details left behind with nominal roll will report to Lieut, Heugh, 9. and be billeted in the present lines at 4,30 p.m.
- Lewis Guns and necessary gear will be loaded on limbers at Co. lines 10. at 3,30 p.m. under supervision of Lieut, Cory,
- 11. Three dixies and two Phantasies will be taken on the L.G. limber by each Co. "D" Co's cooker will remain complete and O.C. "D" Co. will arrange from another Co. to obtain necessary Phantasies.
- 12. Bn. Headquarters at TORREKEN FARM.
- R.A.P. at LANCASHIRE HOUSE ("A" Co. H.Q.). 13.
- 14. Marching out States and certificates re cleanliness of huts to B.O.R. at 3.30 p.m.
- Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 3.30 p.m. 15.
- 16. On completion of relief the code word "W A T T L E" will he sent to Bn. Headquarters.

Issued at 1.30 p.m. by runner.

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

- 2. "A" Co. 3. "B" Co. 4. "C" Co. 5. "D" Co.

- 6. T.O.
- 7. Q.M.
- 8. M.O.
- 9. C.O. 1. War Diary
- ldo File.



COPY No.

Reference Map: WYTSCHAETE I/IO,000

In the Field I5/II/I7

- I. The 56th Battalion will take over the portion of the line held by the 59th Battalion on night of I5/I6 November.
- 2. Companies will take over following areas: -

"B" Co. Front Line
"A" Co. Ravine Wood Area
"D" Co. Rose Wood Area
"C" Co. Denys Wood Area

Frontages and dispositions will be taken over as they stand.

- 3. Companies will move as soon as lights permits in the following order:
 "B"

 "A"

 "D"

 "C"
- 4. All S.O.S. Signals, trench stores, ammunition, gum boots, maps and defence schemes etc. will be taken over and receipts given, cepies being forwarded to Battalion Headquarters at 7 a.m. I6th inst.

 All ammunition and grenades in forward posts to be carefully checked and a return showing contents of each forwarded to Battalion orderly Room by 9 a.m. I6th instant.
- 5. All Lewis Gung, A.A. defence positions will be taken over from 59th Bn.
- 6. Dress: Full marching order with blanket. Water bottles to be filled. Lewis Guns will be carried by the men.
- 7. Company cooking gear will be loaded on ration limbers at DUD Corner at 4.30 p.m. and guides provided to guide limbers to ROSE DUMP.
- 8. (a) "A", "C" and "D" Companies will send ration parties of I N.C.O. and 20 men to ROSE DUMP for rations as soon after relief as possible.

 (b) O.C. "A" Co. will provide and extra ration party of I N.C.O. and 20 men to carry "B" Co. rations forward. O.C. "B" Co. will provide a guide at the RAVINE.

 (c) O.C. "C" Co. will detail I N.C.O. and 2 men to take over dug-outs in GRAND BOIS when I5th Brigade move out.
- 9. Battalion Headquarters and R.A.P. at RAVINE (approx) 0.10.d. 2.5
- IO. Completion of relief will be reported to Battalion Headquarters by code word "TURNIP".
- II. Complete disposition reports, with sketch maps will be rendered to Battalion Headquarters by I2 noon on I6th inst.

(Sgd) G.A. Williamson, Lieut.,
A/Adjutant 56th Battalion.
r to

Issued at 3.I5 p.m.

by Runner to

No. 2"A"

3 "B"

4 "C"

5 "D"

6 Sig. Off.

7 M.O.

8 Q.M.

I War Diary

IO) File

II

TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 56th BATTALION ORDER No.65.

Serial No.	Date	company.	From.	To.	Remarks.
1.	Night 18/19th	"C"	DENYS WOOD	FRONT LINE	"D" Co. will relieve "A" Co. Lewis Gun positions in front line.
	do.	"B"	FRONT LINE	DENYS WOOD	
2.	Night 22/23rd.	"A"	RAVINE	FRONT LINE	"B" Co. will relieve "D" Co. Lewis Gun positions in front line.
	do.	"0"	FRONT LINE	RAVINE	
3.	Night 26/27th	"D"	ROSE WOOD	FRONT LINE	"C" Co. will relieve "B" Co. Lewis Gun positions in front line.
	do.	"A"	FRONT LINE	ROSE WOOD	

ALL FATIGUE AND WORKING PARTIES TO BE TAKEN OVER.

ALL WORK ON IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING POSITIONS TO BE CARRIED ON BY RELIEVING COMPANY.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

28h

CODA No ...

Ref. Map Wytchaete 1/10,000

In the Field, 18/11/17

- 1. "C" Company will relieve "B" Company on the night 18/19th inst. and "B" Company will take over positions now occupied by "C" Company.
- 2. "D" Company will relieve the two Lewis Gun positions now provided by "A" Company in the front line.
- 3. Details of relief and change of cooking staff will be arranged between Company Commanders.
- 4. Receipts for all trench stores, ammunition, gum boots, etc. to be obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 7 a.m. 19th inst.
- 5. All working and fatigue parties provided by "C" Company will be taken over by "B" Company.
- 6. On completion of relief code word "PARSNIP" will be wired to Battalion Headquarters.
- 7. Subject to amendment reliefs will be carried out during the tour in this sector in accordance with attached table.
- 8. This order is not to be taken forward of Advanced Battalion Headquarters.
- 9P ACKNOWLEDGE.

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

Issued at 7 a.m. by runner to:-

No. 2 "A" Co.
3 "B" Co.
4 "C" Co.
5 "D" Co.
6. 54th Bn.
7. Left Bn.
8. C.O.
1. War Diary.
9. File.



56th BATTALION ORDER No. 67

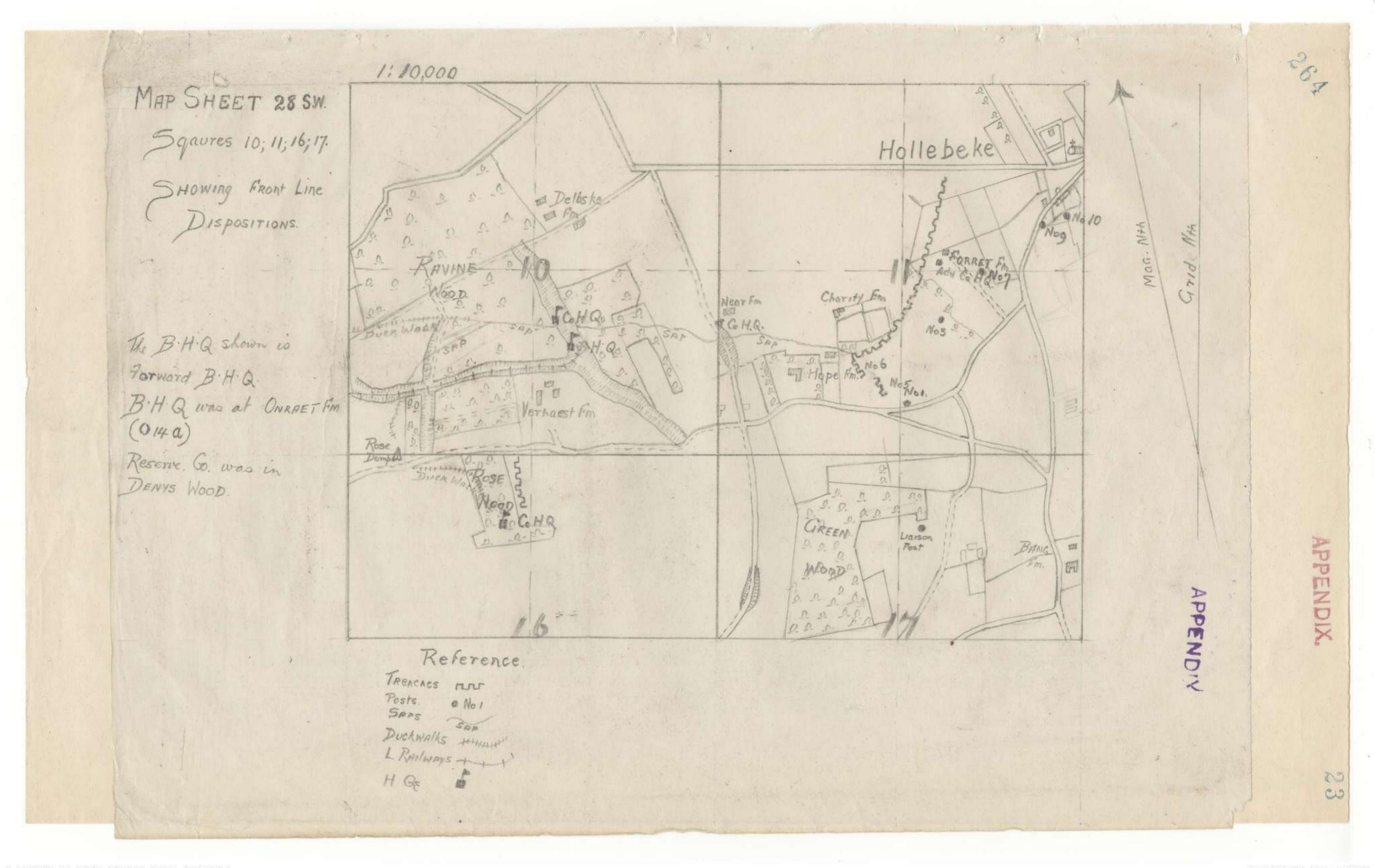
Ref. Maps WYTSCHAETE 1/10,000 SHEET 28 1/40,000 In the Field, 28/11/17.

- 1. The 56th Bn. will be relieved on the night 29th/30th Nevember by the 57th Bn.
- 2. Companies will previde plateen guides for incoming Battalien at 5 p.m. at ESTAMINET CORNER.
- 3. On completion of relief companies will move independently to ROSSIGNOL CAMP, KEMMEL N. 21. d. 7.8.
- 4. Lieut. Musgreve will progvide all advanced parties and guides and make all billeting arrangements.
- 5. Guides will be provided at LAMP POST CORNER to guide companies to their billets.
- 6. Het seup will be previded at Bde. Seup Kitchen at LAMP POST CORNER.
- 7. All cooking gear and mess gear and "A" Coy Lewis Guns will be leaded on limbers at ROSE DUMP. "B", "C" and "D" Coy Lewis Guns and all Coy stretchers will be carried to ESTAMINET CORNER and leaded on limbers there.
- 8. Company Commanders will reconneitre and choose best route to go out.
 In the event of enemy shelling main duckwalk the alternative track "F" should be used.
- 9. No troops are to move before 5 p.m.
- 10. All maps, aeroplane photographs, defence schemes and documents relating to the sector, ammunition and trench stores will be handed over and receipts obtained on pro forma and forwarded to Bn. Headquarters by 12 noon on 29th inst.
- 11. O.C. "D" Coy will not hand over gumbeets to incoming Company. They must be carried out to RAVINE and handed over to Lieut, Harvey at gum beet store there.
- 12. Details of all working parties supplied to 15th Field Co. etc. Will be handed over to incoming Companies,
- 13. All anti-aircraft and Lewis Gun positions will be handed over.
- 14. On completion of relief the code words "T I B B L E S" will be wired to Battalion Headquarters.
- 15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued by runner at 4 p.m. to

(Sgd) G.A. Williamson, Lieut;,
A/Adjutant 56th Battalien.

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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1006959

APPENDIX TO WAR DIARY: NOVEMBER 1917.

Strength of Battalien on 1/11/17 (including detached: In Hespital, At Schools and On Command 8 Off. 99 O.R.

Drafts etc. received during the menth including Officers and Other Ranks ex sick and ex wounded

Strength of Battalien on 30/11/17 (including detached: In Hespital, at Schools and On Command 8 Off. 108 OFR.

Transfers, evacuations, out of Div. Area, Secondings etc.

Officers.	Other Ranks.
30	795
	3.77
4	136
34	9 31
Officers	
Carabara	Other Ranks.
31	Other Ranks.
31	841

12

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL