

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/19

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/71/19

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IN THE FIELD RENESECURE	Wednesday 1st. Aug.		Training for to-day was at the disposal of Coy Commanders. It consisted of practice in the "Coy and Platoon in attack" as laid down in S.S. 143, and 135. Specialist training as follows was carried out;- Coy Signallers worked under the Battalion Signalling Officer; 12 Rifle Grenadiers and 12 Bombers per Coy worked under the Battalion Bombing Officer; Lewis Gunners carried out range practice. The G.O.C.A.I.F visited the Battalion area and watched the troops at work.	
RENESECURE	Thursday 2nd. August.		Training for to-day was at the disposal of Coy Commanders. It consisted of practice in the "Coy and Platoon attack" as laid down in S.S. 143 and 135. Specialist training as follows was carried out;- Coy signallers worked under the Bn. Signalling Officer; Lewis Gunners carried out range practice. 73 other ranks joined up the Battalion to-day.	
RENESECURE	Friday 3rd. August		The Battalion route marched to-day as follows;- Starting point was at T.22..b.9.3 and the route followed was along main HAZEBROUCK Road, to Cross Roads at U.20.a.8.3.-Road Junction U.15.b.0.6.- Road Junction U.8.b.6.7.- Road Junction T.6.b.8.9.-Cross Roads T.14.a.6.5.-RENESECURE - Cross Roads T.22..c.65.05. The distance covered was 12 miles. At 11-0 a.m. rain commenced to fall which lasted throughout the march. Transport accompanied the unit. No men fell out along the march.	
RENESECURE	Saturday 4th. August.		Coys were at the disposal of Coy Commanders for training to-day. Hours of training were from 9-0 a.m. to 1-0 p.m. and one hour in the afternoon. The following training was undertaken;- Platoon & Coy Drill, Rifle exercises, practice in Scouting & reconnaissance, elementary musketry. A Court was assembled to-day, to decide the fate of various N.C.O's and other ranks who were reported by this Battalion as missing on the 19/20th. July last year (FROMELLES) and during the December fighting on the SOMME.	
RENESECURE	Sunday 5th. August.		The following Church parades were held to-day;- Roman Catholic. A Brigade parade of all R.C. members of the Bn. was held at LYNDE Church at 10-0 a.m. this morning. Church of England & O.P.D. A parade of Church of England & O.P.D. was held at EBBLINGHEM at 9-45 a.m. to-day.	
RENESECURE	Monday 6th. August			

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NEILLES les BLEQUIN RENESECURE	Monday 6th. August		The 54th. Battalion left RENESCURE for the W1. Training area near LUMBRES to-day. The Bn embussed at the EBBLINGHEM -WARDRECQUES Cross Roads at 6-0 a.m. It de-bussed at LUMBRES and marched to billets at NIELLES-Les-BLEQUIN, arriving at the latter place at 2-0 p.m. and taking over the billets of the 112th. Battalion. It is intended that three days be spent in this locality. The training ground W1 area, is 7 miles distant.	
NEILLES les BLEQUIN RENESECURE	Tuesday 7th. August		A special scheme was to-day carried out in the Eastern portion of the W1 Training Area, consisting of an attack upon a flagged enemy through the Bois de AQUIN and LARGE. The Brigade Major (Major Dickinson) had charge of the enemy. The initial stages of the attack were well carried out but Coys lost touch towards the end.	
NEILLES les BLEQUIN RENESECURE	Wednesday 8th. August		To-day's work consisted of an attack from the LUMBRES-BOULOGNE Road in to Northerly direction to NEILLES les BLEQUIN. The G.S.O. to 11. 5th. Aus. Div. (Major D.M. King) D.S.O. M.C. had charge of the flagged enemy and as chief umpire expressed great satisfaction at the way in which the scheme was carried out.	
NEILLES les BLEQUIN Wednes Thursday	9th. August		A Brigade scheme was undertaken to-day, and consisted of an attack upon a two Battalion frontage on the Eastern edge of the W1. Training Area through the Bois der LÉGLISE in a Westerly direction towards the Bois LARGE. The 54th. Bn. less two Coys, carried out a flank attack. The first attack being over, two Battalions in support attacked through the two leading Battalions and carried the enemy positions (flagged) on the Western edge of Bois LARGE. During the march home a very heavy thunderstorm commenced, and continued during the whole of the afternoon, the consequence was that every man was thoroughly wetted and it was only with great difficulty, and through the kindness of the inhabitants of NEILLES les BLEQUIN that the troops were able to dry their clothes. To-days operations completed the three days training in this area. The 7 miles march to and from the training area made the tasks for this Bn. a very strenuous ones. A very profitable time however has been spent in this area.	
RENESECURE Friday August 10th.			The Battalion returned to RENESCURE from the W1 area to-day. The Battalion marched from NEILLES les BLEQUIN to LUMBRES, embussed at this point, debussed at ARCQUES, and marched to billets at RENESCURE arriving at this place at about 5-0 p.m.	

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RENESCURE	Saturday August 11th.		Training to-day was at the disposal of the Coy Commanders. The following work was undertaken Platoon & Coy Drill, rifle exercises, P.T. & B.F. Coy extended order work. Signallers, bombers & rifle grenadiers and Lewis Gunners received special instructions from the various Bn. specialist Officers.	
RENESCURE	Sunday August 12th.		Church parades were held as follows to-day;- Roman Catholic ^{Service} Church at LYNDE. Church of England service was held near the Church at LYNDE at 10-0 a.m.	
RENESCURE	Monday August 13th.		A route march was undertaken by the Bn. to-day. The Bn. was assembled in column of route with head of column at B.2.b. (Reference Map HARZEBROUCK 36a) at 8-50 a.m. Order of march;- "C", "D", "A", and "B" Coys. Dress full marching order. Transport accompanied the Battalion. The route was by way of EBBLINGHEM, LYNDE, WARDRECQUES. A total distance of 9½ miles was covered.	
RENESCURE	Tuesday August 14th.		Four hrs training was carried out to-day. The Bn. was assembled on the Bn. parade ground, at 9-0 a.m. after an inspection by the Battalion Commander, and 10 minutes Bn. drill, Coys were handed over to Coy Commanders. The following work was carried out by them;- B.F. & B.F. Elementary Musk. Fire direction & Control, Specialist training was carried out as follows;- The 16 Lewis Guns sections carried out firing practice under Lieut Downing, the Bn. Lewis Gun Officer. 12 Rifle grenadiers per Coy were practiced in rifle grenade work by Lieut Staples the Bn. Bombing Officer. A special feature was made of the No. 27 Smoke Grenade.	
RENESCURE	Wednesday August 15th.		The S.Box Respirator was to-day examined for every man in the Battalion was to-day examined by the Battalion-Gas-N.C.O. Divisional Gas Officer. He also lectured them, on the new gas being used by the enemy. Three Officers of the Battalion and 8 N.C.O.'s, attended a gas lecture delivered by the Corps Chemical Adviser at EBBLINGHEM at 5-30 p.m. The 2/ in Command Capt B.D. Jack and Lieut Benn et attended a Lecture at the 2nd Army School HARZEBROUCK to-day. The Officers of the Battalion to-day carried out a Battalion scheme without troops.	
RENESCURE	Thursday August 16th.			

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RENESECURE	Thursday 16th. Aug.		A route march was carried out by the Battalion to-day. The Bn. assembled at 9-0 a.m. in column of route in the EBBLINGHEM-WARDRECQUES Road. The head of the column rested on the Road in front of B.O.R. Dress; battle order. Order of march- "B", "A", "C" and "D" Coys. 1st. Line transport accompanied the attalion. The route was by way of LYNDE and BLARINGHEM; the distance covered 7½ miles.	
RENESECURE	Friday 17th. August		The Bn. was bathed to-day at Div. Baths BLARINGHEM. Every man received a complete set of underclothing. A Brigade scheme without troops was carried out to-day and was attended by the Commanding Officer.	
RENESECURE	Saturday 18th. August		Four hours training was carried out to-day. A muster parade, in full marching order, was held on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. this morning. This was followed by a minute inspection of every man's kit. After the kit inspection parades were handed to Coy Commanders, who carried out the following training;- Elementary musketry, fire direction & control, scouting & reconn., visual training & judging distance. Specialist training was carried out as follows;- The 16 Lewis Gun Sections carried out firing practice under Lieut Downing, the Bn. Lewis Gun Officer. 12 Rifle grenadiers per Coy were practiced in rifle grenade work by Lieut Staples the Bn. Bombing Officer. A special feature was made of the No. 27 Smoke Grenade.	
RENESECURE	Sunday 19th. August.		A parade of all Roman Catholic members of the Battalion was held at the Church at LYNDE at 10-0 a.m. Capt McNab was to-day taken on strength from Supy List.	
RENESECURE	Monday 20th. August		Four hours training was carried out to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. and after brief inspection by the C.O. followed by 10 minutes drill the parades were handed over to Coy Commanders. The following work was undertaken;- P.T. & B.P., S&B. Respirator drill; Coy & Platoon Drill; Elementary musketry & rifle exercises. The following specialist training was carried out;- the 16 Lewis Gun sections carried out range practice on the Bn. miniature range. Rifle grenadiers 10 per Coy, were practiced in the use of No. 20, 23 & 27 Grenades. Ten men per Coy were practiced in throwing dummy No. 5 grenades. Coy & Hqrtrs Signallers were received special instruction from Lieut Brewer the Bn. Signalling Officer.	

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RENESCURE	Tuesday 21st. Aug.		A route march was undertaken to-day. The Bn. was assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. Dress, battle order. Transport accompanied unit. The route taken was, by way of RENESCURE, EBBLINGHEM, LYNDE, and WARDRECQUES, a distance of 9½ miles.	
RENESCURE	Wednesday 22nd. Aug.		Four hours training was carried out to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. and after a brief inspection by the C.O. followed by 10 minutes drill the parades were handed over to the Coy Seconds in Command who, with the aid of the N.C.O's carried out the following:- P.T. & B.F.; S.B.R. drill; Coy & Platoon Drill. elementary musketry & rifle exercises. The remainder of the officer- carried out a Bn. scheme without troops. Specialists received training as follows; The 16 Lewis Gun Sections carried out range practice on the Bn. miniature range. Rifle grenadiers, 10 per Coy, were practiced in the use of No. 20 23 and 27 Grenades. Ten men per Coy were practiced in throwing dummy grenades. Coy- & Hqtrs- Sigs. - received 2/Lieut TRELOAR W.J. was taken on strength from Reinforcements (Officer Cadet Bn)	
RENESCURE	Thursday 23rd. Aug.		Four hours training was carried out to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. and after a brief inspection by the C.O. the parades were handed over to the Coy Seconds in Command who with the aid of the N.C.O's carried out the following:- Rifle exercises, reconn; fire direction & control platoon & Coy drill close order drill. The remainder of the Officers carried out a Bn. scheme without troops. Specialists received training as follows:- The 16 Lewis Gun sections of the Bn. carried out range practice on the Bn. miniature range; rifle grenadiers, 10 per coy, were practiced in the use of No. 20, 23 and 27 grenades. Ten men per Coy were practiced in throwing dummy grenades. 2/L.	
RENESCURE	Friday 24th. August		A route march was undertaken to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. Dress; fighting order. Transport accompanied the unit. The order of march was as follows:- "D" Coy "C" Coy Hqtrs Details, "A" and "C" Coys. The head of the column rested at Cross Roads B.2.b.9.C. and the route taken LYNDE; BLARINGHEM, WARDRECQUES, to Billets.	
RENESCURE	Saturday 25th. Aug.		Four hours training was carried out to-day, under Coy Commanders supervision. It consisted of P.T. & B.F. elementary musketry, organised games, platoon & Coy close order drill. Lewis Gunners Rifle grenadiers and Signallers received special instruction at the hands of the Bn. Specialist Officers.	

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RENESECURE	Sunday 26th. Aug.		<p><u>Roman Catholic</u>. A compulsory service for all Roman Catholic members of the Bn. was held in the Church at LYNDE this morning at 10-0 a.m. <u>Church of England</u>. Holy Communion was celebrated this morning in the CINEMA Hall, EBBLINGHEM, at 8-30 a.m. A compulsory Church parade for all members of the Bn was held near the Church EBBLINGHEM at 9-30 a.m. <u>Presbyterian & Other Denominations</u> A compulsory parade for these members belonging to these denominations was held at LYNDE at 9-30 a.m. this morning.</p>	
RENESECURE	Monday 27th. Aug.		<p>Fours training was carried out to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. and after C.O.'s inspection Coy Commanders carried out the following training;- P.T. & assault practice, Coy. & platoon extended order work. Lewis gun, signalling & rifle grenadier training was also carried out under supervision of Bn. Specialist officers.</p> <p>17 other ranks (reinforcements) were taken on the strength of Bn. to-day.</p>	
RENESECURE	Tuesday 28th. Aug.		<p>The Bn. undertook a route march to-day. The Bn. assembled on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. The route was by way of EBBLINGHEM WALLON CHAPEL, and WARDRECQUES, a total distance of 8½ miles. Transport accompanied unit.</p>	
RENESECURE	Wednesday 29th. Aug.		<p>The Bn. assembled in mass on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. After the C.O.'s inspection every man in the Bn. was put through tear gas. This was supervised by a Divisional Gas N.C.O. Whilst waiting for their Coys to be put through tear gas and after this had been done, Coy Commanders carried out work as follows;- P.T. & Assault practice and extended order work.</p> <p>14 other ranks were transferred to the 14th. Aus. M.G. Coy to-day.</p>	
RENESECURE	Thursday 30th. Aug.		<p>The Bn. was bathed to-day, at the Divisional Baths BLARINGHEM. A scheme without troops was carried out by the Officers of the Bn.</p>	
RENESECURE	Friday 31st. Aug.		<p>The Bn. carried out a route march to-day. After assembling in mass on the Bn. parade ground at 9-0 a.m. the Bn moved off along the route LYNDE, -WARDRECQUES-RENESECURE. Total distance of 7½ miles. Transport did not accompany the Bn. but was to-day inspected by Col-Francis O.C. 5th. Div. Train. The strength and disposition of the Bn. to-day is as follows;-</p> <p>Actually with unit 33 Officers 788 other ranks including 19 other ranks (reinforcements) who marched in to-day. In Hosp. at Rest Camps, on Brigade Duties, at Schools, and on Command 14 Officers and 118 other ranks, making a total of 47 Officers 906 other ranks.</p>	

