

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/23

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/73/23

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROSSIGNOL CAMP KEMMEL.	DEC 1.		Weather dull and cold. Training from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. was carried out and consisted of Company inspections, platoon drill, rifle exercises etc. The work of revetting round the sides of the Huts as anti aircraft protection was pushed on with. The men all appear to be in good health and none the worse for the tour just completed. Lieut Bull and 1 other rank evacuated to Hospital. 1 man rejoined ex leave and 1 ex school.	
		2.	Light showers fell during the early morning and the day turned out fine and very cold. No parades were held with the exception of Church parades.	
		11 a.m.	G.O.C. Division accompanied by G.O.C. Brigade called and made an informal inspection of the Camp. A programme of winter sports has been drawn up and various games are being practised.	
		3.	23 Reinforcements joined the Battalion. C.O. and Senior Major visited 8th Bde. H.Q. and inspected the various tracks from there to the front line. Weather again fine and very cold. The Battalion carried out a Route March during the morning.	pected
		12.30 p.m.	G.O.C. Brigade called and discussed matters in general with the C.O. At 6 p.m. a Meeting of all officers was held. A Fatigue party of 20 other ranks was supplied for work under supervision of 15th Field Co. of Engineers. I W.S. Off. and I N.C.O. per Co. went forward and inspected the various routes to the front line. A party of 40 other ranks was also engaged in revetting round the huts. 20 other ranks commenced a course of instructions at Brigade School at which 2/Lieut. Thompson and two Sergeants are acting as Instructors.	
		4.	Weather cold and dull. Reconnoitring party again went forward today and for several succeeding days. All forms of Specialist Training were to-day carried out. Non Specialists were engaged in Platoon Drill, Rifle exercises, physical exercises and bayonet fighting. Fatigues aggregating 60 other ranks were supplied to Engineers and in addition a party attended Brigade School and further work on protection of huts was carried out. 4 men left for duty with 14th L.T.M.B. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital and 14 men left for duty as Contact Guard at 8th Field Ambulance	
		5.	2 men rejoined from 14th Machine Gun Co. and 1 ex 14th L.T.M.B. There was a very heavy frost and the day was extremely cold though fine. The Battalion to day had the use of the Divisional Baths and practically all men were enabled for a bath and a clean change of underclothing.	to attend

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROSSIGNOL KEMMEL.	CAMP DEC 9.		The usual working parties were supplied for work under Engineers and revetment of huts. 16 Reinforcements joined up. 1 man was evacuated to hospital, and 1 man left to attend Anti-Gas School.	
		10.	During the evening warning order was received from Brigade to the effect that the Brigade would entrain for Rest Area on 13th inst. Weather fine and cold. The Battalion to-day carried out a route march. Owing to the large numbers engaged on fatigues the parade was not strong. The men are showing the benefit of the training they are receiving a general smartening up in their bearing being noticeable. There have been no cases of trench feet lately.	
		11.	Brigade School was continued during the morning. Battalion Signal and Bombing Officers were engaged with the Brigade Bombing Officer in a trial of a message racket. 1 man was evacuated to hospital, and one man was transferred to 18th Battalion. 5 Gothas flew over the camp at a low altitude. They were heavily engaged by Anti-Aircraft and Machine Guns but were not damaged at all. Weather dull and cold with a fog during the early part of the day.	
		10 a.m.	From 8.30 to 10 a.m. Organised Games and physical Training were carried out. From 10 a.m. onwards a poll on the subject of Conscription in Australia. The polling was fairly heavy. The usual fatigues were supplied. 1 man was killed by shell fire during the early morning. at 9 a.m. Advance Party of 4 Officers and 4 N.C.O.'s left for Frencq Area in accordance with Brigade Sx Instructions. C.O. attended a Meeting of Commanding Officers at Brigade Headquarters.	
		11.40 p.m.	At 5 p.m. Instructions were received from Brigade to the effect that Transport would move off at 9 a.m. the following day. Lieuts. Brackpool and Wittleton rejoined ex wounded and Lieut. Gardner rejoined ex 14th T.B. 45 Reinforcements joined up.	
		12.	Brigade Order No. 122 to the effect that the Bde. would move to FRENCQ AREA on 13/14th inst. was received and acknowledged. Weather fine and cold. Usual daily Fatigues were again supplied. The Transport with that of the remainder of the Brigade moved off - with echelons full. From 8.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. the Battalion carried out inspection and physical Training after	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROSSIGNOL KEMMEL	CAMP DEC 12.		<p>which it marched to LINDENHOEK for a Gas Demonstration by Divisional Gas Officer. Several Gothas flew over the Camp Area and were fired on by A.A. Guns. Owing to clouds however the effect could not be observed.</p> <p>Lieut. Grimsbey and 2 other ranks departed on leave to U.K.</p> <p>6 p.m. Battalion Order No. 69 (as per copy attached) was issued regarding the move.</p> <p>Party of 25 other ranks rejoined ex 14th Field Co. Engineers.</p>	
		13. 11.30 a.m.	<p>Weather fine and cold.</p> <p>The Battalion moved off to entrain at DEKENNEBEK. The entrainment was made rapidly and in good order. Owing to a block in the line the departure of the train was delayed till 2 p.m. The journey to DESVRES where the Battalion detrained was made without incident. DESVRES was reached at 11.30 p.m. and the Battalion went into billets for the night. 6 Reinforcements joined up and 3 men were evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>The remainder of the Transport, including Cookers, entrained at BAILLEUL at 6 p.m. for WIZERNE which was reached at 2 a.m. the following day.</p> <p>The Battalion had the use of 2 motor lorries for the move to carry stores and their assistance was invaluable. The motor lorries proceeded by Road.</p>	
		14. 6 a.m. 9.55 a.m.	<p>At 2 a.m. Brigade Order No. 123 was received to the effect that the Battalion would proceed by March Route to PANHEM-TINGRY during the morning.</p> <p>Battalion Order No. 70 (copy attached) was now issued.</p> <p>The Battalion moved off and joined the remainder of the 14th Infantry Brigade in the march to new area which was reached at noon. Accommodation was found to be very scattered and not everything that could be desired.</p> <p>The feet of all men were inspected on completion of the march and were found to be in good order.</p> <p>1 man was evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
		15.	<p>Weather fine and cold.</p> <p>Companies were at the disposal of Company Commanders during the day and inspections and physical XXXXXX exercises were carried out.</p> <p>The portion of the Transport which had travelled by rail and detrained at WIZERNE arrived at 11 a.m. and the remainder which had travelled by road arrived at 4 p.m. after an uneventful journey. In a subsequent Brigade Order Lt-Col. Francis, D.S.O. Commanding 5th D.A.C. spoke very highly of the whole Brigade Transport.</p> <p>1 N.C.O. rejoined ex 2nd Army School.</p> <p>2 men rejoined ex Sick.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PANEHAM TINGRY	DEC	16	<p>The morning was fine but about 3 p.m. rain commenced to fall and continued throughout the night. No parades beyond the usual Church Parades were held. 2/Lieut. Harvey and 3 other ranks left to attend 5th Army Musketry School. Lieut. Bull and 4 other ranks rejoined ex sick. 5 reinforcements joined Bn. and 1 man rejoined ex leave.</p>	
		17	<p>In the morning there were about 6 inches of snow on the ground and same continued intermittently throughout the day. Companies carried out physical Training after which they were taken for a route march by platoons. Nothing of any consequence occurred throughout the day. All opportunities are being taken advantage of to re-organise and equip the Battalion. 3 men proceeded on leave to Paris. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital. 2 men rejoined ex sick.</p>	
		18	<p>Weather very cold and bright with the snow frozen hard making the work of the Transport very difficult. Physical Training, Company and platoon Drill were carried out from 9 to 11.30 a.m. ^{also} specialist Training of Lewis Gunners and Grenadiers after which Battalion Drill was held for three quarters of an hour. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital. Lieut. Peete rejoined ex Wounded. 15 reinforcements joined Battalion and 1 man rejoined ex School.</p>	
		19.	<p>Weather again very cold and fine. All branches of Specialist training were carried out. Companies were engaged on physical exercises, Bayonet fighting, Section and platoon drill and Company Organization. Battalion parade was held from 11.45 to 12.30 p.m. At 2.15 p.m. C.O. attended a Conference at Divisional Headquarters to discuss "Lessons learnt from the recent tour in the line." Arrangements were made during the day to prepare a Bombing Range, also a rifle range. 3 men proceeded on leave to England. 1 Reinforcement joined up.</p>	
		20	<p>2 men rejoined ex sick and 2 ex wounded. Weather still very cold but remaining fine and bright.</p>	

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PANEHAM TINGRY	DEC 20		Specialist training was carried out from 9 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. Companies were engaged in Physical training and Section drill for the same period. Thenceforth the Battalion including Specialists went for a short route march by Companies.	
		21	Lieut. Heath rejoined ex wounded and 2/Lieut. Spratt joined from Reinforcements (Cadet Battalion) 20 other ranks left to attend Brigade Infantry School and 4 to attend Brigade Signal School. A 3 mile race was held during the afternoon and was keenly contested. Weather fine and not quite so cold. During the morning Companies in battle order carried out a Concentration March (as per Battalion Order No. 71 attached) Distance travelled about 7 miles. The afternoon was devoted to sporting etc. The health of the troops remains very good despite the cold and there are no cases of Trench Feet 22 men per day from the Battalion are being granted leave to BOULOGNE and a motor lorry is provided for their conveyance by Division. 2 men were evacuated to Hospital	
		22	2 men rejoined ex sick. Weather fine and cold. The morning was devoted to a thorough inspection of arms, equipment, kits etc. There was no training. C.O. attended as a member of a G.C.M. at DESVRES. Captain Smythe and 2 other ranks rejoined ex leave. Lieut. Heugh and 2 other ranks rejoined ex sick. 2 men were evacuated to Hospital.	
		23	1 man joined the Battalion from 12th Aust. Light T.M.B. Weather cold and fine. Usual Church parades were held. Nothing of any consequence occurred throughout the day. Captain Cohen and 1 other rank rejoined ex leave. 29 reinforcements joined up making the Battalion slightly over establishment in other ranks. 1 man was evacuated to hospital.	
		24	1 N.C.O. left to attend a course of instructions at Corps Gas School. Weather fine and cold with the thaw beginning to set in. In accordance with instructions from G.O.C. Brigade no training parades were held. At noon Acting Brigadier called at Battalion Headquarters on an informal visit.	

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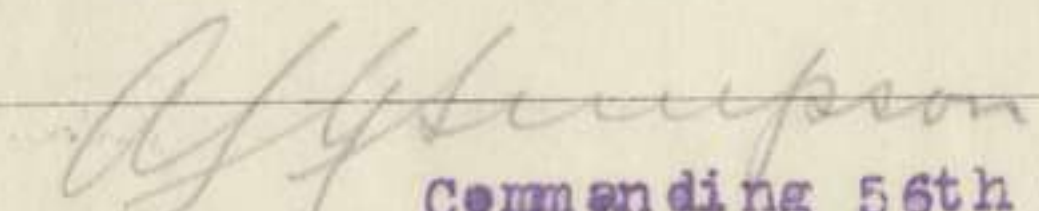
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PANEHAM TINGRY	Dec. 24		<p>During the afternoon the Battalion played the 55th Battalion in the Rugby Football Competition and after an exciting game won by 8 to 2. Lieuts. Greive and Bentley and 8 other ranks rejoined ex 1st Anzac Corps School. 2 men rejoined ex leave and one ex sick. One man was evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
	25		<p>2 men left for Cadet Battalion England. 28 other ranks who have been attending Brigade School rejoined the Battalion for Christmas. Weather fine and is fairly mild. The snow which has been lying about for several days has now practically all thawed. No parades were held. The issued ration for the day was very good and added to the extras purchased out of Battalion funds enabled the men to be given an excellent Christmas dinner. Lieut. Creber and 7 other ranks rejoined ex wounded, and one man ex sick. One man proceeded on leave to England.</p>	
	26		<p>Weather dull and mild. No training was carried out, in accordance with brigade instructions. During the day party which has been attending Brigade School, but which rejoined for Christmas, again reported back to the school. 3 men were evacuated to Hospital 2 men left for a course in elementary German. 1 man rejoined ex sick and one ex wounded. Snow fell during the night.</p>	
	27		<p>There was a lot of snow lying about at daylight and light snow fell during the day at intervals. Training was carried out from 9 to 12.45 and consisted of the following:- Extended order drill under platoon and Section Commanders Company in attack on strong points Musketry, and practices for platoon Competition.</p>	
		5 p.m.	<p>C.O. held a meeting of all officers. 2/Lieut. Thompson and 3 other ranks left to attend Schools of Instruction. 1 man rejoined ex Corps School (Instructor).</p>	
	28		<p>Weather fine and cold with the ground completely covered in snow. The snow has not yet frozen. Training the same as for yesterday was carried out. In the afternoon the Battalion played the 54th Battalion Football (Australian Rules) and won. Lieut. Courtney and one N.C.O. left to attend Second Army School. Lieut. Wittleton left for duty as Instructor at Brigade School. 2/Lieut. Threlkeld and one N.C.O. left to undergo Intelligence Course at 1st Anzac Corps School.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PANEHEM TINGRY	Dec. 29		<p>Weather fine and cold. The Battalion today carried out an Outpost Scheme as per attached copy of Order - returning to billets at 1 p.m. on conclusion of the scheme Company Commanders delivered lectures to their Companies, pointing out any faults noticed, etc. Lieut. Gardner left to attend 1st Anzac Corps Gas School. 1 man left to attend course at Cookery School. During the afternoon one complete Company was engaged on clearing the roads in SAMER of snow. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital.</p>	
	30		<p>Lieut. Grimsley and one other rank rejoined ex leave. Weather dull and not very cold. The snow is beginning to thaw slightly. Only Church parades were today held. All blankets were taken by Motor Lorry to No. 44 Sanitary Section, Etaples, for fumigation, and brought back before nightfall. Lieut. Mehan rejoined ex 2nd Army School. 2 men were evacuated to Hospital 2 men rejoined ex wounded and 1 ex leave.</p>	
	31		<p>Weather dull and very cold. Two Companies were today engaged in clearing the snow from the roads. One Company carried out grouping practice at 100 yards range. The remaining Company carried on with section and extended order drill, Bayonet fighting, Musketry, Platoon in attack and Gas Drill. All Lewis Gunners carried out special training under Lewis Gun Officer. C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders during the afternoon and discussed general matters. Lieut. Mehan, M.C. and 4 N.C.O.'s left for duty at 14th Training Battalion. 3 men proceeded on leave to Paris. 5 men left for duty with 5th Div. Motor Transport Column. 1 man was evacuated to Hospital The Brigade Band, which is to remain with the Battalion for some days, arrived during the afternoon.</p>	
	31/12/17			
			<p style="text-align: right;">  Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F. </p>	

APPENDIX TO WAR DIARY: DECEMBER 1917.
=====

Strength of Battalion on 1/12/17 (including detached:
In Hospital, At Schools and On Command 8 Off. 108 O.R.

<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
31	841
7	180
<hr/>	
38	1021
<hr/>	

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

Strength of Battalion on 31/12/17 (including detached;
In Hospital, At Schools and On Command ~~10~~ Off. ~~130~~ O.R.
(10 119)

<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
37	991
1	30
<hr/>	
38	1021
<hr/>	

Transfers, Evacuatiens, out of Div. Area, Secendings etc.

RESUME OF YEAR'S OPERATIONS

During the beginning of the year, up till the German withdrawal in March, the Battalion was in the LE TRANSLOY Sector, garrisoning the line and providing working parties for maintenance of communications and improvement of trenches. During this period the cold was intense, the communications were extremely difficult to keep in good order, the front line trenches needed constant attention and shell fire was heavy and consistent.

Despite these difficulties the sector occupied by the Battalion was kept in good order, hot rations reached the garrison nightly and cases of trench feet were very few. This state of affairs was purely due to the cheefful endurance and loyalty displayed by all ranks.

When the enemy withdrew early in March the weather was excellent splendid and the spirit of all ranks was excellent. During the advance several minor engagements with small hostile rearguard patrols occurred but it was not until the 2nd April that this Battalion was engaged in an important action.

On this date the Battalion carried out a surprise attack and captured the village of LOUVERVAL. At this stage the morale of the Battalion was extremely high, and although casualties were fairly heavy (2 officers and 57 other ranks killed: 8 officers and 57 O.R. wounded) the attack was a complete success and the Battalion was congratulated by the Brigade, Divisional and Army Corps Commanders. Regarding this action as many as possible of our men who were killed were brought back and buried in CHAPEAU WOOD. Lieut-Colonel Scott (since killed) in action) himself supervised the laying out of this Battalion cemetery and a large wooden cross was erected in honor of the men of the Battalion who fell at LOUVERVAL. This Cemetery is now a British Registered Cemetery.

After this engagement the Battalion moved back in stages to BECOURT where re-organization and training were carried out for three weeks. At the beginning of May a hasty move was made to support the attack of the 2nd Australian Division at BULLECOURT.

When the Battalion arrived at VAULX the programme had been changed and the Battalion had merely to hold the line captured by the 2nd Australian Division. During this tour the Battalion had to undergo very severe shelling and participated in a heavy hostile counter attack. Our casualties here were fairly severe but the counter attack by the enemy was successfully dealt with. The Battalion was relieved at the end of May.

Then began a spell of training and re-organization at LE TRANSLOY, WARLOY, MAILLET and HERRISSART in the SOMME AREA. From HERRISSART the Battalion moved to EBBLINGHEM in the Second Army Area at the end of July. The training here was mainly devoted to the new offensive tactics preparatory to attacking the enemy in the YPRES Area.

The training was carried out at high pressure and on 26th September the Battalion took part in the attack through POLYGON RACECOURSE. The attack was completely successful and the Battalion proved itself once more. All objectives were captured in schedule time, over 150 prisoners were taken, and numerous machine guns. The captured ground was successfully held till the Battalion was relieved on the night of 30th September.

Unfortunately our casualties were very severe. Lieut-Colonel A.H. Scott, D.S.O. the Commanding Officer was killed, as were also the Adjutant, the Medical Officer, two Company Commanders and 2 Subalterns.

From the 13th to 21st October the Battalion garrisoned the BROODSEINDE Sector. During this time we underwent several very severe hostile gas shell bombardments. On the 15th November the Battalion took over the HOLLEBEKE Sector and garrisoned it for 14 days. The sector was very quiet and a great deal of work in the shape of constructing Strong Points, and salvaging, was carried out.

On the 13th December the Division moved to the SAMER Rest Area for reorganization and training purposes.

Throughout the whole year the loyalty, discipline, endurance and fighting qualities of all ranks left nothing to be desired.

The numbers of decorations gained by the Battalion during the year are as follow: BAR TO MILITARY CROSS 1: MILITARY CROSS 8: DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL 6: MILITARY MEDAL 23: FOREIGN DECORATIONS 1: MENTION IN DESPATCHES 6.

APPENDIX.

Ref. Map Sheet 28 S.W. 1/20,000
=====In the Field,
5/12/17.
=====

1. The 56th Battalion with Transport will carry out a Route March tomorrow 6th inst.
 2. STARTING POINT: Gas Sentry Box.
 3. TIME: 8.45 a.m.
 4. ORDER OF MARCH:
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
"A" Co.
TRANSPORT.
- (a) The Lewis Gun Officer, Signalling officer, Headquarters Signallers and Stretcher Bearers will march with their respective Companies.
(b) Distances of 50 yards will be maintained between Companies and 100 yards between "A" Co. and Transport.
5. DRESS: Battle Order, Steel Helmets. Mounted officers will wear Sam Browne Belts and Caps.
 6. (a) Forward portion of Coekers will not be taken.
(b) Lewis Guns will not be taken.
 7. Daily Working parties and Brigade Schools Personnel will parade as laid down in Training Syllabus for week.
 8. Every available man must be on parade.
 9. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8 a.m.
 10. Marching out States with details as to what work or otherwise all men not on parade are engaged on to B.O.R. at 8 a.m.

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

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

O.C. "A" Co.
O.C. "B" Co.
O.C. "C" Co.
O.C. "D" Co.
T.O.
R.M.O.
L.G. Officer.
Sig. Officer.
R.S.M.
C.O.
War Diary.
File.

56TH BATTALION ORDER No. 69
=====

APPENDIX

Ref. Maps Sheet 28 1/40,000
Calais 13 1/100,000
=====

In the Field,
12/12/17.
=====

1. The 56th Battalion will move to the FRENCQ Area on the 13/14th inst.
 2. (a) ENTRAINING STATION: DE KENNEBEK
(b) DETRAINING STATION: DESVRES
 3. STARTING POINT: GAS SENTRY BOX
 4. TIME: 11.30 a.m.
 5. ORDER OF MARCH: "A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
- All Headquarters Details will march with their respective Companies. Distances of 50 yds. will be maintained between Companies.
6. DRESS: Full Marching Order less 1 blanket. Felt Hats. Unconsumed portion of days rations to be carried and water bottles to be filled.
 7. Lieut. Gardiner will act as Bn. Entraining officer and will report to Bde. Entraining officer DE KENNEBEK at 10.30 a.m. on 13th inst. with Bn. Entraining States.
 8. Lieut. Brackpool will act as Bde. Entraining officer for Bde. Transport and will report to R.T.O. BAILLEUL at 3.30 p.m. on 13th inst.
 9. O.C. "B" Co. will provide party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men to report to Entraining Station at 9.15 a.m. as guard and unloading party.
 10. Extra Blankets (rolled in bundles of 10 and plainly marked), Officers' Valises, Company Records, Medical Stores and Camp Kettles, will be stacked by 8.30 a.m. on 13th inst. under direction of R.S.M.
 11. Officers' Mess Gear to be stacked at 9 a.m.
 12. Cooks will remain behind to clean up. They will report to Sgt. Craig.
 13. Remainder of Transport still with the Battalion will entrain at BAILLEUL, and will report there at 4 p.m. 2 days rations for personnel and animals will be carried.
 14. All Huts will be left in a clean and sanitary condition and certificates to this effect will be rendered to B.O.R. at 9 a.m.
 15. Marching Out States to B.O.R. at 9 a.m.
 16. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 9 a.m.

Issued by runner at 4 p.m. to:-

(Sgd) G.A. Williamson, Captain,
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. and Q.M.
7. Lt. Gardiner.
8. Lt. Brackpool.
9. M.O.
10. C.O.
1. War Diary.
11. File.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOVE OUT BY RAIL.

=====

(To be read out on parade before entrainment)

1. Absolute silence is to be maintained during entrainment.
2. No man is to entrain or detrain until he receives orders.
3. No man is to travel in brake vans or on top or on steps of carriage or truck.
4. Men will not be allowed to enter any refreshment room.
5. No man is allowed to leave the train at any but authorised stopping places.
6. No wine or spirits will be allowed on the train.
7. Any man left behind at the Station will report at once to the R.T.O.
8. Bottles and other articles, such as tins etc. are not to be thrown out of the windows. Any rubbish should be put under the seats or in the corner of truck.
9. All men will be warned of the length of halt at stopping places and ordered to parade outside their carriages, 5 minutes before the train is due to start.
10. Before the train leaves the station, the Officer or N.C.O. in charge of each party, will satisfy himself that all his men are on board, and will report to the O.C. of Train Guard.
11. Windows to be examined before entraining and after detraining.

NOTE: Any disobedience of the above orders will be severely dealt with.

12/12/17.

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

Ref. Map Calais 13, 1/100,000
=====

DESVRES,
14/12/17

1. The 56th Battalion less Transport will move to PANHEM today.
 2. STARTING POINT Crossroads at the U in LE CARAGUET.
 3. TIME: 9.35 a.m.
 4. ORDER OF MARCH: HEADQUARTERS,
"A" Co.
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
- Distances of 100 yds. between Companies.
5. DRESS: Full marching order.
 6. Halts will be signalled from head of Column.
 7. All men marked unfit to march by R.M.O. will report to STATION at 7.30 a.m.
 8. Marching Out States to B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
 9. Watches to be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
 10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 6 a.m. by runner to:-

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

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

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56TH BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 71
=====

APPENDIX

Ref. Map Calais 13. 1/100,000

In the Field,
20/12/17

1. The 56th Battalion will carry out a Concentration March tomorrow 21st inst.
2. CONCENTRATION POINT: Road Junction at second "T" in HAUT PICHOT
3. Companies will march independently so as to reach concentration point at 10.30 a.m.
4. Companies will take following routes:-
 - "A" Co. Headquarters -Road through "G" in BOIS DE TINGRY -Concentration Point.
 - "B" Co. Headquarters -Crossroads at "N" in VERLINGTHUN -Concentration Point.
 - "C" Co. Headquarters -TINGRY -BERQUERIE -HALINGHEN -Concentration Point.
 - "D" Co. Headquarters -TINGRY -BERQUERIE -Concentration Point

The following routes will be taken on the return journey.

- "A" HAUT PICHOT -Crossroads at "N" in VERLINGTHUN -TINGRY-BILLETTS.
- "B" Road through "G" in BOIS DE TINGRY -BILLETTS.
- "C" Same route as "A"
- "D" Same route as "A"

5. DRESS for all ranks except Company Commanders who will wear Sam Browne Belts -Battle Order, Small Box Respirators, Felt hats turned up. Lewis Guns will not be taken. Company Commanders will be dismounted.
6. Every available man to be on parade. Signallers will parade with "A" Co.
7. Marching out States to B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.
8. Watches to be synchronised by runner at B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.

Issued by runner at 4.30 p.m. to: (Sgd) G.A. Williamsen, Captain,
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. C.O.
- 7. Sig. Off.
- 1. War Diary.
- 8. File.

56TH BATTALION OUTPOST SCHEME.

Ref. CALAIS SHEET 1/100,000

29/12/17.

1. (a) Enemy is reported at LONGVILLERS covered by Outposts on the line CORMONT - BERNIEULLE. Small hostile cavalry patrol seen in vicinity of FRENCQ.
 (b) Our troops are bivouacked in area SAMER - TINGRY - DALLE with outpost line WIDEHEM - HUBERTSENT - ROLET - ENGIANHAUT.
 (c) The 14th A.I.Bde. occupy TINGRY with 8th Bde. on the left and 15th Bde. on the right.
2. (a) The 56th Bn. will hold section of the above outpost line from HUBERTSENT (exclusive) to ROLET (exclusive).
 (b) Piquet line will be line of resistance.
3. (a) "A" Co. No. 1 Outpost Co. from road junction (inclusive) 1/8" S. of "E" in HUBERTSENT to road (exclusive) at 6.c.9.95.
 "B" Co. No. 2 Outpost Co. from road (inclusive) at 6.c.9.95 to 5.d.0.0.
 "C" Co. No. 3 Outpost Co. from 5.d.0.0 to road junction (inclusive) at "R" in ROLET.
 (b) "D" Co. will be in reserve at road junction 1/8" N. of "E" in HUBERTSENT.
 (c) Bn. Headquarters and R.A.P. at Farm at road junction where Reserve Co. are.
 (d) No fires in piquet line and no smoking at night.
 (e) Companies to be in position by 10.30 a.m.
4. (a) The Battalion will rendezvous on road at "Y" in TINGRY at 9 a.m. and will march to outpost line in the following order:-
 HEADQUARTERS,
 "A" Co.
 "B" Co.
 "C" Co.
 "D" Co.
 100 yds. between Companies to be maintained.
 (b) Signallers will carry flags.
 (c) Stretcher Bearers will march with respective Companies.
 (d) All untrained Lewis Gunners will remain behind with Lewis Guns and report to Lieut. Bull on "C" Co. parade ground at 9 a.m.
 (e) DRESS: Battle order, Steel helmets.
 (f) Company Commanders will be mounted.
5. Watches will be synchronised at B.O.R. at 8.30 a.m.

(Sgd) G.A. Williamsen, Captain,
 Adjutant 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued by runner to:-

O.C. "A" Co.
 O.C. "B" Co.
 O.C. "C" Co.
 O.C. "D" Co.
 M.O.
 C.O.
 War Diary
 File.