

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/7

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/73/7

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches Wye Farm.	Aug.			
	1st		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours - morning and evening, and on standing down reported everything correct. During the night 31/1st, wiring parties were sent out in front of Bn., Sector of trenches and continued to strengthen entanglements. Listening Posts also Patrols were out during the night and upon returning reported all correct.	
		8 a.m.	Party of 4 Officers and 1 N.C.O., reported from 54th Bn., for the purpose of having a look at the front line trenches, defences etc.	
		9.30 a.m.	Rifle Grenade landed in D Coy's Sector, from the German lines and resulted in the death of one Sergeant. During the remainder of the day everything was very quiet, nothing of any importance being reported by the Companies occupying the trenches. Health of men good - weather clear and fine.	
	2nd		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours - morning and evening, and on standing down reported everything correct. During the night of the 1/2nd a Patrol went out in front of D Coy's Sector with a view to obtaining more intelligence regarding certain ground in No Man's land. The Patrol upon returning reported everything quiet. The usual wiring parties and Listening Posts also went out.	
		9 a.m.	Message was received from Brigade Hqrs., to the effect that our Artillery, between the hours 10 and 11 a.m., would bombard the enemy's lines opposite D Coy's Sector. Instructions were then issued to D Company to vacate frontage and move to the right into C Coy's Sector, so as to prevent any danger arising from our Artillery during registration.	
		4 p.m.	Jay's Post was bombarded by the enemy, which resulted in one man of the 54th Bn., who was attached to the 56th Bn., being killed, and 3 Other Ranks of the 56th Bn., being wounded. The enemy also put a few shells into the front line, slightly wounding 3 men. Our aircraft was very active on observation work, during the day, along our lines. An enemy plane came over our lines during the afternoon, but owing to an encounter with one of our observation planes, retired. Health of the men still continues to be good - weather bright and fine.	
	3rd		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours - morning and evening, and on standing down reported everything correct. The usual parties and Patrols which were out during the night 2/3rd, reported back during the early hours of morning, having nothing of any importance to report.	
		10a.m.	The enemy shelled our parapets for half an hour, otherwise everything very quiet. During the day and night the usual work was carried out by the Bn., in repairing and building new trenches, under supervision of Engineers. Weather continues to be fine, health of men good.	
			T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.	

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Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches, Wye Farm.	Aug. 4th.		Battalion stood to arms during the usual hours, morning and evening, and on standing down reported everything correct. During the night 3/4th our Artillery bombarded the enemy's parapets, also Supports and Communication trenches opposite the Bn's Sector, at various intervals - the enemy did not retaliate. The usual parties and Patrols went out in No Man's land during the night 4/5th and upon returning reported all correct. The wire in front of Bn's Sector has now been greatly improved and strengthened - during the last few nights.	
		9 a.m.	Our Artillery commenced firing at the German trenches opposite Bn's Sector, and continued firing at intervals, until 12 noon. An enemy plane flew over our lines during the day, but owing to the fire of our anti-aircraft guns was not able to proceed very far, and eventually returned.	
	5th	7 p.m.	Two more German machines flew over, but were quickly prevented from advancing, by our aircraft guns. Health of men remains good. Weather clear and bright.	
			Battalion stood to arms during the usual hours, morning and evening, and on standing down reported everything correct. The usual patrols and Listening Posts, also Wiring parties were out during the night, in front of the Bn's Sector, and on returning reported everything correct. One patrol which went out in front of D Coy's Sector was able to move right up to the enemy's wire and thoroughly inspect same. This wire was reported to be rather thin, in places. During the day 6 men were wounded in B Coy's Sector, by German trench mortar fire. Our Artillery replied and bombarded the enemy's trenches, also Support lines, and positions believed to be machine gun emplacements and anti-aircraft gun pits. The remainder of the dayning was very quiet.	
		3 p.m.	Operation Order was received from Brigade to the effect that the Bn., would be relieved the same night, by the 54th Bn. One man per Company immediately left Bn., Hqrs., to arrange Billets in Fleurbaix	
		4 p.m.	Battalion Operation Order No 6 (copy attached) was then issued to Companies and also Battalion Details. Remainder of the evening was spent in cleaning all the lines, trenches etc.	
Fleurbaix	6th	10 p.m.	Reief commenced. All Companies relieved and in Billets at 12 mid-night. Health of men still remains good. Weather clear and bright.	
		8 a.m.	Meeting of Company Commanders, Lewis Gun Detachment Officer, Scout Officer, Grenadier Officer, was called for 10 a.m. At this meeting training was discussed, also a general discussion took place with a view to discussing fatigues and work, together with inspections, during the time the Bn., remains in Billets.	
		2 p.m.	Enemy shelled Fleurbaix - 3 shells landing in A Coy's Billet, resulting in 3 men being killed, and 6 men wounded. Enemy's Artillery appeared to be searching for our Batteries.	

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Fleurbaix	Aug 6th		Remainder of the day was very quiet. Health of the men continues to be good - weather fine and bright.	
		9/30 p.m	A Company marched out from Billets to relieve and Garrison, Command Post.	
	7th		Fatigue party of 20 men detailed for Coal Dump at Bac St. Maur. The usual daily fatigues left and reported at correct times. During the morning a slight shower of rain fell from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Enemy shelled portion of road leading to Elbow Farm; no damage was done to Elbow Farm, where most of B Coy's men are in Billets. Enemy appeared to be searching for the Batteries. During the afternoon 12 men were sent from A Company to reinforce the 54th Bn., 12 men from this Bn., (54th) having been evacuated sick during the morning. Health of men continues to be good - weather during the day rather dull.	
	8th		Usual Fatigue parties reported for duty at various places. During the morning Company Commanders were able to make arrangements for some of their men to proceed to the Div. Baths and there have a good bath and change of underclothing. Health of the men continues to be good - weather during the day being much clearer and brighter than previous day.	
	9th		Usual Fatigues left for work under the supervision of the Engineers. During the morning the enemy shelled very heavily, but luckily no damage was done to any of the Billets occupied by the Bn. During the afternoon everything was very quiet. Health of the men continues to be good. Weather bright and clear.	
	10th		Usual fatigues left for duty under supervision of the Engineers. Also 2 Officers and 62 O/R., were sent to Div., Bomb School for special training regarding raids and minor enterprises. (5Lt. W.M.Pitt and 2/Lt. G.C.Christiansen being the two Officers). During the day everything was very quiet and the men were in excellent health. Conduct of men good. Weather fine. Word was received during the morning to the effect that Sgt., A.W.S.Creher, J.Merison and T.P.Grace of the Bn., had been appointed to 2nd Lieuts., to complete establishment, also that Lieutenants N.R.Plemley and G.H.Mann had been promoted to the rank of Captain. Owing to the heavy fatigues also various duties which the Bn., is furnishing, both in and out of the Bn., it was practically impossible to carry on with any training, with the exception of Specialist's Sections. At times it is necessary to interfere with the Specialists training also - fortunately this does not occur very often. As the men are nearly all on fatigues and other duties, Company Commanders see very little of them.	
	11th		During the day everything was very quiet - the usual fatigues etc., were despatched for work under the supervision of the Engineers. Health of the men good - weather during the day was very clear and dry.	

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Fleurbaix	Aug. 12th		The usual fatigues were despatched. Fatigue party of 12 men reported back from D.A.D.O.S., being no longer required. 2/Lt. E.J. Grieve and 3 O/Ranks reported back from School of Instruction in Machine Guns. Health of the men good - weather continues to be dry and clear.	
	13th		Usual Fatigues despatched during the day. Nothing of much importance took place during the day. One man evacuated to hospital, apparently suffering from influenza - otherwise health of men continues to be very good. Weather inclined to be rather dull - no rain fell.	
	14th		During the Afternoon one Sergeant reported back from Engineers School. Usual fatigues were sent during the day.	
			During the morning Brigade Order was received stating that No 1363a Sgt. Gordon T.F., No 1747 L/Sgt. Stewart R., and No 2836 Pte. Hellam S., had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry during operations 19/21st. Health of men excellent. During the afternoon rain fell for about one hour.	
	15th	4 p.m.	Advice received that 2/Lieut R.A. Reid, attending Grenade School, had been sent to Base Hospital.	
			Usual fatigues despatched throughout the day.	
		10.30 a.m.	C.O., left to visit Divisional Raiding School.	
			1 Officer and 5 Other Ranks reported back from School of Instruction (Officer 2/Lt. F.M. Shannon)	
			2 N.C.O's departed to attend Musketry School.	
			20 Reinforcements reported and were allotted to Companies.	
	16th		During the night one man was wounded while doing Fatigue Duties. Fatigues left as usual. One party of 50 was reduced to 25.	
		4 p.m.	Order received to the effect that G.O.C., 2nd Anzac would present the Military Medal to No 1363a Sgt. Gordon T.F. No 1747 L/Sgt. Stewart R., and No 2836 Pte. Hellam S., to-morrow.	
			2 N.C.O's departed to attend Div. Gas School. Health of men good - weather dully, slight showers of rain falling throughout the day.	
	17th		Fatigues left as usual. Nothing of importance took place throughout the day. In the afternoon heavy rain fell for about half an hour; light showers prevailed throughout the night. Health of men continues to be good.	
	18th		Fatigues sent as usual. A.I.F. Orders received stating that C.O. (Temp-Lieut-Colonel A.H. Scott, D.S.O.), was promoted to substantive rank of Lieut-Colonel, with effect from 12th March, 1916. Also Captain A.C. Chappell had been appointed Adjutant, 56th Battalion, dating from May 8th, 1916. 2/Lieutenants F.B. Belton and F.H. Day were mentioned in A.I.F. Orders as being on the seconded list. N.C.O., left to attend Sniping School. Health of men good. Heavy rain fell between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m., - light showers continued throughout the night.	

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Fleurbaix	Aug. 19		Fatigues left and reported as usual.	
		2 p.m.	Operation Order received from Brigade to the effect that the Battalion would relieve the 54th Bn., on the night 20/21st.	
			1 Officer and 3 O/Ranks reported back from Engineer's School (Officer 2/Lt. A.W.C. Creber)	
			Also 2 N.C.O.'s from Div., Gas School.	
		8 p.m.	Meeting of Company Commanders & Officers, held at Bn., Hqrs. The approaching move was discussed, also various other matters.	
		9 p.m.	Brigade Orders received containing the information that No 2436 Pte. T.C. Rowley, 56th Bn., had been awarded the D.C.M., under authority of His Majesty the King, by the Commander-in-Chief, for gallantry performed during operations 19/21st July, 1916.	
			Throughout the day rain fell at frequent intervals. Health of men good.	
	20		Usual Fatigues despatched.	
			Battalion Operation Order No 7, issued as per copy herewith.	
			2 Officers and 4 O/Ranks were sent to School of Instruction (Officers - 2/Lt. F.M. Shannon, 2/Lt. W.V. Bevan)	
Fleurbaix	21		Relief of 54th Battalion completed at 11.10 p.m.	
			During the day and night, rain fell at intervals. Health of men good.	
			Bn., stood to arms, morning and evening, between the hours of 3/45 a.m., to 5 a.m., and 8/30 p.m., to 9/30 p.m.	
			Work was carried out during the day, improving, cleaning, and repairing trenches.	
		9 a.m.	C.O., visited front line and Support trenches.	
			Fatigues supplied to Engineers for work in strengthening and repairing trenches.	
		3 p.m.	C.O., visited front line trenches, for the purpose of inspecting and issuing instructions.	
	22		Party of men, selected from those at present attending Div., Raiding School, patrolled Sector in No Man's land in front of Bn., Sector, between the hours of 10 p.m., and 1 a.m.	
			Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening.	
			Fatigues supplied to Engineers as usual.	
Fleurbaix			Work still carried on repairing and cleaning trenches.	
			Operation Order No 8, re raid to be carried out, issued as per copy attached.	
			C.O., visited front line morning and evening.	
			In the afternoon an enemy 'plane approached our lines, but was driven off by our anti-aircraft guns.	
			Party from Div., Raiding School, patrolled No Man's land, as usual.	
			Weather changeable - slight showers falling day and night. Health of men good.	

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Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches.	23		Bn., stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening. C.O., inspected front line, morning and evening. Usual Fatigues supplied to Engineers.	
		3 p.m.	4 Cadets from British Regiments, reported for experience in trenches, and were sent to "A" Co., Sector, in front line. In the afternoon our aircraft was particularly active. During the night 1 man was wounded by enemy bomb. Party, as usual, went out in front of Battalion Sector. Weather dull - no rain fell. Health and spirits of men excellent.	
	24		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours morning and evening. Aircraft again very active - two of our machines appeared to have been hit by enemy air-craft guns - both machines landed in our lines. 2/Lt. E.J. Greive and 2 O/Ranks left to attend S. of I. Party patrolled No man's land during the night. During the night our Trench Mortar Batteries and Artillery bombarded the enemy trenches - the enemy retaliated with bombs and Trench Mortar fire, killing 1 man and wounding 2. Weather cloudy throughout the day, but cloudy towards evening. Men in good health.	
	25		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening. Usual Fatigues reported to Engineers.	
		11 am	G.O.C., Bde., and Staff Captain visited Wye Farm and interviewed C.O.	
		12 am	Operation Order No 9, issued as per copy attached. Usual party patrolled No man's land during the night. Slight showers fell during the afternoon and night. Health of men good.	
	26		Bn., stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening. C.O., visited front line, morning and evening. Operation Order received from Brigade to the effect that our Artillery and Trench Mortar Batteries would bombard enemy's trenches on 27/8/16. Operation Order No 10, issued as per attached copy. Patrol explored No man's land during the night.	
	27		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening. Fatigues supplied to Engineers as usual. C.O., visited front line, morning and evening.	
		9 a.m.	Word received from Bde., to the effect that Operation Order issued on 26/8/16, would not come into force until 28/8/16. This information was immediately conveyed to those concerned.	

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Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches	Aug.			
	27		During the afternoon, 1 man was wounded by enemy bomb.	
		4 p.m.	Word received from Bde., that Operation Order re bombardment of enemy trenches, would be acted on to-morrow - this information was immediately sent on to those concerned.	
		10.30 p.m.	Our Artillery and Stokes' Guns fired on enemy trenches - enemy replied but did very little damage, and caused no casualties.	
	28		Weather fine - health of men good.	
			Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening.	
			Usual fatigues supplied.	
			Operations as per Order No 10, were carried out during the day, considerable damage being done to enemy trenches. Enemy retaliation caused little damage.	
		5 p.m.	Major A.J.G. Simpson returned from 54th Bn., and resumed duties as Senior Major.	
			2 enemy 'planes came over our lines during the afternoon, eventually being driven off by our anti-aircraft guns.	
			Word received that 1 man was accidentally wounded while practising at Bomb School.	
			Men. Lieut., C.B. Nicoll rejoined the Battalion, ex Hospital.	
			Patrol went out as usual.	
			During the night 3 men were wounded, 2 of whom were not sufficiently serious to necessitate their evacuation.	
	29		Weather fine throughout the day, but cloudy towards night. Health of men excellent.	
			Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening.	
			Usual fatigues despatched.	
		11.30 a.m.	G.O.C., Brigade, interviewed C.O., at Bn., Hqrs.	
			C.O., visited front line, morning and evening.	
			2/Lt., W.V. Bevan left to interview C.O., 53rd Bn., with a view to being transferred.	
			Sgt. W.V. Armstrong & Sgt., H.J. Brown, also interviewed C.O., 53rd Bn., with a view to obtaining a commission in that Battalion.	
			In accordance with instructions from Brigade, A/Cpl., H.L. Slater and Pte. G.P.C. Forsythe, interviewed G.O.C., Bde., their names having been submitted as candidates for Officers School of Instruction in England.	
			Word received from Brigade to the effect that Major A.J.G., Simpson would proceed to Etaples, probably on the 31st inst., for the purpose of training reinforcements for 2 months.	
		5 p.m.	26 Reinforcements arrived and were allotted to Companies	
		10 "	Message received from Jay Post stating that 3 men in Support trenches had been killed by an enemy shell.	

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Fleurbaix Sector of Trenches.	Aug. 29	10.45 p.m.	A.I.F. Orders received stating that Captain K.H. Grieve (M.O.) and Captain W.R. Sheen, had been awarded the Military Cross. Also No 3134, Sgt., J. Watt, No 3013, Cpl., M. Phillips, and No 8091 L/Sgt., W.H. Oldham (A.M.C.), had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, for gallantry and devotion to duty, during the operations 19/21st July, 1916.	
		12.30 p.m.	Our Trench Mortars bombarded enemy trenches and positions where working parties had been heard by our patrols.	
			Heavy rain fell during the afternoon - slight showers prevailed throughout the night.	
			Health of men good.	
			During the night two men were wounded.	
			Patrol went out in no man's land as usual.	
	30		Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours, morning and evening.	
			Fatigues cancelled owing to wet weather.	
		5.30 p.m.	2/Lt. Grieve reported back from S. of Instruction.	
		6.30 p.m.	Operation Order No 11 issued as per copy attached.	
31.			Word received that Major A.J.G. Simpson would proceed to Etaples to-morrow.	
			Patrol reported movement in rear of enemy trenches - positions were duly conveyed to our Artillery.	
			Battalion stood to arms between the usual hours morning and evening.	
		5.30 a.m.	One man was shot (killed), by unaimed fire, while observing.	
		11 a.m.	G.O.C., Brigade inspected front line trenches, and communication trenches, and interviewed C.O., in front line.	
			Work was carried out during the day, repairing portions of trenches damaged by the recent rains.	
			Weather fine - health of men good.	
			Major J.S.S. Andersen assumed command of Senior Major, in the absence of Major A.J.G. Simpson, Captain W.R. Sheen assumed command of D Company in the absence of Major J.S.S. Andersen.	

Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

by

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

Wye Farm,
Aug. 5th, 1916.Reference Map -
Bde. Trench Map, area N ¹ 10,000

- RELIEF.** 1 The Battalion will be relieved during the night 5/6th August, 1916, by the 54th Battalion.
- HOURLY OF RELIEF.** 2 The 54th Battalion will commence from their Billets at 9.30 p.m., this evening and will march by Platoons with 50 yards interval.
- GUIDES.** 3 One guide per Platoon (or in the case of posts - one guide per post) of each Company will meet O.C., 54th Battalion, at the entrance to TIN BARN AVENUE, at 9.45 p.m., for the purpose of guiding that Battalion into the front line trenches, also different posts in the 300 yards line.
- ROUTES FOR RELIEF.** 4 TIN BARN AVENUE, also ABBOTT'S LANE AND GUNNER'S WALK and BAY AVENUE can be used to reach the second portion of TIN BARN AVENUE, if Company Commanders so desire.
- COMPLETION REPORT.** 5 On the completion of each Company's relief, Company Commanders will send the following message through to Bn., Hqrs., by telephone :- "PADRE", after despatching this message, Company Commanders will immediately move their commands out to Billets.
- BILLETS.** 6 The Battalion will occupy the present 54th Battalion area, with additional accommodation which will be notified later.
- POSTS.** 7 The following Posts and Garrisons will be taken over by the Battalion :-
- | | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| Command Post | - | A Company | |
| Limit Post | - | C Company | |
| Elbow Farm | - | 80 All ranks | } B Company. |
| Chappelle Farm | - | 20 " " | |
- NOTE.** 8 The relief of Command Post will be carried out on the night of the 6/7th August. Particulars regarding this relief can be obtained to-day from the New Zealanders, who are at present occupying the Post. As this post has not yet been shelled, special steps must be taken to warn all ranks against exposing themselves to the enemy observers.
- TRENCH STORES.** 9 Trench Stores, Leg Books etc., will be handed over during daylight, under Company arrangements.
- BN. PROPERTY.** 10 Company Commanders will ensure that all Bn., private property, such as Periscopes etc., is not handed over.
- GUARDS AND FATIGUES.** 11 The attached table of Guards and Fatigues to be relieved, will be taken over by D Company. Fatigues according to time - Reliefs as soon as possible.
- ORDER OF RELIEF OF 54TH BN.** 12 Company Commanders will please note that the 54th Bn., will be moving in as follows :-

ORDER OF RELIEF OF
54TH BATTALION.

12.

Headquarters
 Signallers,
 Pioneers,
 D Company
 A Company
 B Company
 Lewis Gun Detachment
 Grenadier Platoon
 M.O. & A.M.C.
 C Company (City Post party, Hudson's Bay
 party, Brewery party)

REPORTS.

13.

Reports will be sent to Bn., Hqrs., Wye Farm,
 until 12 mid-night, after this time - Bn.,
 Hqrs., Fleurbaix.

=====

(Signed). A.C. Chappell, Captain.

Issued to :-

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

1. C.O.
2. Adjutant
3. O.C. "A" Company
4. O.C. "B" Company
5. O.C. "C" Company
6. O.C. "D" Company
7. O.C. Lewis Gun Detachment
8. Grenadier Officer,
9. Scout Officer
10. Medical Officer
11. Quarter Master
12. War Diary

Time - 2.30 p.m.

OPERATION ORDER NO 7

BY

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 28th BATTALION A.I.F.

Headquarters,
Aug. 20th, 1916.REFERENCE MAP -
Eas. French Map Sheet N.INFORMATION

1. The 28th Bn., will relieve the 24th Bn., this evening.

INTENTION.

2. The Bn., will move from Billots and will proceed along the main road, towards Elber Farm, thence via Tin Barn Ave.

ORDER OF MARCH3. Signallers
L.S.D.
"B" Co.
"G" " "
"A" " "
"D" " "
Grenadiers
Scouts
A.M.C. Details
Pioneers.STARTING POINT

4. The head of column will pass the starting point, which will be old Artillery Headquarters - Cross Roads, at 9.30 p.m.

DISPOSITIONS5. "B" Co., (less 1 Platoon) will occupy right sector.
"A" " (less 50 O/Ranks) will occupy centre sector.
"C" " (less party at S. of I.) will occupy left sector.

The following posts will be garrisoned as under:-

Command Post	-	"B" Company.
Jay's Post	-	Scouts & Grenadiers & A.M.C.
Hudson's Post)		
Bravery Post)	-	50 O/Ranks from "A" Company.
Eye Farm.	-	Battalion Headquarters, Signallers & Pioneers.

TRENCH STORES.

6. Company Commanders will please make arrangements to take over all trench stores during daylight.

RATIONS.

7. Company Commanders will make arrangements for C.Q.M.S.'s also Fatigue of 4 men per Company, plus Officer's batmen, to be at the Ration Dump - Tin Barn Avenue, at 3/45 p.m., to receive rations. C.Q. "B" Company will receive rations direct at Command Post.

GUARDS.

8. C.Q. "B" Company will detail a Guard of 1 M.C.O., and 3 men to report at Bn., Hqs., Fleurbaix at 8 p.m., this evening.

CODE FOR RELIEF9. The undermentioned word will be sent by C.Q.'s Coy's, per telephone, on the completion of relief this evening.
"WALKER"REPORTS.

10. Reports will be sent to Bn., Hqs., Eye Farm, after 10 p.m., this evening.

(Signed) A.C. Chappell, Captain.
Adjutant, 28th Battalion A.I.F.

Copy

No
1
2
3
4
5
6
7C.O.
Senior Major.
C.O. "A" Co.
"B" "
"C" "
"D" "
L.S.D.

No

8 Scout's Platoon
9 Grenadier's Platoon
10 Quarter Master
11 Medical Officer
12 War Diary. ✓

by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 86TH BATTALION A.I.F.

Wye Farm,
22/8/16.

Reference Map - Bde. Trench Map
Area M. 1/10,000.

INFORMATION

1. The information obtained by preliminary reconnaissance etc., concerning the hostile trenches to be entered, and the portion of NO MAN'S LAND to be crossed has been communicated to all concerned.

INTENTION.

2. On a date to be notified later, after a preliminary Artillery & Trench Mortar Bombardment, a party from C Company will raid the enemy's trenches between-- O 1 A 5-8 & O 1 A 6 1/2-9.

OBJECT OF RAID

3. The object of the raid is to -
 - (a) Inflict casualties on the enemy.
 - (b) Obtain prisoners, identifications etc.
 - (c) Capture any Machine Guns, Trench Mortars etc., that may be in the vicinity.
 - (d) Search Dug-outs for Maps, papers, etc.
 - (e) Destroy dug-outs, M.G. Emplacements, also any Machine Guns that cannot be brought away.
 - (f) Ascertain whether any Gas installations are in the Sector of trenches raided.
 - (g) Ascertain construction of enemy's trenches.
 - (h) Ascertain result of damage caused by preliminary bombardment.

RAIDING PARTY

Capt. C.R. Lucas
O.C. Raid.
Lieut. W.M. Pitt
O.C. Assault
1 1/2 Platoons
"C" Co.
8 Bn. Grenadiers
2 Bn. L.G.D. men.
2 Bn. Intelligence
men.
2 Bn. S. Bearers
3 Co. Signallers

4. The Raiding party will be in position in Sector 47 of trenches at 45 minutes before Zero time, preparatory to moving out into NO MAN'S LAND.

ZERO TIME.

5. Zero time will be notified later.

ACTION OF PARTY
IN THE ASSAULT.

6. At 15 minutes before Zero time, the Scouts belonging to Raiding party will move out and line ditch in NO MAN'S LAND between 1 31 C.3. 1/2.0 and 1 31 C.5.1. to cover advance of Raiding party. At 10 minutes before zero time the Raiding party will move out and line ditch between points 1 31 C.3 1/2.0 and 1 31 C.5.1 and O.C. Assault will establish telephone communication with O.C. Raid.
At 20 minutes past Zero time the O.C. Assault will move forward with party as close to enemy's trenches as practicable to our shell fire.
At 25 minutes past Zero time the O.C. Assault will move forward with his party and enter the enemy's trenches.

COVERING PARTY.

7. A small covering party will be left in NO MAN'S LAND on each flank, during the period that the assaulting party is in the enemy's trenches, for the purpose of keeping a very careful lookout for any counter offensive movement.

ACTION OF PARTY DURING WITHDRAWAL.

8. The assaulting party will not remain in the trenches more than 12 minutes, but may be withdrawn at any time, less than that period at the discretion of O.C., Assault party. O.C., Assault party will use his discretion whether to return direct or remain in NO MAN'S LAND until hostile retaliation ceases. He will however, inform O.C., Raid of his decision.

CASUALTIES.

9. Any casualties will be returned to our trenches as soon as possible.

PRISONERS.

10. Any prisoners captured will be brought back to our trenches as soon as possible after capture.

DRESS.

11. All ranks will wear the ordinary A.I.F. pattern uniform. Steel helmets to be worn. Faces & hands to be blackened. A band of white material, 3 inches wide will be worn round each arm, this will be covered over by a piece of khaki cloth pinned on, which will be removed before entering enemy's trenches. Gas helmets will be carried, bayonets painted dark colour.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

12. Lists of arms and equipment carried by each man is shown in Appendix A.

COUNTERSIGN.

13. Countersign will be notified later.

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION.

14. The telephone code to be used during the attack, between O.C., Attack and O.C., Assault, also between C.O., Battalion and O.C., Attack, will be notified later.

REPORTS.

15. Reports will be sent to Battalion Headquarters at Wye Farm.

LEWIS GUN DETACHMENT.

16. The O.C., Lewis Gun Detachment will arrange to open fire at 45 minutes before zero, on all suspected German Sally Ports and Listening Posts in vicinity of enemy's trenches to be raided. He will cease fire 15 minutes before zero.

Issued -

J. Sanderson Major
for Lieut-Colonel.
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies by cyclist Orderly :-

1. Retained for Operation Order File.
2. 14th Infantry Brigade.
3. 56th Battalion
4. 10th Royal Scots.
5. O.C., Left Artillery Group.
6. Captain Lucas.
7. Lieutenant Pitt.
8. 14th Machine Gun Company.
9. O.C. "A" Co.
10. O.C. "B" Co.
11. O.C. "C" Co.
- ✓ 12. War Diary.

BY

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

Reference Map -

Brigade Trench Map - area M.

Headquarters,

Wye Farm,

Aug. 25th, '16.

FRONTAGE

1. The Battalion will take over extra frontage from the 56th Battalion. The frontage will be up to, but exclusive of Tin Barn Trench Line.

ALLOTMENT.

2. B Company will move present left Platoon on to the right and if necessary extend remaining Platoon to the right. A Company will move Platoon at present in 300 yards line up to the front line and take over frontage vacated by B Company.

RELIEF.

3. Relief will take place during this afternoon. Time of relief will be arranged between Company Commanders. The relief, however, will take place during daylight to enable the men to view their new front.

SUPPORTS.

4. B Company will move this evening. Two Platoons to the 300 yards line, and take over Hudson's Bay and Brewery Posts. This relief will take place under cover of darkness. O.C., B Company will send necessary parties up during daylight, to inspect defences and take over, if necessary, trench property. Sergeant Major of "B" Company will take command of these two Platoons.

REPORTS.

5. Company Commanders will report to Lt. Col. Wye Farm, as soon as the above moves are completed.

=====

(Signed) A.H. Scott, Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued :-

Copies by Orderly to :-

1. Retained for Operation Order File
2. O.C. A Co.
3. O.C. B Co.
4. O.C. D Co.
5. War Diary. ✓

OPERATION ORDER NO 10

by

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

Reference Map -
Bde. Trench Map Area M 1/10,000.

Wye Farm,
Aug. 26th, 1916.

INFORMATION.

1. The enemy's trenches, strong points, communications etc., will be bombarded to-morrow on the front, from N.13.D.2.7 to N.5.D.4.2.

INTENTION.

2. The intention is to bombard with Artillery, Trench Mortars and Machine Guns. The time table for same being as follows:-

6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artillery Registration.
4 p.m. to 4/45 p.m. Bombardment.
6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Check Registrations.

DISPOSITIONS.

3. The Battalion dispositions for to-morrow will be as follows :-

"B" Co. O.C. "B" Co., will move 1 platoon from front line and occupy position in 300 yards line, between TIN BARN AVENUE AND JAY POST. Remaining 2 platoons will be extended along present Company front.

"A" Co. O.C. "A" Co., will move 1 platoon from front line and occupy position in 300 yards line between JAY POST AND CITY POST. Remaining platoons will be extended along present Company front.

"C" Co. O.C., "C" Co., will move 1 platoon from front line and occupy position in OLD TRENCHES extending from left of CITY POST.

"D" Co. O.C., "D" Co., will take steps to see that all men are well extended in present trenches.

L.G.D. O.C. Lewis Gun Detachment, also attached Lewis Guns (in front line) will remain in their present positions, and if necessary they will make use of the shell proof dug-outs.

A.M.C. The R.M.O., will make all necessary arrangements for receiving wounded in case enemy Artillery retaliates heavily and casualties occur.

Scouts & Grenadiers. Captain Sheen will take steps to ensure that all men at JAY POST are well extended and are not crowded together in dug-outs.

MOVE.

4. The above moves will be completed by 1 p.m., to-morrow. Company Commanders will not move men back to front line trenches until they received orders from Bn., Hqrs.

SENTRY POSTS.

5. The usual day Sentry Posts will be posted, special care being taken to select good men for this duty.

RETALIATION.

6. Any hostile retaliation will be at once reported to Bn., Hqrs.

TRENCH PROPERTY.

7. Company Commanders will take steps to ensure that all trench property, such as picks, shovels etc., is placed in well protected positions. Any maps, Log books or papers are to be removed to positions of safety in 300 yards line.

FATIGUES.

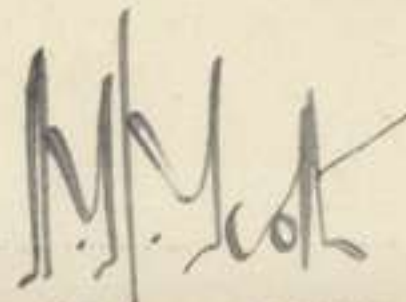
8. All work will cease in front line at 2 p.m., to-morrow, unless otherwise notified.

MOVEMENT.

9. Company Commanders will take special steps to ensure that once the men are moved to 300 yards line, absolutely no movement more than is necessary, takes place - they must be made to sit well up under the parapets, and on no account to look up should any hostile aircraft fly over. It must be impressed on all ranks that if any signs are visible to the enemy, that the 300 yards line is occupied, shelling is bound to follow.

REPORTS.

10. Reports will be sent to Battalion Headquarters - any items of interest being observed should be reported at once.



Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 56th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at 11-30 p.m.

Copies by Orderly to :-

- | | |
|-------|---|
| No 1. | Copy retained for Operation Order File. ✓ |
| 2. | " to O.C. "A" Co. |
| 3. | " " O.C. "B" " |
| 4. | " " O.C. "C" " |
| 5. | " " O.C. "D" " |
| 6. | " " L.G.D. |
| 7. | " " Scouts & Grenadiers. |
| 8. | " " R.M.O. |
| 9. | " for War Diary. ✓ |

OPERATION ORDER NO 11.

Copy No

10

by

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

Headquarters,

Reference Map
Trench Map 1/10,000 (area M)

Aug., 30th, 1916.

INTENTION

1. This Brigade will carry out a dummy raid with gas and concentrated fire from Artillery, Trench Mortars and Machine Guns.

OBJECT

2. (a) To inflict casualties on enemy
(b) To harass the enemy
(c) To destroy enemy machine gun positions, dug-outs and communications.

OBJECTIVE

3. N.6.d.4.3/4.9 to O.1.A.1.6, also subsidiary N.5.d.2.1/4 TURK'S POINT.

PROGRAMME

4. O + 3. Artillery concentration on enemy front line, between THE ANGLE and CORNER FORT, also on TURK'S POINT.
M.T.M.B. will open fire on CORNER FORT and THE ANGLE. They will also engage machine gun emplacements and cut the enemy's barbed wire.
14th M.G. Co., will open fire on targets as arranged.

- O + 12. Artillery lifts to enemy's second line and forms box barrage on C.T's at N.6.B.8.4. and N.6.B.5.1/2.
Machine Guns cease fire.

- O + 16. Artillery cease fire.

TIME

5. The operation will be carried out on first night wind is favourable.
Zero time will be notified later, by the following message - CERT AT ----

The following code will be used :-

- HOPEFUL - Raid will probably take place to-night.
DOUBT - Raid will probably NOT take place to-night
CERT - Raid takes place to-night.
NA POOR - Raid off to-night.

DISPOSITIONS.

6. A Co. Less Sentry Groups will occupy 300 yards line from Jay Post to City Post.
B Co. Less Sentry Groups will occupy 300 yards line from Tin Barn Avenue to Jay Post, also Jay Post - 1 Platoon B Co., will occupy City Post.
C Co. Less 1 Platoon and Sentry Groups will occupy Brewery Post, Hudson's Post, also old trenches on right of Hudson's Post.
D Co. 1 Platoon will occupy old trenches on left of City Post - remaining 3 Platoons will remain at Command Post.

DISPOSITIONS

- From 07020*
6. L.G.D. The following guns - 18/46 & 28/47, also one in 42, will fire on targets selected by L.G.D., Officer, to draw the hissing caused by the gas. The remaining three guns will be placed as follows:-

1 with B Co., 300 yards line.
1 " C " Brewery Post
1 " A " 300 yards line.

Grenadiers. O.C., Grenadiers will organise bombing parties to remain on both Bn., flanks and in case of emergency to work towards each other.

Scout & Intelligence. All except those actually on duty, will occupy side trenches off Gunner's Walk.

GAS HELMETS

7. Company Commanders will take steps to ensure that all helmets are in good order, also that every man understands how to put same on.

GAS ALERT.

8. Gas alert will be maintained by all troops half an hour before zero time.

DISCHARGE OF GAS.

9. During the discharge of gas all ranks in the front line trenches will put on gas helmets 5 minutes before zero, and will not remove same until ordered to do so by an Officer.

TRENCH STORES.

10. All Log Books, papers, maps etc., which may be of any use to the enemy, will be removed from the front line to the 300 yards line, on the evening of the attack.

PRECAUTIONS.

11. All ranks are to be warned to preserve secrecy as to the installation of "Riggers".

MEDICAL

12. Special Medical arrangements will be made by the R.M.O.; throughout the period.

SIGNALLING.

13. Signalling Sergeant will make all necessary arrangements to ensure that telephone communication may be maintained. He will allot certain positions to linesmen, who will tap in and be ready, should lines be cut. The usual duty linesmen will be at their posts. In the event of all communications failing, runners will be resorted to.

INTELLIGENCE.

14. Any movement on the part of enemy is to be reported immediately.

REPORTS.

15. Reports will be forwarded to Bn., Hqrs., Wye Farm.

Issued at

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

Copies by Orderly to -

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Copy No 1 - O.C. "A" Co. | 7. R.M.O. |
| 2. O.C. "B" " | 8. Signalling Sergeant. |
| 3. O.C. "C" " | 9. Retained for Operation Order File. |
| 4. O.C. "D" " | 10. War Diary. |
| 5. L.G.D. Officer | |
| 6. Scouts & Grenadiers. | |