

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/6

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-23/73/6

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

56 Bn AIF

Army Form C. 2118. 83

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	July			
Marseilles	1st	0900	24 Officers and 740 Other Ranks, disembarked and took up position on the Decks, preparatory to entraining for Thiennes.	
		1130	Moved to Railway Siding to entrain. Train departed at 1300. Halts were made en route, for meals - hot water being obtained at each halt for men's tea. Weather fine.	
	2nd		6 Officers and 200 Other Ranks disembarked and entrained at 0400 for Thiennes. This completed the whole Bn., less Transport Section, which arrived earlier.	
Thiennes.	3rd	0415	First batch of the Bn., arrived at Thiennes and detrained. French Interpreter met Bn., and escorted them to Billets.	
		0525	All ranks in Billets. Muster Parade held during the afternoon, otherwise only straightening up.	
		2030	6 Officers and 200 Other Ranks, also 10 Riding Horses, arrived. This completed the Bn.	
	4th		Lt., E.L. Dalkieth to-day transferred and seconded for duty with 14th Bde., Light Trench Mortar Battery, together with 11 Other Ranks.	
		1200 to 1700	During these hours, heavy rain fell and difficulty was experienced with Latrines, owing to the dampness of ground. Remainder of the day fine. Health of men good.	
			During the day training was carried out, which consisted chiefly of Route Marches and Gas Helmet practise - each Co., doing 3 hours of the latter.	
	5th	0900	2 N.C.O's and 8 men, temporarily attached to A.P.M., Staff, 5th Div., for duty on Traffic Control. Weather fine, but cloudy.	
		1400 to 1700	Wind blew fairly strong.	
			New Latrines dug, but not permanent ones, as ground still sodden with previous day's rain. It was afterwards necessary to use the Pan system.	
			During the morning Gas Helmet practise was carried out for 3 hours, by each Company.	
			During the afternoon the Bn., Route March was held, covering a distance of 7 to 8 miles. Being the first march on hard roads since leaving Egypt, a few of the men were effected with sore feet, otherwise the health of the men very good.	
	6th	0600	Training carried out of Gas Helmet instruction, Grenadier Training and Lewis Gun instruction. No rain fell during the day, although very cloudy and dull. 2 men were transferred during the day, to Medium Trench Mortar Battery.	

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Vol II

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
Thiennes	7th	0600	C.O., and Adjutant, left to join party at Bde., H.Q., to proceed to Front Line trenches, with a view to inspecting same. The Sector of trenches the Bn., is to take over, being held by the 46th Bn. Nothing much to report on the Sector, everything very quiet during the day.		
				C.O., and Adjutant returned at 1800.	
		0800	Fairly heavy rain commenced and fell until 1100. It commenced again between 1200 and 1300.		
		1400	Bn., Route March commenced, but owing to rain which fell very heavily from 1420, March was postponed. Rain cleared about 1530 and Companies carried out the march independently. Despite heavy rain, Billets proved waterproof, and men experienced little inconvenience through the rain. The Bn., was paid during the day, by Companies. Health of men good.		
		1430	Lt., Edsison and Bn., Transport arrived after 8 days journey from Marseilles. One man admitted to Hospital at Marseilles, from Transport; otherwise all correct. Horses and Mules received in France, arrived in good condition.		
		8th	0600	C.O., and Adjutant, and Company Commanders, left to inspect the Front Line trenches, which the Bn., is to take over from the 46th Bn.	
			0700	Heavy rain fell and continued until 0800	
			0730	The Bn., left to join Bde., column, which was proceeding to undergo practise Gas Attack - steel helmets being worn.	
			0900	Weather cleared.	
			1430	The Bn., returned after having had experience with Gas, also Tear Shells.	
			1830	C.O., Adjutant and Co., Commanders returned from trenches.	
			2000	Operation Order received from Brigade, regarding move to new Billets. Bn., Operation Order - March 1, was then prepared and issued to Companies - copy attached.	
		9th	0700	The Bn., moved off from Billets and proceeded to take up new Billets at Estaire. Halts of 10 minutes were made every hour. Passed through Verville at 1200 - halt was made for dinner at 1230, about 1/2 mile beyond the town of Merville. Tea, hot meal and potatoes were served to the men. At 1330 the Bde., march continued, arriving at Estaire at 1700. Billets were allotted and all men in same by 1800. Standing Orders were then issued. During the march 14 men fell out. Condition of men fair, most of the sick men who fell out were troubled with sore feet.	
				1830	Air fight witnessed above town of Estaire.
Etaire.	10th	1000	Co., Parades held, and general inspection made of equipment, feet, boots etc., Result satisfactory		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
	July				
Estaire.	10th	1200	Operation Order received from Bde., and Advance Party Organized.		
		1300	Operation Order for Advance Party issued as per copy attached, and preparations made for the departure at mid-day.		
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm	11th	0300	Operation Order received from Bde., Orders to move having been put forward 24 hours. Bn., Order was then issued to Advance Party, to move at 0800, instead of time already notified.		
		1100	Bn., Operation Order issued as per copy attached, for remainder of Bn.		
		1730	Bn., halted for tea. Head of the column rested 200 yards from the Cross Roads at Creax du Bac. Cookers were with the Companies, therefore an issue to the men, of tea and bacon, was made possible.		
		2030	Bn., moved off by Plateons from Creax du Bac, at intervals of 30 yards between Plateons.		
		2100	Bn., passed through Bac St., Maur.		
		2200	Bn., passed through Fleurbaix. Transport halted and all riding horses were left at this village.		
		2345	Relief was commenced and carried on until midnight.		
		0100	Relief of 46th Bn., completed - no casualties having occurred during the relief.		
		0300	to	Battalion stood to Arms.	
		0415	0900	General improvements commenced on defences. Enemy Artillery commenced firing but no damage was done. They continued firing at intervals, up to 1200.	
1600	1830	Enemy Artillery commenced shelling in vicinity of Bn., H.Q., Wye Farm - shells dropping within 100 yards. Firing ceased until 2000, when fire was again opened, shells dropping on opposite side of Bn., H.Q., Wye Farm, at a distance of about 300 yards.			
2100	to	Battalion stood to Arms.			
2200	2130	Gas Alert. During the day 770 rounds of S.A.A., were expended. Condition and health of men very good, also men in good spirits.			
13th	0200	2 casualties reported from "C" Co., Sector - both men having been accidentally killed. From 0600 12/7/16 to 0600 13/7/16, 7525 rounds S.A.A., and 3 Grenades were used.			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm.	13	0300	The Battalion stood to arms.	
		to		
		0415	Burial held of the 2 men accidentally killed.	
		1000	Court of Inquiry assembled to inquire into cause of deaths of 2 men accidentally killed.	
		1300	Finding "Deceased soldiers to blame".	
		1500	2 men reported wounded through enemy grenade fire, from "A" Co., Sector.	
		2100	Our Artillery commenced bombarding enemy's lines and in rear of same - continued up to mid-night. Enemy replied, but caused no damage.	
		2100		
		to		
		2200	Battalion stood to arms.	
			Condition and health of the men, good.	
	14th	0200	Our Artillery ceased firing.	
		0300		
		to		
		0415	The Bn., stood to arms - everything reported quiet on front at 0415.	
		1000	Attempt made to get message through to our Artillery, but failed.	
		1100	Enemy bombarded "B" Co., Sector until 1200, but owing to useless Signallers of 5th Div., Artillery, it was found impossible to get any satisfaction from them, when sending a message. Apparently the Signallers were not informed by their Officers, as to the meaning of Code messages, likely to be sent from the Infantry in the Front Line trenches. No casualties occurred during this shelling.	
		1800	Enemy aeroplane sighted near our lines - it appeared to be giving range and result of hostile Artillery which had commenced to fire on our guns. Enemy also bombarded our aircraft, without result.	
		2000	Move Orders received. Bn., to be relieved by English troops. Relief commenced at 2300 and continued until 2400.	
Bac St., Maur.	15th	0200	Relief of Bn., having been completed without any casualties, the Bn., was moved by Companies into new Billets at Bac St., Maur, arriving there at 0400.	
		1000	C.O., and Adj., received message to report at Bde., H.Q., Fleurbaix. Instructions and information were given to the effect that an attack was to be made on enemy trenches.	

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Bac st., maur.	15th	1000	This was duly passed on to Co., Commanders on the C.O.'s return. Q.M.'s department very busy all day, drawing supplies etc. Weather fine.	
		1500	5 men were sent to 5th Div., H.Q., for training with Carrier Pidgeon Service.	
		1500	C.O., and Adj., Senior Major, Co., Commanders, Medical Officer, visited trenches where attack is to be commenced from, and reconnoitered the ground in front and in rear, paying particular attention to the different routes.	
		2000	Fatigue Party of 2 Officers and 100 men were asked for by the Engineers to take stores to Front line Trenches. This party worked throughout the night.	
	16th	0030	Fatigue Party sent on the previous night returned and reported all correct, no casualties having occurred.	
		0800	Guard of 7 Other Ranks, and Fatigue Party of 52 Other Ranks, reported to A.E. Works.	
		1100	C.O., and Adj., received orders to report to Bde., H.Q. Returned at 1230.	
		1400	C.O., called meeting of Co., Commanders etc., at Bn., H.Q. During the day all Subalterns visited Front Line trenches for the purpose of carrying out reconnaissance. One Officer per Co., sent to Bde., H.Q., to trace map of area from where attack is to take place, also German trenches.	
		1400	2 Officers and 100 men were despatched on Fatigue duties.) These Fatigues had to report at	
		2200	2 Officers and 100 men were despatched on Fatigue duties.) Engineer Dump, to carry stores from	
		2400	2 Officers and 100 men were despatched on Fatigue duties.) the Dump, to Front Line. All three fatigues reported back, having suffered no casualties.	
		2200	Operation Order received from Brigade.	
		2300	Bn., Operation No 4, was typed and issued, as per copy attached.	
		2400	Lt., Man of "D" Co., arrived back from Bde., with Appendix A & B, also with Zero Time and correct Bde., time (Zero time being 0400 on the 17th). He also brought list of Code Prefixes.	
	17th	0400	Received message from Bde., to the effect that Zero time had been altered to 0800 on the 17th.	
		0800	Fatigue Party reported back (2 Officers 100 Other Ranks) - 1 man reported missing (believed to have been killed)	
		0800	Message received from Bde., to the effect that the 60th Bde., would release Gas, weather conditions being favourable, on Eastern side of Salient, in end 6 B, at 1050.	
		0800	Fatigue party of 4 Officers and 400 Other Ranks, left to carry stores to the Front Line trenches. Weather very cloudy and every likelihood of rain.	

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Bac St., Maur.	17th	1000	C.O., called meeting of all Co., Commanders etc., with a view of discussing certain information and intelligence which had been received from Bde., H.Q., during the early hours of the morning.		
		1030	Message received from Bde., as follows :- "Zero postponed for to-day - Orders will be issued shortly regarding action to be taken". This was duly passed on to all Co., Commanders at the abovementioned meeting.		
		3.30 p.m.	Guide detailed to go to Div., Hqrs., for men rejoining ex wick.		
		4 p.m.	As per memo from Bde Signal Office, the Bn., prefix was changed from E.F., to X.E.F., also other Bns., added "X" before their prefix.		
		4.30 p.m.	1 N.C.O., and 6 men were detailed for Fatigue at Bac St., Maur Railway Station.		
		5 p.m.	2 Platoons detailed for Fatigue at Engineer's Dump, Rue de Bois.		
		5 p.m.	Books, Flannellette, Rifle Oil and Field Dressings were issued in small quantities to Coys, by Q.M.		
		5.30 p.m.	Fatigue Party of 2 Officers and 150 Other Ranks was detailed to report at Engineers' Dump, Rue de Bois, at 2100.		
		7.30 p.m.	Guides arrived and reported for Fatigue Parties.		
		8 p.m.	Fatigue Parties left to report. Weather very dull. Health of men good.		
		18th	2 a.m.	Message from Brigade received, stating that Wireless Station had been formed opened at the 53rd Bn., and 14th Bde., Hqrs., to be used only in cases of extreme urgency.	
		6.45 a.m.	Fatigue Party left to report to R.S.O., Bac St., Maur, for unloading.		
		11 a.m.	Wire received from Bde., re Fatigues. One party to report at Rue de Bois at 2 p.m., (2 Officers and 100 Other Ranks). Other to report at Rue de Bois at 6 p.m., to relieve first party, (2 Officers and 100 Other Ranks). Adjutant left for Brigade to receive instructions re various fatigues.		
		12.30 p.m.	First Fatigue Party left. Weather very clear. Friendly aircraft active.		
4 p.m.	Second Fatigue Party left. Health of men good. Weather very clear.				
6.30 p.m.	Friendly aircraft extraordinarily active., 7 machines being seen from Bn., Hqrs., over our lines.				

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Bac St., Maur.	July 18th	8.15 p.m.	Note received from Bde., to the effect that Zero time would not be before 1100 on the 19th inst.	
		11.50 p.m.	Second Fatigue Party reported back. Also note received from Brigade re extra Fatigue Party to be detailed.	
	19th	1 a.m.	Note received from Brigade re Fatigue Party for R.S.O., Bac St., Maur, also further note from the G.O.C., 14th Bde., stating that Operation Order would be despatched from Bde., at 0700.	
6.30 a.m.		Fatigue Party of 1 N.C.O., and 33 Other Ranks, for Fuel Dump, left Bn., Hqrs. Also party for R.S.O., Bac St., Maur.		
7.45 a.m.		Bn., Grenadiers left to report to Bde., Grenadier Officer at Rue de Bois, for the purpose of detonating grenades, preparatory to the attack.		
8 a.m.		Code Book and Operation Order received from Bde., also note to the effect that Grenadiers were to report at Rue de Bois.		
9 a.m.		C.O., received orders to report to Bde., Hqrs., and there receive orders and instructions from the Brigadier for the attack. C.O., advised that Zero time was to be 1100.		
10 a.m.		Daily Fatigue Party detailed of 33 Other Ranks, from D Co., to report to R.S.O., Bac St., Maur.		
11 a.m.		C.O., returned from Bde. Meeting of Co., Commanders arranged for 1200.		
12 noon.		Meeting of Co., Commanders, Lewis Gun Detachment Officer, Quarter Master and Medical Officer, held, at which C.O., discussed all orders and information received from Brigadier during the morning. Several slight alterations were made in the Operation Orders issued on the 16th inst.		
4 p.m.		Bn., moved off to take up position allotted to it along the line - RUE QUESNOY - RUE RAITALLE., Bn., acting as Reserve Bn., to the Div., and to be assembled at this point by 5 p.m.		
4.25 p.m.		Bn., had established Headquarters.		
4.55 p.m.		Message sent to 5th Div., as follows :- "Bn., now assembled in first position".		
6 p.m.	According to Bde., Operation Order, the Bn., moved from first position of assembly to second position, on the RUE de QUESNES, arriving there and establishing Headquarters at position near Bde., Hqrs., at 6.30 p.m.			
Bac St., Maur Sector.		6.50 p.m.	Companies reported - "All correct and in position". Message was then duly sent to Div., to the effect that Bn., had reached second position of assembly and was awaiting orders.	

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Bac St., Maur Sector.	July 19th	8 p.m.	<p>Message received from Div., to the effect that A & B Companies were to move to 300 yds., line of the 14th Bde., Sector. The following messages were immediately sent to A & B Coys., :- "Proceed at once by shortest route to 300 yds., trench. You will take up a position between PINNEY'S AVENUE - BROMPTON ROAD and BROMPTON ROAD -MINE AVENUE respectively, preparatory to sending up S.A.A., and Grenades to our Front Line. Three Lewis Guns will report to each Company before you move off". To Lewis Gun Detachment Officer - "Please detail two gun parties of 3 guns each to report to A & B Coys., respectively, at once. You will go with B Co., Guns". To Medical Officer - "Please ensure that Stretcher Bearer Squad-move off with A & B Coys. They are moving immediately".</p>	
		8.50 p.m.	<p>A & B Companies moved off under Major Simpson, arriving and taking up position in 300 yds., line at 8.50 p.m. A & B Companies were later moved to the front line trenches of the Bde., Sector. During the time of this move, the enemy shelled very heavily. Notwithstanding the heavy shelling, the two Companies reached the front line in very quick time, only suffering casualties to the number of about - 5 killed 30 wounded. Men remained in good spirits, shewing no regard for enemy fire. Orders from Division were received during this period to the effect that on no account were any of the 56th Bn., Companies to leave our original front line trenches.</p>	
		9 p.m.	<p>Message received by a Runner, from Major Simpson, asking that the remainder of the Stretcher Bearers and A.M.C., be sent up, as A & B Coys., were moving to front line. On receipt of this message the following message was despatched to Capt., Grieves, Bn., Medical Officer :- "Please take remainder of Stretcher Bearers and A.M.C., details, to front line. Guide will direct you".</p>	
		11 p.m.	<p>Weather very cloudy and heavy mist falling.</p> <p>During the night 19th/20th Major Bachtold, O.C., 14th Field Co., Engineers, asked for B. Co., to dig a communication trench across to the captured German trenches. This was finally agreed to by the Div., and the work was immediately carried out, the whole trench being completed and duck-boarded before daylight. I wish to place on record here, the excellent work done by the Company of Captain Roberts. Through this trench being and completed it was possible to send extra munitions up, with comparative safety, also when the retirement of the Brigade took place on the morning of the 20th inst., it helped to save numerous lives. I might also mention that it was the only trench in the Division, to be dug across "No man's land". B Co., left the Bde., area about 11 p.m. and returned by platoons to original firing line, the last Platoon reaching the firing line about 3 a.m.</p>	

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Bac St., Maur Sector.	July	20 5 a.m.	Orders received from Division to the effect that C & D Companies were to be moved from Bn., second position of assembly to the 300 yds line trench. Bn., Headquarters established at RUE PETILLON.	
		5.20 a.m.	C & D Companies in position at 300 yds line trench. Enemy Artillery were now directing their fire, generally on the 300 yds line trench, also the Communication Saps, PINNEY'S AVENUE, BROMPTON ROAD & MINE AVENUE. Both Companies, during the period of shelling, suffered very few casualties, although at times great gaps were blown in the 300 yds line trench by enemy's shell fire.	
		5.40 a.m.	Message received from Captain Fanning to the effect that 8th Brigade were retiring on the left and that it was necessary for him to have help, in case of any possible Counter attack. A message was immediately sent to Captain Lucas, C Co., instructing him to take his Company to the left of the Brigade Sector, and support A & B Companies in front line. Cpt. Fanning was duly advised by Messenger at 5.45 a.m., that C Co., was proceeding to support him. Owing to the very disorganised retirement of the 8th Brigade, the majority of the Brigade retired past the front line to the 300 yds line. Captain Fanning on noticing this, immediately sent Captain Sheen with a party, over to the 8th Brigade area to steady the men. Captain Sheen succeeded in stemming the disorder and rallying the men by his personal example of coolness with his party, under very heavy shell fire. By his act the position in the 8th Brigade area was once more made secure against enemy Counter attack. During the morning of the 20th July, 1916, several very brave acts and devotion to duty were noticed in the Bn., the most noticeable being No 2426 Private T.C. Rowley of A Co. This man during the retirement of the 8th Brigade, proceeded to the parapet of the enemy's trench and standing up on the enemy's parapet in full view, threw grenades with such effect that the enemy had to withdraw from the parapet over which they were firing, thus enabling about 80 men of the abovementioned Brigade, to reach their lines in safety. Quite a number of B Co., men also, after having dug the Communication trench across "No man's land", upon being called upon to assist, by the men of the Brigade in the German trench, without hesitation went into the German trenches and helped their comrades to keep off the German Grenade attacks, afterwards retiring with the Brigade.	
		9.20 a.m.	Orders received from Brigade, as follows :- "56th Bn., with Lewis Gun Detachment of 55th Bn., will garrison Bde., Sector of trenches, all other Units to be moved to Billets". Orders were at once despatched to A, B, C., and D Companies, to distribute themselves along the Bde., area, PINNEY'S AVENUE exclusive, to MINE AVENUE exclusive - A Co., on the right - C Co., on	

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Bac St., Maur Sector.	July 20th	9.20 a.m.	the left, D Co., to remain in the 300 yds line trench and act as Bn., reserve. Lewis guns to be distributed along the line. At about 11 a.m., the trenches were only occupied by the 56th Bn., and Company Commanders had reported all correct. A start was then immediately made to clear all the wounded from the trenches, many of whom had been left since the first day. All the wounded were cleared from the trenches by 6 p.m. I wish to place on record here, the valuable service of Captain K.H. Grieve, A.M.C., who is attached to my Battalion as Medical Officer. This Officer reached the original front firing line of the Brigade Sector, between 10 p.m., and 11 p.m., on the night of the 19th/20th July, with my first two Companies. On reaching the firing line, Captain Grieve established a dressing station immediately. Owing to the battered nature of the trenches, he was unable to obtain shelter and was thus compelled to work in the open, which he continued to do, although the trenches were being heavily shelled, until the Bn., was relieved on the night of the 21st/22nd July. I also wish to place on record, the excellent work of the A.M.C., details attached to the Bn., and the Bn., Stretcher Bearers, who worked throughout so cheerfully and willingly, without sleep. 2nd Lieutenant F.B. Bolton, C Co., wounded.	
		11 a.m.		
		12. noon.	Enemy bombardment eased up, which considerably improved the conditions for bringing out the wounded from the front line trench, also the 300 yds., line trench. Parties commenced to arrive from the 53rd, 54th and 55th Bns., to assist the 56th Bn., in collecting wounded men from "No man's land", during night 20th/21st. Also a party arrived from the Pioneer Bn., to assist in carrying dead from the trenches. Total casualties of the Bn., for the day consisted of - 12 killed - 77 wounded - 13 missing. During the night 20th/21st, July, 1916, over 100 wounded men were brought in from "No man's land" and taken to the rear.	
		3 p.m.		
	21st	6 a.m.	2nd Lieut., F.H. Day and 4 men in the Bn., were wounded, whilst out in "No man's land" assisting the wounded. Enemy reported to be repairing their wire, which was badly cut by our Artillery.	
		8 a.m.	A start was made in stacking spare equipment - rifles and other gear, in various Saps along the original firing line and 300 yards trench, with a view to having same taken to the rear. Work was also commenced to improve our own parapets, which were in places, badly smashed. The remainder of the day was devoted to clearing the trenches of dead, also bringing in wounded men who crawled in from "No man's land", to the rear. A fair amount of sniping was indulged in, which prevented the enemy from carrying out improvements in their trenches.	

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Bac St., Maur Sector.	July	21st	6 p.m. Message received from Bde., Hqrs., that Bn., would be relieved by the 58th Bn., at 10 p.m.		
		7 p.m.	Billeting party under Lieut., Plomley, left for Bac St., Maur.		
		10	Operation Order re Relief was received from Bde. Preparations were immediately made for a		
		p.m.	move back to Billets at Bac St., Maur.		
		10.15	Relief commenced and Bn., all clear of the trenches at 12 p.m. During the relief the enemy		
		p.m.	indulged in indirect machine gun fire, of which a fair amount was directed on the RUE PETILLON		
		p.m.	resulting in 6 men being wounded. A Co., as a result, altered their route for departure, and		
		p.m.	were able to avoid casualties.		
		22nd	2 a.m.	Bn., in Billets at Bac St., Maur.	
		9 a.m.	Operation Order received from Bde., indicating that Bn., would relieve the Rifle Bde., at		
		9.45	FLEURBAIX SECTOR of trenches, on the night 22nd/23rd.		
		a.m.	C.O., proceeded to Hqrs., of the Bn. (Rifle Bde.), which the Bn., was to relieve, and		
		10	interviewed C.O., concerning relief.		
		a.m.	4 Subalterns and 4 N.C.O's proceeded to trenches for the purpose of viewing new position, also		
11	taking over trench stores etc.				
a.m.	Coy's independently moved to Q.M's Store for packs and blankets, which had been stored there				
a.m.	prior to the move into Action. Also it was possible, after this had been carried out, for				
a.m.	most of the men of the Bn., to proceed to the Div., Baths, for a bath, and change of under-				
12	clothing.				
noon.	2nd Lieut., Tofler was detailed to report to 53rd Bn., as this Bn., was very short of Officers				
3 p.m.	owing to heavy casualties they had suffered.				
p.m.	Meeting of Co., Commanders held at Bn., Hqrs. Move to Fleurbaix Sector was discussed, also				
p.m.	it was arranged that A Co., be left in Supports at various positions in rear of the firing				
p.m.	line. B, C & D Coys., to occupy the front line, together with the Lewis Gun Detachment.				
5 p.m.	Bn., Operation Order, as per attached, was issued to Co., Commanders etc. Word received				
p.m.	from Bde., that 1 Officer was being sent to the Bn., as a reinforcement.				
7 p.m.	Preparations completed for the move to the trenches.				
8.25	Bn., moved off, and proceeded to relieve the Rifle Bde., Regiment, arriving at Elbow Farm at				
p.m.	10.15 p.m. Bn., Hqrs., established at Wye Farm at 11 p.m. Relief completed at 11.45 p.m.				
p.m.	During the relief - 1 man was wounded coming through the Saps, by indirect machine gun fire.				
p.m.	Also, later, 1 man was severely wounded when taking rations up on a trolley to the front line.				
p.m.	Health of men good, although no doubt they are all in need of a thorough rest. Nevertheless				
p.m.	the spirits of the men are excellent. During the day the weather was fine, although				
p.m.	inclined to be cloudy.				

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm	July 23	3 to 4.15 a.m.	Battalion Steed to arms. B, C and D Companies occupy front line of trenches, with Lewis Gun Detachment - A Company occupy Jay's Post, Hudson's Bay Post, Brewery Post and City Post, with 1 platoon in each. Medical Officer and A.M.C., at Jay's Post. 26 all Ranks - N. Zealand Trench Mortar Battery attached to the Bn., for rations.	
		9 a.m.	Work was commenced by all Companies in repairing their trenches, parapets etc., also overhauling all the duckboards.	
		10 a.m. 12 noon	2/Lt., W.V. Beven, reinforcement Officer reported for duty with the Bn. C.O., visited front line and issued instructions for improvements etc., to be carried out and work was commenced accordingly. Major A.J.G. Simpson left to assume command, temporarily, of the 54th Bn., vice Lieut-Colonel Cass, sicklisted. 2nd Lieut. E.J. Grieve and 3 Other Ranks left during the day for School of Instruction - Machine Gun Course.	
		3 p.m.	Recommendations for Honours and Awards were forwarded by Co., Commanders to Bn., Hqrs. During the day the enemy sniping was very much in evidence. Observation Posts reported little activity by the enemy in rear of trenches. During the evening a fair amount of indirect rifle and machine gun fire was carried out by the enemy - they continued for several hours.	
		11 p.m.	Patrol's went out into "No man's land", but found no signs of enemy Patrols - they were rather hampered by the enemy using a great number of flares. Health of men good - weather fine but slightly cloudy.	
	24th		Battalion steed to arms during the usual hours - 3 a.m., to 4.15 a.m., and 9 p.m., to 10 p.m.	
		9.30 a.m.	C.O., visited front line and interviewed Company Commanders in connection with the defence of the front line, also improvements under work	
		10 a.m.	Direct communication obtained with the 59th and 60th Batteries of 15th Field Artillery Bde. During the morning the G.O.C., 14th Inf., Bde., Brigade Major visited trenches, and afterwards returned to Wye Farm and held interview with C.O.	
		4 p.m.	Recommendations for Honours and Awards sent to G.O.C., 14th Inf., Bde.	
		6 p.m.	Enemy fired 2 rifle grenades into B Co's Sector, wounding 2 men. Word received from Bde., that the Bn., would receive 158 reinforcements on the morning of the 25th. Very little activity was evident on the part of the enemy Artillery until 8 p.m., when a few high explosive shells were fired but burst wide of any treeps or buildings, causing no damage. One man killed during the morning, having been shot through the head while doing observation duties. C.O., visited front line at 9 p.m., returned at 11 p.m.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm	July 25		Battalion stood to arms during the usual hours, morning and evening. Very little activity was evident. Patrols which reported back in the early hours of morning from "No man's land", reported that the enemy were working on new communication trench in rear of their line and were also working on their wire entanglements.	
		10 a.m.	Adjutant proceeded to Field Cashier to draw pay, also to inspect the reinforcements for Bn. Bn., reinforcements arrived during the afternoon and were allotted to Companies as follows :- "A" - 36, "B" - 53, "C" - 30, "D" 40 - Total 159, 1 more than advised. During the afternoon the enemy Artillery was very active - they appeared to be directing their fire chiefly on "B" Co's Sector, also communication trench, Bay Avenue in rear of "D" Co. However, very little damage was done to the trenches. During the shelling 6 men, including 1 English Engineer, were killed and 6 others wounded. Every endeavour was made to get our Artillery to retaliate, but owing to the system being completely out of date, our calls to the Artillery were ignored. It was only late in the afternoon, that the C.O., after speaking to the Adjutant of Artillery, on the telephone, that the Artillery retaliated, directing their fire chiefly on the enemy parapets, which appeared to be suffering little damage. Health of men good - weather fine and cold during the day. During the evening Patrols were sent out in front of each Companies' Sector, also Wiring parties, to improve our own wire entanglements.	
	26	3 p.m	Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours - morning and evening. Word was received during the morning that 2nd Lt., W.H. Gilbey had been evacuated sick to London, and consequently he was struck off the strength. Burials of the men killed on the previous day took place at the Wye Farm cemetery - Chaplain Holliday and Father Kennedy officiating. During the morning very little Artillery fire was indulged in by either side. During the afternoon a note was received from Bde., Hqrs., asking for names of Other Ranks, suitable for appointment to commissioned rank, also those that would probably be suitable, after going through a course of instruction in England. The following names were sent forward :- No 2568 C.S.M., Bensen E.C. No 1363A Sgt., Gorden P.F., No 1967 Sgt., Johnston C.H. 2371 Sgt., Greer F.S.A. (wounded) No 1125 Cpl., Eadie H. McL. 2132 Pte., Forsythe G.P. No 1713 C.S.M., Bull J. The following names were submitted for appointment to Commissioned rank after undergoing instruction :- No 3700 Cpl., Wood W.C. No 3073 L/Cpl., Donaldson G.T. Bn., Scout & Intelligence Officer - 2nd Lt., A.L. Denny was shot through the head by an enemy sniper - he was immediately sent to Hospital, but condition very critical.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm	July 26		During the night 26/27, wiring parties were sent out and were able to put out more wire in front of B & C Company's Sectors. Although more enemy flares were evident than through the night 25/26th, the number was much less than usual. C Company's wiring party, during the night, reported that a party of the enemy was cutting our wire. The N.C.O., in charge of our party returned immediately to our lines and reported matters. On rejoining his party, all was quiet. Nothing else of much importance happened during the night.	
		27	Bn., stood to arms during the usual hours, morning and evening. News received from Bde., that 2nd Lieutenant A.L. Denny, who was shot through the head by an enemy sniper on the previous day, passed away during the night 26th/27th, also that his funeral would take place at 4 p.m., at Estairs.	
		10 a.m	Court of Inquiry was assembled at Battalion Hqrs., Wye Farm, for the purpose of inquiring into loss of Signalling Stores by the 14th Bde., Machine Gun Co., and 56th Battalion during the recent operations. Major J.S.S. Andersen acted as President - Members - Captain V.E. Smythe and Lieut. W.M. Pitt.	
		12 noon. 2 p.m	Enemy fired a great number of shells on one of our aeroplanes, but caused no damage. The enemy also shelled "D" Company's Sector, doing little damage. Pay Books and cash of deceased soldiers was sent to Field Cashier, 5th Aust., Division. Court of Inquiry concluded, and proceedings forwarded to Bde., Hqrs.	
		28	During the day a fair amount of improvements were carried out in the trenches, special attention being paid to widening the parapets at various places, also general improvements for the duckboards throughout the Bn., Sector. During the afternoon several loop holes were put in and extra work by larger parties was able to be carried out during the evening, owing to darkness. Enemy machine guns were very active at about 10.30 p.m., also one gun was firing indirect fire on Battalion Headquarters, at Wye Farm.	
		8 a.m	Health of men remains good. Weather during the day was fine, but inclined to be cloudy. Battalion stood to arms during the usual hours, morning and evening. Patrols came in from the previous night, also wiring parties - reporting all correct.	
		10 a.m.	Two men sent to the 28th A.A.S.C., as a permanent fatigue.	
		12 noon	2nd Lieutenant Nicholls and 17 Other Ranks from the 5th Pioneer Bn., Lewis Gun Detachment, reported for a period of duty. 2/Lt., T.C. Bentley was instructed to give them as much practical experience as possible.	
		3 p.m	One N.C.O., and 2 men left for a course of instruction at Div., Gas School.	
		3 p.m	Two Taubes were seen flying towards our lines, but after a few minutes, turned and flew back to their own lines. During the afternoon our Aircraft was very active. A number of	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm.	July 28		machines flew across to the German lines - although the enemy opened very heavy fire with their Aircraft guns, the machines managed to get safely through - no damage being noticeable. Health of the men good. Weather fine and bright. During the evening the usual listening posts and wiring parties were sent out in front of our lines, and on returning reported everything correct		
	29		Battalion stood to arms during the usual hours - morning and evening 8 a.m German machine flew over our lines and was immediately fired upon by our Aircraft guns; although not hit, it almost immediately circled round and returned.		
		9.30 a.m.		C.O., proceeded to Bde., Hqrs., to attend a conference. During the morning our Aeroplanes did considerable patrolling in rear of our lines.	
		12 noon		Enemy commenced shelling Fleurbaix and continued for some 2 hours. During the afternoon everything was fairly quiet along the Bn., front and the usual work was able to be gone on with without interference. During the evening the usual patrols were sent out in front of our lines, and on returning reported everything clear.	
		30		Health of the men continues to be good. Weather during the day, very bright and clear. Time for Bn., Stand to arms altered to 3.30 a.m., to 4.30 p.m. The Bn., stood to arms between these hours, also between 9 p.m., and 10 p.m. in the evening. Grenadier School as Instr-	
-sters. O.R. to Bde. M.G. Co.	Also 5		2/Lt., G.A. Williams and Grenadier Sergeant detailed to report to 14th Bde., Wye Farm Staff for instruction in Viker's Guns. During the afternoon our Artillery was more active than usual - very little retaliation coming from the enemy Artillery. Allied Aircraft was very active all day. Health of men good. Weather continues to be bright and clear.		
	31		Battalion stood to arms between the specified hours - morning and evening. 5 a.m Two other ranks were wounded by Snipers in B Company's Sector (one of whom died of wounds later) while observing and sniping. Prior to their being wounded, they managed to shoot two enemy snipers. During the morning everything was very quiet, also in the afternoon. Nine Other ranks reported during the afternoon, under Sgt., Stewart "B" Co., to Bn., Hqrs., to undergo a course of instruction and act as special scouts in front of our lines each night. A/Lt. A.M. Cohen left during the afternoon, with Sgt., Merison "C" Co., and Sgt., Macdonald "A" Co., and Pte., Johnstone (Batman) to proceed to Wisques to undergo a course of instruction.		

M. Mark
Lieut-Colonel
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

APPENDIX

MARCH ORDER NO 1.
+++++

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by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION A.I.F.

In the Field,

Reference Map - Hazebreuck 5a $\frac{1}{100,000}$

July 8th, 1916.

- | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|
| <u>INTENTION.</u> | 1. | The 56th Bn., will march to a new billeting area to-morrow, the 9th inst. |
| <u>STARTING POINT.</u> | 2. | 56th Bn., Q.M's Store - Head of column will pass at 0745. |
| <u>ORDER OF MARCH.</u> | 3. | Headquarter's Signallers (with bicycles)
Pioneers
Battalion Headquarters.
"A" Co.
Machine Gun Section, (less limbers).
"B" Co.
"C" Co., (less 1 platoon)
"D" Co.
Medical Officer and Chaplain.
Stretcher Bearers.
A.M.C.
Transport Officer.
Machine Gun Limbers .
Remainder of 1st Line Transport. |
| <u>REAR GUARD.</u> | 4. | "C" Co., will provide 1 complete platoon to march in rear of 14th F.A., at a distance of 50 yards. The duties of this platoon will be to deal with stragglers. |
| <u>DRESS.</u> | 5. | Full Marching Order - Gas Helmets and blankets form part of Marching Order. Coy's with Steel Helmets will wear same fixed to back of pack. |
| <u>RATIONS.</u> | 6. | Uncensumed portion of day's rations, plus 24 hours rations, will be carried. |
| <u>HALTS.</u> | 7. | Halts will be signalled from head of Brigade Column. Halts other than checks due to obstacles, will be for 10 minutes each. |
| <u>COOKING.</u> | 8. | Cookers should be used for providing hot tea or coffee, en route. The principle meal of the day will be issued on arrival in billets. |
| <u>REPORTS.</u> | 9. | Reports to be sent to Bn., H.Q. |

=====

(Signed) A.C. Chappell, Captain.

A/Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

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AFTER MARCH ORDER NO 2.
+++++

by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION A.I.F.

In the Field,

Reference Map - Hazebreuck 5a $\frac{1}{100,000}$

July 8th, 1916.

DRESS

10 Para 5, March Order No 1, is now cancelled. Dress will be as follows :-
Full Marching Order - Gas Helmets form part of same. Companies with Steel Helmets will carry them fixed to back of back; waterproof sheets will be carried.

BLANKETS.

11 Blankets are to be rolled in bundles of 25, and stacked at 0700; A & B Coys', blankets at "B" Co., H'qrs. C & D Coy's., Blankets at "D" Coy's H'qrs. These will be carried on G.S. Wagons - each Co., to supply 1 man as baggage guard to march with wagon.

RATIONS.

12 Para 6 March Order No 1, is now cancelled. Only unconsuemed portion of day's rations will be carried.

COOKING.

13 Each Co., will detail 2 Cooks to a Co., Cooker.

MARCH DISCIPLINE.

14 The strictest march discipline is to be carried out during to-morrow's march. When regular halts occur men will, without further warning, fall out on right side of the road and sit down. All furs are to keep well closed up and covered off from front to rear. No smoking during marching. Men may smoke at regular halts. Any man, who through illness, has to fall out, must be provided with a chit from one of his Company Officers, to the Medical Officer, who will be in rear of the Bn. No man will be allowed to fall out of the column unless he has, in addition, a chit signed by the Regimental Medical Officer. Any disobedience of this order will be very severely dealt with.

REGIMENTAL POLICE.

15. Regimental Provost Cpl., and 3 men, will march in rear of the Bn., with the Senior Major, and will assist him in dealing with any men who fall out without permission.

LATRINES.

16. Co., Commanders will arrange at each regular halt, for each Platoon to erect latrines, and will see that same are properly filled in before leaving.

TRANSPORT.

17. All transport men are to dismount at every halt - no riding, by unauthorised persons, on wagons or limbers will be allowed. Should a wagon or limber break down, it is to be immediately pulled clear of the column, so as to cause no delay.

STATES.

18. Companies, also Headquarters Units, will render a State to Bn., H'qrs, shewing Officers and O/Ranks marching out. Also marching in states are to be rendered to Bn., H.Q.: on arrival at destination.

DRUMS.

19. Co., Commanders will try and arrange for 2 drums per Co., to be taken on the march. Drummers may leave their packs with blankets, at their own risk - rifles must be carried.

=====
(Signed) A.C. Chappell, Captain,
A/Adjutant, 56th Bn.

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by

MAJOR A. J. G. SIMPSON COMMANDING ADVANCE PARTY 56TH. BATTALION ,A.I.F..

In the Field,

10th. July, 1916.

INFORMATION

1. The following Advance party will move to-morrow, 11/7/16.

- Major A. J. G. Simpson
- Captain W. R. Sheen
- Captain V. E. Smythe
- Lieutenant N. R. Plenley
- Lieutenant G. H. Mann
- 2/Lieutenant R. A. Reid
- 2/Lieutenant F. H. Day
- 2/Lieutenant T. C. Bentley
- R. S. M. Deeling, M.P.J.
- All Platoon Sergeants.
- R. Q. M. S. Spratt, S.F.

2. 100 Yards East of En. H.Q. On Main Road. ~~Advance party will pass the starting point~~ at 12-45.

3. Full marching Order - Blanket to be carried.

4. Uncensumed portion of day's ration also 24 hours ration (emergency ration) to be carried.

5. Officers' may take their ~~batmen~~ with them. Valises will not be taken with advanced party, but will come on with Battalion Transport. Officers are advised to place their valises under the care of another Officer for this purpose.

6. Reports to be made to Major Simpson.

=====

(Sgd). A. J. G. SIMPSON, Major,
Commanding Advance Party 56th. Bn., A.I.F.

*Instructions
Time & Place
~~STARTING POINT~~
~~Time of Parade.~~*

DRESS

RATIONS

OFFICERS' VALISES.
BATMEN

REPORTS.

- Copy No. 1 -- File
- 2 -- "A" Co.
- 3 -- "B" Co.
- 4 -- "C" Co.
- 5 -- "D" Co.
- 6 -- Lieutenant R. A. Reid
- 7 -- Lieutenant F. H. Day
- 8 -- Lieutenant T. C. Bentley
- 9 -- R. S. M. Deeling, M.P.J.
- 10 -- R. Q. M. S. Spratt, S.F.

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PRELIMINARY OPERATION ORDER.

+++++

by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION, A.I.F.

Reference Map Sheet 36 $\frac{1}{40,000}$

In the Field,
July 10th, 1916

INTENTION.

1. The Battalion will move to Saily to-morrow the 11th inst., ~~at~~ to relieve the 46th Battalion.

STARTING POINT.

2. The probable starting point will be - Square G 25 D 9, 8., road junction East of town of Estairs, at a time to be notified later.

ROAD.

3. *river* The probable road will be the road north of the village Lys. This will be taken as far as Square G., 16 a, 2, 1., road junction, where the column will turn south to Saily.

ORDER OF MARCH 4.

1. "A" Co.,
2. "B" "
3. "C" "
4. "D" "
5. Bn., H'qrs.,
Scouts Section,
Grenadier Platoon
Lewis Gun Detachment (less 2 limbers)
Pioneers,
Stretcher Bearers.
A.M.C.
Q.M., M.O., and Chaplain.
6. Transport Section, plus 2 Lewis Gun Limbers.

NOTE.

7. Intervals of 5 minutes will be maintained between Companies and Headquarters.

LESS.

8. Full Marching Order - 1 blanket, waterproof sheet, per man, to be carried.

RATIONS.

9. Uncconsumed portion of day's rations, plus 24 hours iron rations to be carried. Iron Rations are not to be touched without an order by an Officer.

LEAVE.

10. When the Battalion reaches its Billets, in Saily, no leave will be granted unless a pass is signed by a Co., Commander.

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(Signed) A.C. Chappell, Captain,
A/ Adjutant, 56th Battalion.

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by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION A.I.F.

Reference Map G 36 $\frac{1}{40,000}$

In the Field,
July 11th, 1916.

Bn., Headquarters.

INTENTION

1. The Battalion will move to relieve the 46th Battalion to-night.

STARTING POINT.

2. The Starting Point will be Bn., Headquarters. The head of the column will pass at 1515.

ROUTE.

3. The Bn., will move along road in G 25 D, thence along road NORTH of RIVER LYS to CROIX DU BAC in Square G 6 C. A Co., will halt 200 yards from cross roads at CROIX DU BAC at 1730.
At 2030 the Bn., will move forward by platoons at 5 minutes interval, via BAC ST. MAUR in Square H 13 C., thence towards ERQUINGHEM-LYS in Square H 4 C, for three quarters of a mile to junction of road turning SOUTH to FLEURBAIX in Square H 8 C. On reaching CROIX DU ROME, (ELBOW FARM) in Square H 6 A, the column will halt and be led by guides to destination.

ORDER OF MARCH.

4. 1. "A" Co.
2. "B" Co.
3. "C" Co.
4. "D" Co.
5. Signallers
Bn., Headquarters.
Scouts Platoon
Grenadier Platoon
Lewis Gun Detachment (less 2 limbers)
Pioneers
Stretcher Bearers.
A.M.C.
Q.M., M.O., and Chaplain.
6. Transport Section, plus 2 Lewis Gun Limbers.

NOTE.

5. Intervals of 5 minutes will be maintained between Companies and Headquarters during the march, and at halts.

DRESS.

6. Full Marching Order. One blanket, waterproof sheet per man will be carried.

RATIONS.

7. Unconsumed portion of day's rations, plus 24 hour's iron rations to be carried. Iron Rations are not to be touched without an order by an Officer.

TRANSPORT.

8. The Transport Section and Riding horses, will not proceed further than allowed by Guides. On being dismissed they will proceed to Transport Lines.

REPORTS.

9. Reports will be sent to Bn., Headquarters in rear of column until 2030, after which reports will be sent to 46th Bn., Headquarters at Jay's Post, unless otherwise notified.

(Signed)

A.C. Chappell, Captain.
A/Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

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KY

(Annexes) & ENIGMO NOTATIONS

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT D.S.O. COMMANDING 56TH. BATTALION A.I.F.

of 213 a'00. H has stated needs of 100,000 lbs of St. Maur, etc. Ref. Map Belgium & France sheet 35. Also trench map as copied.

INFORMATION 1. The Bn. will take part in an attack on the enemy trenches tomorrow in accordance with instructions already communicated to Co. Comd's.

INTENTION 2. Battalion will march from Rue St. Maur and will halt, head of column at S.E. corner of square H 25 b.

ORDER OF MARCH 3. (1) Signallers
Bn. Headquarters
"A" Co.
Lewis Gun Detachment
"B" Co.
"C" Co.
"D" Co.
M.C. and A.M.C.
Stretcher Bearers
Transport Section.

STARTING POINT 4. Head of column will pass the starting point which will be Expeditionary Force Canteen along road leading South at a time to be notified later.

DRESS 5. Battle Order for all ranks. The following will be carried by all ranks:--
Waterproof sheet, to be strapped on back
200 Rounds S.A.
2 Sandbags.
2 days Iron Rations

TOOLS 6. Co. Commanders will make arrangements to carry the following articles:--
Picks and shovels
Wire-cutters
Very pistols
Ammunition for Very pistols

WEB PACKS 7. On receipt of orders from Bn.H.Q. Co. Commanders will immediately send all ~~men's~~ men's packs together with attached to Q.M.'s store for storage. All packs are to be clearly marked with the owner's name and Co.

BN. RESERVE 8. The Q.M. will make arrangements with Transport Officer to have the following carried by Bn. Transport:--
50 Rounds S.A.A. per man.
6,000 Rounds reserve for L.G. Detachment.
758 Grenades
Flare rockets
Grenade buckets
Grenade waistcoats.
The undermentioned reserve for Lewis Gun Detachment, of S.A.A., will be dumped as follows:--
2000 Rounds and 5 Magazines at Intermediate Dump.
2000 Rounds and 5 Magazines at Base Dump.

TRANSPORT GUARD 9. The pioneers will act as Guard for Bn. Transport and will also perform any fatigues and duties that the Q.M. requires.

WATER CARTS 10. Water carts will march in rear of Bn. T'pert, Carts to be full
FATIGUES 11. Co. Commanders must be prepared to meet demands for working and carrying parties at very short notice on Bn. reaching its rendezvous. On proceeding to any fatigue they will move in order of dress as in para 5, no equipment being discarded.

BATTLE ORDERLIES 12. Prior to Bn. moving from billets each Co. will detail 1 Battle Orderly to report to Bn.H.Q..

SIGNALLERS 13. Co. Commanders must arrange to have at least 6 Signallers with them to act as runners.

INTELLIGENCE 14. Each Pl. Commander must have a sketch of the enemy trench in front of him and a bit to his right and left and explain it to his Command as well as telling them all that is known of the part of No Man's Land they have to cross and of the open ground, if any, they have to cross behind our front trench.

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1. Co. Commanders, Platoon Commanders and N.C.O.'s are to take necessary steps to see that no straggling occurs. Very careful watch must be kept, and any stragglers are to be accounted for. Reports will be sent to the N.C.O. at head of column until battalion moves from first rendezvous.

2. Battalion will move from the position of column at 2.30 P.M. to the position of column at 3.30 P.M.
 A.C. Chappell, Captain,
 Adjutant, 56th. Bn., A.I.F.

Lewis Gun Detachment
 "A" Co.
 "B" Co.
 "C" Co.
 "D" Co.
 N.C.O. and A.H.C.
 stretcher bearers
 Transport Section

issued at

- 4. Head of column will pass this information to the commanding officers of the units in the column with the following instructions:
 - "A" Co. to take position in front of column.
 - "B" Co. to take position in front of "A" Co.
 - "C" Co. to take position in front of "B" Co.
 - "D" Co. to take position in front of "C" Co.
 - The following will be carried by "C" Co.:
 Water-proof sheet, to be stretched in front of column.
 200 rounds S.A. Lewis Gun Detachment.
 2 Bunches.
 2 days from ration.
 Co. Commanders will make arrangements for the following:
 1. "A" Co. to take position in front of column.
 - 2. "B" Co. to take position in front of "A" Co.
 - 3. "C" Co. to take position in front of "B" Co.
 - 4. "D" Co. to take position in front of "C" Co.
 - 5. Transport Section to take position in front of "D" Co.
 - 6. Quartermaster to take position in front of Transport Section.
 - 7. 2 days from ration to be carried by "C" Co.
 - 8. Water-proof sheet, to be stretched in front of column.
 - 9. The following will be carried by "C" Co.:
 Lewis Gun Detachment.
 2 Bunches.
 200 rounds S.A.

- 7. On receipt of orders from the N.C.O. Co. Commanders will immediately send all rank and file to their positions in the column. All packs are to be securely packed with the owner's name and Co. The N.C.O. will make arrangements with Transport Officer to have the following carried by the Transport Section:
 - 6,000 rounds reserve for "D" Co. Detachment.
 - 50 rounds S.A. per man.
 - Wire-entrenching tools.
 - Very pistols.
 - Ammunition for Very pistols.

8. The N.C.O. will make arrangements with Transport Officer to have the following carried by the Transport Section:

- 6,000 rounds reserve for "D" Co. Detachment.
- 50 rounds S.A. per man.
- Wire-entrenching tools.
- Very pistols.
- Ammunition for Very pistols.

 The undersigned reserves for Lewis Gun Detachment, of S.A., will be carried as follows:

- 2000 rounds and 2 magazines at immediate dump.
- 2000 rounds and 2 magazines at the dump.

9. The platoon will act as guard for the Transport Section and will also perform any fatigue and duties that the N.C.O. requires. Water carts will march in rear of the Transport Section and will be prepared to meet demands for water. Co. Commanders must be prepared to meet demands for working and carrying parties at very short notice on the morning of the rendezvous. On proceeding to any fatigue they will move in order of dress as in para 5, no equipment being discarded.

10. Prior to the morning from which the N.C.O. will detail 1 Battalion orderly to report to the N.C.O.

11. Co. Commanders must arrange to have at least 2 signallers with them to act as runners.
 12. Each Pl. Commander must have a sketch of the enemy trench in front of him and a list of his right and left and explain it to his Commanders as well as telling them all that is known of the part of the front which they have to cross and of the open ground, if any, they have to cross behind their front trench.

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by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION A.I.F.

Reference Map -
Belgium & France - Sheet 36 $\frac{1}{40,000}$

Bac St., Maur,
July 22nd, 1916.

INFORMATION.

The Bn., will move to Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches this evening, to relieve the Rifle Brigade.

INTENTION.

ORDER OF MARCH.

The Bn., will leave Bac St., Maur and proceed along the road leading to Erquinghen-Lys, until it reaches the Cross roads in H. or Cross roads at Fort Rompu - H 7 D 94 - It will then turn South and proceed to Croix de Rome H 21 A 72. From this point onwards, the Bn., will move by Platoons, in file, at a distance of 25 yards.

ORDER OF MARCH.

- Headquarters Signallers.
- Pioneers.
- Bn., Headquarters.
- "D" Co.,
- M.O., A.M.C., and Maltese Cart.
- "C" Co.
- "B" Co.,
- Grenadier Platoon
- Scouts Platoon. (2/Lt. Denny)
- "A" Co.,
- Lewis Gun Detachment (with limbers)
- Bn., Transport.

STARTING POINT.

Head of column will pass a starting point, which will be The Expeditionary Force Canteen, at 8.30 p.m., and will proceed north along the road.

DRESS.

Full Marching Order - Blanket & Waterproof sheet to be carried on man.

RATIONS.

Co., Commanders will detail 4 men, under the CO., C.Q.M.S., to report to the Q.M., at Rail Head Dump, before moving into the trenches, for the purpose of bringing up rations for to-morrow.

(Signed) A.C. Chappell, Captain.
A/Adjutant, 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 4.30 p.m.

Copies sent to -

- 1. C.O.,
- 2. Senior Major.
- 3. O.C., "A" Co.
- 4. O.C., "B" Co.
- 5. O.C., "C" Co.,
- 6. O.C., "D" Co.
- 7. O.C., Lewis Gun Detachment.
- 8. O.C., Scout's Platoon (2/Lt., A.L. Denny)
- 9. Quarter Master.
- 10. Transport Officer.
- 11. Medical Officer
- 12. Copy for War Diary.
- 13. File.