

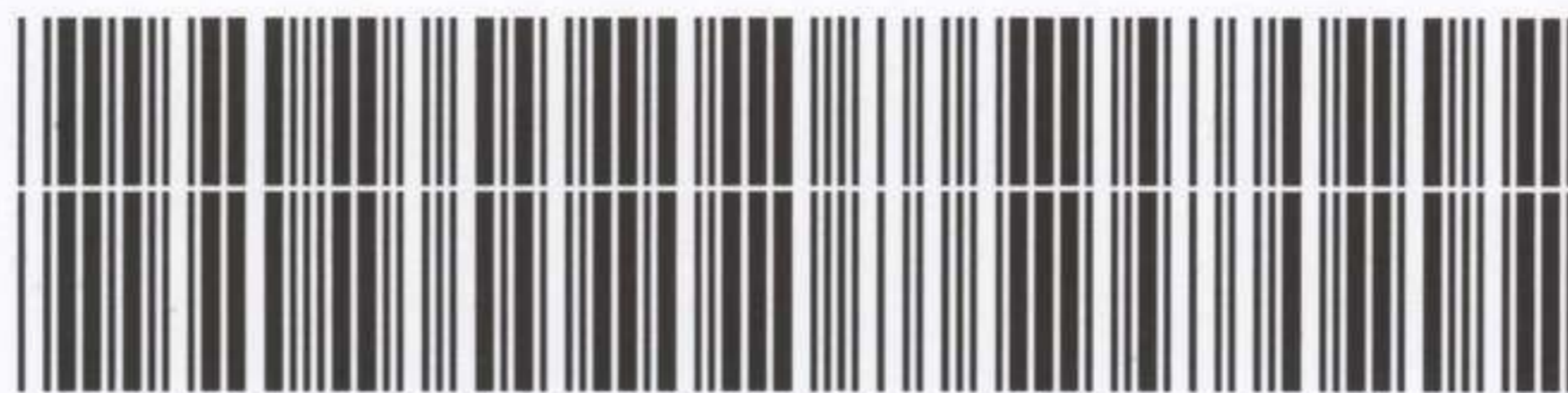
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/25

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

February 1918



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~~DUPLICATE.~~
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

54th. Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

February, 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

Lt. Col. Datley Mayor.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Lt. Col. Glatton
Honourably 5th Bn A.I.F.*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS. O.20.b.2.2.	Friday. 1st Feb.		<p>The day broke with a heavy frost and dense fog, these conditions prevailing throughout the whole day. The fog limited the observation from the front line to about 50 yards, rendering it possible to visit the front line posts during daylight and enabling patrols to visit and report on our wire. During the morning the Commanding Officer (Lieut-Colonel D. Mc Conaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O.,) visited the Support and Reserve Companies and inspected several unused dug-outs with a view to bettering the accommodation of the men in these areas. Nearly all were found to be damp and insanitary, so no change was made. In the afternoon the C.O. visited and inspected the Support and Reserve Companies, the Gumboot Store, which is being supervised by Lieut. F.W. Bennett, and the forward Companies' Cook-house, in charge of Lieut. D. Mc Arthur, M.C. At the same time the Adjutant (Capt. N.B. Lovett, M.C.) the Brigade Intelligence Officer (Lieut. J.E. Murray) and Battalion Intelligence Officer (Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M.) made a tour of the Piquet Line and Supports. The night was very dark and interfered considerably with the work of wiring our front carried out by the Battalion Works Officer (Lieut. J. Adams.)</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 31st January - 1st February, Appendix "A"1 attached.</p>	App. A1
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS. O.20.b.2.2.	Saturday 2nd Feb.		<p>Daylight came with frost and fog, but the fog lifting at about 9-30a.m., the frost thawed in bright sunlight. During the morning we had a visit from the D.A.Q.M.G., (Major Smith.) who, together with Capt. Godfrey, the Staff Captain 14th A.I. Brigade, was making a tour of inspection of the rationing arrangements and Gumboot Stores of the Brigade. Accompanied by the C.O. and Adjutant they visited our Gumboot Store, Cookers and RESTON DUMP, everything being found in excellent working order. A party of Officers from the 55th Battalion came to have a look round and visited the Reserve Companies during the day. The day was quiet, except for increased Artillery Activity on both sides, due, no doubt, to the improved weather conditions. Work was carried out during the night on our Forward Posts, the Defences and Accommodation being improved. The Senior Major made a tour of the Supports and Reserves and found everybody in good spirits and very pleased to see the sun again.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 1st February - 2nd February, Appendix "A2" is attached.</p>	App. A2
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS	Sunday. 3rd Feb.		<p>A beautiful day, sun shining and the air very clear. The Observation was perfect and from the top of these dug-outs could be seen with the naked eye the chimneys of LILLE. This was practically our first extended view of the enemy territory and, as a contrast to our area where the fighting has been and in which there are only a few heaps of bricks to show where farms once stood, the villages on the Boche side of the line seemed quite untouched and in imagination we could picture the Hun living in ease and comfort. During the morning the Divisional Commander, Major General Sir Talbot Hobbs, K.C.B., accompanied by our Brigadier visited Battalion Headquarters</p>	

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~~INTELLIGENCE OFFICER'S SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Sunday 3rd Feb. (Cont'd.)		<p>After a conference with the C.O. (mainly about Defence Schemes) a tour of inspection of the Support and Reserve Companies was made. Except for one dirty rifle, no fault was found and the inspection passed off satisfactorily.</p> <p>An Inter-Company relief was successfully carried out during the night, "B" Company moving from Support to Front Line and "A" Company vice versa. The Senior Major and Intelligence Officer visited the Forward Line and Posts shortly after the relief.</p> <p>Operation Order No.85 (Appendix "B1") and the Intelligence Summary for the period 2nd February, 3rd February, (Appendix "A3") are attached.</p>	App B1 App A3.
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Monday 4th Feb.		<p>The weather still keeps fine, though observation today was not quite so good as formerly on account of a ground mist. We were visited during the morning by the Brigade Major (Major Legg, M.C.) and the G.S.O.2 G.S.O.2 (Major G.F.Wooten, D.S.O.) and, under the guidance of the Intelligence Officer they made a tour of the line.</p> <p>News came through today that the Adjutant, Capt. N.B.Lovett, M.C. and Pte. E.O'Connor (more generally known as Ned and formerly a Battalion Headquarters Runner) had each been awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. General satisfaction was expressed and Capt. Lovett was the recipient of many congratulations.</p> <p>A great many turnips grow round the Reserve Companies' area and so from today parties of men are to be put on digging them, enough being retained for our own use to provide fresh vegetables for all Companies, the remainder, less a few bags for fodder for use with our transport, are sent away on the ration train from PRESTON DUMP to be disposed of under Brigade arrangements, it being intended that we get a proportion of Potatoes in accordance with the weight of the turnips so sent away. This work was put under the charge of Lieut. E.P.Kinsella.</p> <p>The C.O. visited the Front Line Company tonight and inspected 2 of the posts.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for the period 3/4th February, Appendix "A"4, is attached.</p>	App. A4.
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERTS DUG-OUTS	Tuesday 5th Feb.		<p>The day was fine, slightly cloudy and inclined to be warm. In the morning the Senior Major and Intelligence Officer visited the Support Company and saw that, in accordance with a previous suggestion by the C.O., the Company Commander had located a new position for Company Headquarters and was in the act of moving. This new position puts the Company Headquarters in a much more central position and is one from which the Company Commander can exercise better supervision and control. The C.O. visited the Headquarters of the 29th Battalion, A.I.F. on our right and cleared up a few minor matters of liaison.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Tuesday 5th Feb. (Cont'd.)		<p>Lieut-Colonel A.J.Simpson, of the 56th Battalion, A.I.F., paid us a visit, staying for lunch. A suggestion of his regarding the liaison patrol between our left post and the right post of the 56th Battalion will in future be acted on, this meaning that instead of visiting patrols, each Battalion will furnish one standing patrol slightly in advance of the line between the two posts. The C.O. and the Senior Major in the afternoon visited the Gumboot Store, and Forward Companies' Cookers; the C.O. ordered more cover to be put on the shelter in which the cooks slept. As on the day previous the volume of smoke from our cookhouse had attracted some enemy shells, instructions were given about keeping down the smoke. We had our first casualty tonight, one of a working party furnished by "D" Company being severely wounded by a M.G. bullet. The Intelligence Summary for period 4/5th February, Appendix "A5", is attached.</p>	App A5
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Wednesday 6th Feb.		<p>The day was fine and clear with a fairly strong wind. The Adjutant and Intelligence Officer visited the front line posts at "stand to" early this morning finding everything in order and conditions quiet. A conference was held this morning at Battalion Headquarters, all Company Commanders (except O.C. front line), Cooking and Intelligence Officer and the M.O. being present. Trench Standing Orders were read over by the Senior Major and certain points were emphasised by the C.O. Details of Inter-Company reliefs were discussed and other matters attended to. Just as the conference broke up the Brigadier arrived and discussed points in the Defence Scheme with the C.O. During the afternoon the Brigade Major visited Battalion Headquarters and went into the Defence Scheme, laying particular stress on the action of this Battalion if a break through occurred on either of our flanks. The enemy were no more active than usual, and the day passed off very quietly. Intelligence Summary for period 5/6th February, Appendix "A6", is attached.</p>	App A6
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Thursday 7th Feb.		<p>The day came in wet and continued so throughout the day. The Senior Major went to Brigade Headquarters during the morning and saw the Staff Captain, with whom he arranged to have the ration train leave KEMMEL at a later hour, as on the previous day the train arrived at PRESTON DUMP in broad daylight and as there was very good visibility it was considered that it might act as an incentive to Hun Shelling. A start was made today on the Battalion Baths under the direction of Lieut. E.P.Kinsella. It is hoped that we shall be able to bathe about 150 men per day if clean changes are available.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Thursday 7th Feb. (Cont'd.)		<p>For the first time since we have been in this sector shells fell near Battalion Headquarters, no damage was done and it is unlikely that anything but a direct hit by a very heavy shell could do any damage to these dug-outs, which were evidently built for a Headquarters by the Hun. Inter-Company relief was carried out according to Operation Order No.86 (Appendix "B2" attached.) all O.K. being received at Battalion Headquarters by 7-35p.m. The Intelligence Summary for period 6/7th February, Appendix "A7" is attached., together with a special report "Appendix "A8."</p>	<p>App B2 App A7</p>
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESUME FOR WEEK ENDING THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY.</u></p> <p>A Great deal of work was done in the Forward Posts, shelters of "Elephant" Iron being erected behind the parapets and made shrapnel and splinter proof. The parapet was also strengthened with sandbags. Extra wire was laid out and the posts made generally more defensive. For this work the Works Officer (Lieut. J.Adams) had nightly a party of 30 O/Ranks. The quiet Sector lends itself to very careful organisation in the Reserve Area and such matters as Battalion Cookers, under an Officer, arrangements for and building of Battalion Baths, a daily salvage party, the digging of turnips and the time table of ration carrying and working parties were well carried out. Our allotment for leave to the United Kingdom has been very good and opportunity was taken during this last week to send 32 N.C.O's and men. We were also able to send 1 Officer (2/Lt.C.W.Harvey), the R.S.M. (B.H.Bramhall) and 2 O/Ranks to Paris on leave. During the same period 8 N.C.O's and men rejoined the Battalion after U.K. leave and 1 Officer (Lieut. A.G.Bates, D.C.M.-) and 13 O/Ranks from Paris leave. Everyone is very satisfied with the leave as at present extended to all ranks. Though the weather has been good for this time of the year, we still have a proportion of sickness, probably due to the damp dug-outs in which the men live and which have been continuously occupied by troops for some months. In all 14 men were sent to Hospital. The avoidance of trench feet was one of our main considerations and immediate steps were taken by the Platoon Commanders if at any inspection of feet a case seemed doubtful.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS	Thursday 7th Feb. (Cont'd.)		<p>For the first time since we have been in this Sector shells fell near Battalion Headquarters. No damage was done and it is unlikely that anything but a direct hit by a very heavy shell could do any damage to these dug-outs, which were evidently built for a Headquarters by the Hun. Inter-Company relief was carried out according to Operation Order No.86 (Appendix "B2" attached) all O.K. being received at Battalion Headquarters by 7-35p.m. The Intelligence Summary for period 6/8th February, Appendix "A7" is attached, together with a Special Report (Appendix "A8").</p>	
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Friday 8th Feb.		<p>Today was fairly warm, showry but clear. We had an influx of visitors at an early hour, the Brigade Major, G.S.O.2, Major A.H.Wright, the Divisional Machine Gun Officer, Major H.Bachtold, D.S.O., M.C. (O.C. 14th Field Company) arriving at about the same time. The C.O. went with Major Bachtold to the right of our Support Line, where a new M.G. position was being constructed. The Brigade Major, G.S.O.2 and Divisional Machine Gun Officer accompanied by the Senior Major made a tour of the 25th Machine Gun Company positions. The afternoon was quiet except for some shelling round our Support Line. About 5p.m. Major A.C.S.Holland, Temp. Commanding 55th Battalion, visited Battalion Headquarters and was taken by the C.O. round the Forward Posts, arriving back at 7p.m. He and his Adjutant dined at our Headquarters. Lieut. J.Adams went to a Corps School, his place as Works Officer being taken by Lieut.A.C.Askham. The night was calm, but, the darkness interfered with the work of our patrols. Intelligence Summary for period 7/8th February (Appendix "A9") attached.</p>	App. A9.
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Saturday 9th Feb.		<p>This might be called visitor's day, as from a very early hour visitors seemed to be continually coming and going. Our first visitor was Major A.P.Crisp of the 7th Battery, 3rd A.F.A.Brigade, who had a talk with the C.O. about the co-operation of Artillery and Infantry. It was suggested that a trial shoot be put down on our S.O.S. lines, and Anti-Tank measures were also discussed; on his departure General Buckland of the Army Engineers came along inspecting Dug-outs and with him was Lieut-Colonel E.J.H.Nicholson, D.S.O. Australian Corps. After them came Lieut-Colonel G.I.Stevenson, C.M.G., Commanding 3rd Army Brigade Field Artillery, who arranged certain points with the C.O. regarding the matters already discussed with Major Crisp. Very soon after this the Corps Commander, General Sir W.R. Birdwood, K.C.B., K.S.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., arrived, accompanied by Surgeon General Sir N.R.Howse, V.C., K.C.B., and Capt. Chirnside. After a talk with the C.O. General Birdwood went round the Reserve and Support Line inquiring after the health and fitness of the men as he went.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Saturday 9th Feb. (Cont'd.)		<p>Today we had information from Brigade which stated that the 10th Australian Infantry Brigade (on the right of our Divisional Sector) were to carry out a raid on the night of the 10/11th February. We were asked for suggestions as to what way we might co-operate, and accordingly a memo giving the Artillery 2 targets to fire on was sent in. Instructions were also received at the same time concerning the thinning down of the front line and precautions to be taken in the case of Hun retaliation.</p> <p>Cpts. S.A.Benson and A.P.Vine-Hall and Lieut. J.H.Pollock rejoined the Battalion. The Intelligence Summary for period 8/9th February, Appendix "A10", is attached.</p>	App A 10
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Sunday 10th Feb.		<p>The day was fine, a little windy and cloudy, but, no frost.</p> <p>The Adjutant and Signalling Officer (Lieut. H.Brewer visited the front line posts at "stand to" the Adjutant giving instructions re the withdrawal of Listening Posts and all Patrols and the thinning of the posts garrisons when ZERO hour for the raid on our right should be notified at a later hour. The remainder of the day was uneventful except for increased Artillery activity.</p> <p>The C.O. and Senior Major visited the 2 reserve Companies in the afternoon. No visitors came along today. All Working Parties for the night 10/11th inst., were suspended on account of the raid on our right. Notification of ZERO arrived about 7p.m., the hour named being 10p.m. At 10p.m. from outside Battalion Headquarters the opening barrage was observed. The barrage came down very quickly and was the signal for a veritable fireworks display by The Hun, white flares being sent up in profusion. The Artillery fire died down after about 30 minutes, and on this Sector everything remained quiet, there being no retaliation by the Hun to any extent, a few shells only being disposed dropped on our Support Line. The result of the raid was not known. The Intelligence Summary for the period 9/10th February, Appendix "A11", is attached.</p>	App. A 11.
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Monday. 11th Feb.		<p>Practically the same weather conditions as obtained yesterday.</p> <p>We heard that the raid of the previous night had been very successful, some 30 Prisoners being taken. We had a visit from Mr C.E.W.Bean, who introduced Mr F.M.Cutlack, the new Official Correspondent with the A.I.F. The C.O. and Senior Major showed the visitors round the Reserve and Support Lines and with them inspected various dug-outs, afterwards bringing them back to Battalion Headquarters, where they had lunch. After lunch the Official Photographer took a Group of Battalion Headquarters outside Prince Rupert's Dug-outs, various signs such as "Do not loiter" and "Avoid all movement here" being placed in evidence. The C.O., later in the day, visited the Front Line Posts. Inter-Company reliefs took place tonight as per Operation Order No.87 (Appendix "B3" attached;) all clear being received at B.H.Q. at 7-40p.m.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 10/11th February, Appendix "A12" is attached.</p>	App B 3 App A 12.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS	Tuesday 12th Feb.		<p>To-day was fine and warm, though inclined to be cloudy.</p> <p>A conference was held in the morning at Battalion Headquarters consisting of the Divisional Commander, Brigade Commander, the C.O.'s of the 4 Battalions and the O's C. Field Companies Engineers, T.M. Batteries and Machine Gun Companies. The conference met at 11a.m. and broke up about 12-45p.m. The subject discussed was mainly defence.</p> <p>The Senior Major inspected the Support and Reserve Companies during the morning.</p> <p>At 5p.m. 2 Officers of the 55th Battalion arrived to visit the front line posts and they were accompanied by the C.O. to the Forward Company Headquarters.</p> <p>Our second casualty occurred tonight, when one of a working party, supplied by "A" Company, was slightly wounded.</p> <p>The Baths at last got into full working order and we put through 140 men, each man getting a clean change of underwear. It is possible now, under Battalion arrangements to bathe every man in the Battalion, and to provide the necessary change of clothing.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 11/12th February, Appendix "A13", is attached.</p>	App A13
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Wednesday 13th Feb.		<p>One of those happenings which might have had very serious results occurred this morning. Through mischance or carelessness the ration-carrying party for the front line never got away from the Battalion Cook-house until 7-10a.m., when it was quite light. Fortunately the morning was misty and thereby the party missed observation and returned without mishap.</p> <p>We were visited this morning by two American Officers who were convoyed by Lieut. F.P. Holder, the Brigade Gas Officer. These Officers were studying Anti-Gas measures and were shown round our Supports and Reserves.</p> <p>The C.O. and Senior Major walked round the Reserve Line in the afternoon, there appearing to be some doubt about a post between the 56th Battalion and ourselves.</p> <p>The Hun seems to have woken up and has begun to put down a Minnenwerfer and Machine Gun Barrage on our posts at odd intervals through the night. His M.G's were also very active on the.</p> <p>VERNE ROAD.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 12/13th February, Appendix "A14", is attached.</p>	App A14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Thursday 14th Feb		<p>The day broke foggy, these conditions prevailing until about 12 noon when the sun once more put in an appearance. The Senior Major and Adjutant visited the Forward Company Headquarters, taking advantage of the fog to go up by the VERNE ROAD, while there, arrangements were made for a number of "general purpose" rations to be stored at Company Headquarters. The Support Line was then visited, and everything found in order.</p> <p>The C.O., in the afternoon, visited the Reserve Companies and made arrangements for a newly constructed post near the ROOZEBEKE (S.P.3.O.15.) to be manned by a Platoon of the 1st Reserve Company. The Hun, during the afternoon, did some shelling on the WAMBEKE ROAD, RESTON DUMP evidently being his objective, but no damage was done.</p> <p>We had no visitors today and things were fairly quiet.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 13/14th February, "Appendix "A15", is attached.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESUME FOR WEEK ENDING THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY.</u></p> <p>The work on the front line posts still continued throughout the week, conditions being favourable. No constructive work was done on the night of the 10th February on account of the raid and we have received instructions from Division that no work, unless imperative, is to be carried out on Sundays.</p> <p>Everything went very smoothly in the Reserve Area but for the one incident quoted in the daily log on 13th February.</p> <p>Our Company strengths are very nearly equal averaging exactly 102 per Company. A little difficulty is experienced in manning the front line posts with this Company strength and a slight re-arrangement of Platoons has become necessary for the front line Company.</p> <p>Our Pioneers, Tailors and Bootmakers are well organised and are doing excellent work at the Transport Lines Norfolk Camp near KEMMEL. The Transport Animals are in good quarters and are improving daily.</p> <p>During the week 2 Officers went to Schools, Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C. to Corps Gas School, and Lieut. J. Adams to 2nd Army Central School. No. 4345 Sgt. Taylor R., returned from a School of Musketry at Hayling Island.</p> <p>The leave quota was again large, 29 N.C.O's and men going during the week to the U.K., while 6 N.C.O's and men went to Paris. In the same period 22 N.C.O's and men rejoined from the U.K. and Lieut. C.W. Harvey and 8 O/Ranks from Paris.</p> <p>The general health remains normal; there were no cases of trench feet and 10 men went to hospital through sickness. The Medical Officer (Capt. C.H. Leedman M.C.) reports that most cases are influenza.</p>	<p>App A 15</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Friday. 15th Feb.		<p>Generally the same conditions held as on the previous day and we were again treated to a few hours sunshine. The morning passed off very quietly, there being nothing of particular interest to report. In the afternoon the C.O., and the Senior Major had a thorough tour of inspection of the 2nd Reserve Company, the care of arms being the subject of a little homily homily which the C.O., had to deliver on more than one occasion. Just as the inspection was over over Brigadier General H.E.Elliott, C.D.M., D.S.O., with his Staff Captain, Capt.H.R.Gollen (late of this Battalion) were met in the effort of locating the Corps Line. The C.O. was able to point out two of the newly constructed strong points in his area. Later in the afternoon after a visit to the 56th Battalion Headquarters it was found that we had both taken different lines as our boundary, hence the difficulty concerning one post which we both had included in our defence schemes; the matter was afterwards fixed up satisfactorily, our boundary line being found to be the correct one.</p> <p>During the night the Hun became particularly busy with his Minnenwerfer and Machine Guns against our No.3 Post securing one direct hit on one of our shelters with a "Minnie" inflicting casualty on 3 men, one of whom died at the advanced dressing station. This enemy activity caused the Company Commander to ring up and ask for retaliation on certain points by our artillery; the liaison Officer immediately got to work and silenced the Hun. This performance was repeated several times during the night but our artillery was quick to respond.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 14/15th February, Appendix "A16", is attached.</p>	App A-16
HEADQUARTERS. PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS .	Saturday 16th Feb.		<p>The day was clear, very good for aeroplane reconnaissance, though there was not much sun. We had a warning Order from Brigade that we were expected to carry out a raid on GREEN FARM before the 20th inst., As no details were given it was decided to wait before doing anything definite.</p> <p>In the early afternoon a Hun Aeroplane flew low over our front line and had a long and presumably careful survey of our positions despite the fact that every Anti-Aircraft Gun within range and every Machine and Lewis Gun in or out of range fired at him for over an hour. Various flare and smoke signals were dropped by the Hun over our posts. 1 Flare was dropped between 2 of our Battalion Posts and it was noticed afterwards that all the Hun hate was directed where the flare fell and not on our posts. Some of our fighting planes put in an appearance but evidently did not see the Hun. Later in the day we had a visit from the Brigade Major, G.S.O.2 and Divisional Machine Gun Officer, who had been round a good deal of the Divisional Front. During the night an Inter-Company relief was carried out in accordance with Operation Order No.88 Appendix "B4" attached. Intelligence Summary for period 15/16th Feb., Appendix "A17", is attached.</p>	App B4 App A17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS. PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Sunday 17th Feb.		<p>The day was again clear and observation good. During the morning we were visited by Brigadier General A.J. Bessell-Browne, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. C.R.A. 5th Division, Brigadier General C.J. Hobkirk, D.S.O., and Lieut-Colonel G.I. Stevenson, C.M.G., Commanding 3rd Army Brigade Artillery, to discuss the Artillery preparation for the raid. After some preparation, in which the C.O. voiced the opinion that GREEN FARM was either unoccupied or visited by rare patrols of the enemy it was decided to await the result of a reconnaissance to be carried out tonight before coming to any final decision. Soon after the departure of General Bessell-Browne and Lieut-Colonel Stevenson, the Adjutant and Intelligence Officer, who had been carrying out a daylight reconnaissance of GREEN FARM returned very muddy and dishelved but confident that GREEN FARM was unoccupied. The Brigadier, therefore, left the matter in the hands of the C.O., telling him that if it was unoccupied a raid on another locality was imperative. A regrettable incident occurred just as the General was leaving. One of our patrol planes just returning after being over the Hun Lines and flying low at about 800 feet was hit, presumably by one of our own Howitzer Shells, crumbled up in mid-air and crashed just in rear of our Reserve Line. The pilot and observer, Australians both, were killed instantaneously. What made the occasion even more pitiful was the fact that before the accident a Hun Plane had flown over up and down our front line for nearly 2 hours immune from our Archies and Machine Guns. The bodies of the occupants of our plane were identified as Lieut. H. Streeter and Lieut. F.J. Tarrant. The work of salvaging the remainder of the Machine was immediately put in hand. For the reconnaissance of GREEN FARM Lieut. A.C. Bates, D.C.M., and 6 O/Ranks were chosen, as this Officer had previously done patrol work with the same men. The party on this occasion were to be guided by the Intelligence Officer, Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M., who knew the ground. The party went out shortly after dark and ensconced themselves in GREEN FARM finding no sign of enemy occupation; they remained there until nearly midnight, stiff with cold but ever hoping for the Hun Patrol that would not come. The party then returned and send in a nil report to Battalion Headquarters.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for the period 16/17th February, Appendix "A18", is attached.</p>	App. A18
HEADQUARTERS. PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Monday 18th Feb.		<p>Today the same weather conditions prevailed, our planes being very active and also our Artillery. As the result of the previous night's reconnaissance of GREEN FARM the Brigadier, Lieut-Colonel G.I. Stevenson and the C.O., met in conference at Battalion Headquarters at 10-30a.m. It was then and there decided to raid WHIZ FARM, which was a collection of Pillboxes known to be in enemy occupation. All details for Artillery co-operation were decided at once, as also were arrangements for a few rounds to be fired on the objective tonight at 9p.m., which would be</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Monday, 18th Feb. (Cont'd)		<p>observed by the Officer who would be Commanding the raiding party. The number of men to participate in the raid was put by the Brigadier at about 20, but much was left to the discretion of the C.O. It was determined that the word raid was not to be used in connection with the enterprise until it was all over, this for obvious reasons. Lieut. A.G. Bates, D.C.M. was chosen as leader and was asked to find additional men to make the number of his patrol of 6 up to 15. This was done and a personal reconnaissance by the Officer and his 15 men of the objective was carried out tonight. The light was bad for the moon was behind out patrol but they got within some 20 yards of the enemy wire in front of WHIZ FARM and at 9p.m. observed the few trial shots of the Artillery on the objective. Two shots fell short and this was reported to the Artillery at once. The whole party returned safely and without being observed by the enemy whom they had talking in a Pillbox. This reconnaissance by the whole party contributed largely to the success which later crowned their efforts. Nothing else of special interest occurred.</p> <p>The Intelligence Summary for period 17/18th February, Appndix "A19", is attached.</p>	App A19
HEADQUARTERS PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Tuesday 19th Feb.		<p>The day came clear and fine and with it a certain amount of anxiety as to what the result would be of the Minor Enterprise to be carried out tonight. Final arrangements were discussed regarding the operation and the Brigadier and the C.O. had Lieut. Bates at Battalion Headquarters to hear particulars of his previous nights reconnaissance. The wire gave some food for thought, but was left to the "Flying Pig" or H.T.M. Battery to deal with.</p> <p>The Senior Major, during the morning, visited the Support Company finding everything O.K. . A Warning Order for Battalion relief came through from Brigade and was sent out to Companies, (Appendix "B5" attached.)</p> <p>The C.O., in the afternoon, had a short talk to the men who were to take part in xxxxxxx tonight's Operation and found them all keen and in rare humour.</p> <p>During the day a Hun Plane was brought down just North of our Sector, four of our Planes being responsible.</p> <p>In the afternoon Instructions were received to increase the number of the men taking part in tonight's Operation. Two of the Battalion Intelligence Staff were included and also four men from the Company holding the front posts. The night showed signs of great promise as regards light for there was a slight ground mist which was all in favor of the raiding party. ZERO hour was put at 9p.m., and at that hour Lieut. Bates had his men well forward near his objective. The Official account of the raid will be found in "Appendix "C") showing how the Operation was a complete success, 7 Prisoners being taken, with no casualty.</p>	App B5 App C1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS.	Tuesday 19th Feb. (Cont'd.)		At 10p.m. Lieut. Bates, with his Prisoners, was at Battalion Headquarters where a few questions were put to each Prisoner by the C.O., through an interpreter (Pte. White of Battalion Intelligence Staff) who had himself been one of the raiding party. All the Prisoners belonged to the 10th Coy., 162nd Hanseatic Regiment, Lubeck 17th Reserve Division. One was a Corporal, Ludwig Langhans, the remainder being Privates named respectively, Karl Tranns, Peter Thiel, Gustav Sell, Johann Haas, Emil Carlan, Friedrich Hammelsbeck. The majority were young, aged 20, and showed no signs of any food shortage in the enemy ranks, one man volunteering the statement that they were being fed better than they were last year. There was naturally great rejoicing throughout the Battalion at the success of the enterprise and the C.O., was the recipient of many congratulations from the Brigade and neighbouring Units. There was no retaliation by the Hun worth mentioning. Intelligence Summary for period 18/19th February, Appendix "A20", is attached.	App A20
SCOTT FARM. Battn.H.Q.	Wednesday 20th Feb.		The morning after the raid broke cloudy and inclined to rain. About 8a.m. the enemy commenced to drop shells behind Battalion Headquarters and towards Clarke Dump, the rate of shelling was approximately 5 shells per minute and it continued for 2½ hours. Having been previously warned that the Divisional Commander and the Brigadier were coming Lieut. Bates and his party assembled at Battalion Headquarters at 10-30a.m., very soon after the Divisional Commander came along with the Brigadier and after personally congratulating Lieut. Bates on his performance addressed a few words to the men, signifying his appreciation of what they had done. The Brigadier also said a few words saying that the fighting quality of the 54th Battalion was second to none in the Brigade. Pte. White of the Intelligence Staff was sent for and personally thanked for his share in the enterprise. The remainder of the day was occupied in completing details for the relief of the Battalion to take place tonight according to Operation Order No.92, together with relief table, (Appendix "B6".) The relieving Battalion (55th) had their first Company on its way at 5-30p.m., followed by the others in the order of Support, Nos. 1 & 2 Reserve Companies. Major A.C.S. Holland, Temp. Commanding the 55th Battalion was at Battalion Headquarters with his Adjutant Capt. N.E.F. Pinkstone, at 6p.m. Everything went off very well and quietly. The 2 Reserve Companies being the first to send in, relief complete at 7-10p.m., followed by the Support and Front Line Companies at 7-20p.m., and 7-35p.m., respectively. "A" and "C" Companies went to their Billets at Lancashire House, "B" & "D" Companies to Irish House, and Battalion Headquarters to a point about midway between the two, near the Gordon Road. One incident of the relief is perhaps worth mentioning - The C.O., Senior Major, Adjutant & Signalling Officer being the last to leave Battalion Headquarters were on their way to the new Headquarters when a G.S. Wagon was met with, the body on the ground and two men struggling to get it on, without more to do Battalion H.Q. lent 4 pairs of willing arms and soon had the body on, and departed with the Thanks of the Divisional Ammun. Column.	App B6
			Intelligence Summary for the period 19/20th Feb., Appendix "A21", is attached.	App A21

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS. SCOTT FARM	Thursday 21st Feb.		<p>After the showers of yesterday the day came out clear and fine. The C.O., and Senior Major visited "A" and "C" Companies at Lancashire House in the morning. Lancashire House is not a House but a huge Dug-out of two stories deep, the bottom about 40 feet down having bunks for 160 men, while on the next floor up are the Officers quarters. For its size and depth it is very well ventilated and can be made very comfortable. The day was occupied mostly in the formation of various working parties to relieve those formerly found by the 55th Battalion. The Battalion Works Officer (Lieut. A.C. Askham.) immediately got to work salvaging material to build more shelters as we were very much cramped for room. The Corps Commander was expected in the morning, but being unable to come Lieut-Colonel A.M. Ross, D.S.O., from Corps H.Q. came along and offered congratulations to the C.O., and Lieut. Bates on the success of the raid of 2 nights ago. The remainder of the day was without incident.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESUME FOR WEEK ENDING THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY.</u></p> <p>The work of improving the front line system was continued throughout the week, every post now having its quota of "elephant" Iron shelters and the wire everywhere strengthened. The Works Officer (Lieut. A.C. Askham) had his party of 30 working every night in the forward area with the exception of the night of the 19th, when we carried out a Minor Enterprise. Things worked very smoothly during the week in the reserve area, no hitch occurred in the cooking and rationing arrangements and the baths were used to their full capacity of 140 men per day. The salvage party did very good work and every night sent back on the ration train a collection of everything from engineer stores to empty shell cases. Unfortunately it was discovered too late that this salvage was not being credited to the 14th Brigade, it being dumped at Maconochie Siding and then lost to sight. Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C., returned from Gas School, from which he had a very good report of work done. Capt. R.C. Downing, M.C., returned to the Battalion from the sick list. 25 N.C.O's and men returned from hospital to the Battalion, and 26 rejoined after having been wounded. In addition 5 N.C.O's rejoined from the 14th Training Battalion. The leave allotment to the U.K. was even larger than the previous week, one Officer (Lt. H.R. Allen) and 39 N.C.O's and men being able to get away, while 2 went to Paris. 43 N.C.O's and men returned from U.K. leave and 4 from Paris. More men than on previous week were sent to Hospital, the result no doubt of the 3rd week under similar conditions in the forward area, there being 29 evacuations in all.</p>	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM.	Friday 22nd Feb.		<p>The day was clear and fine, nothing of any special interest occurred. The completion of Working Parties was carried out by the Companies. "A" Company arranged for 1 Officer and 30 Other Ranks to report daily at 8-30a.m. to the 14th Field Company Engineers. "B" Company supplied 2 Officers and 40 Other Ranks to report to the 14th Field Company at Clark Dump daily at 8-30a.m. "D" Company handed over a permanent party of 1 N.C.O. and 25 other ranks to Lieut. Murray of the 55th Battalion for work under the supervision of the 14th Field Company Engineers at ONRAET WOOD. During the afternoon the C.O., Senior Major and Adjutant paid a visit to Company Headquarters at Lancashire House and from there went on to the Headquarters of 3rd Army Brigade Artillery to thank Lieut-Colonel Stevenson personally for the fine work done by the Artillery on the night of the 19th February. A copy of the official report (Appendix "C") was left with him. The night was quiet. Defence Scheme for the Battalion while occupying the position of Right Reserve Battalion in the Brigade Area, Appendix "B7" attached.</p>	App B7
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM.	Saturday 23rd Feb.		<p>The same weather conditions as yesterday prevailed today. The Battalion salvage party, under the direction of Lieut. E.P. Kinsella was got going, "A" Company supplying a permanent party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 men to report daily at 9a.m., at Battalion Headquarters. Though other salvage parties had been at work for some considerable time in this Sector there still seems to be a tremendous amount of material to be salvaged, "A" Company having located 2 Boilers near their Headquarters have detailed 1 N.C.O., and 2 others to run a Company Bath-house; they anticipate bathing about 30 men per day in this way. "A" Company today supplied an extra party of 1 Officer and 50 O/Ranks to carry for the light Trench Mortar Battery. "D" Company are supplying a permanent party of 1 N.C.O. and 30 O/Ranks to the 184th Tunnelling Company. The C.O., and Adjutant today visited the O.C. 15th inch Howitzer, which is in the immediate vicinity of Battalion Headquarters; this huge gun fires shells weighing 1400 lbs., and containing 206 lbs T.N.T. The day passed off very quietly, nothing very interesting occurring.</p>	
Headquarters SCOTT FARM.	Sunday 24th Feb.		<p>Still the weather holds fine, though a fairly strong wind today has prevented our airmen from putting in an appearance except in one or two cases. "A" Company, not to be outdone by the Battalion Salvage Party, though working for the same end today started a permanent salvage party of their own consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men. Lewis Guns as an anti-aircraft measure have now been mounted at Battalion Headquarters and all Company Headquarters. "B" Company supply a daily party of 1 N.C.O. and 12 others to report at Brigade Battle Headquarters at 8-30a.m. each morning.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM.	Sunday 24th Feb. (Cont'd.)		Today "B" Company supplied 6 men to help at the Soup Kitchen. "C" Company have a party of 1 Officer and 20 O/Ranks reporting nightly at 5-30p.m. to the 14th Field Company Engineers as a wiring party. The Battalion Salvage Officer has further requisitioned 1 N.C.O. and 6 O/Ranks from "C" Company to cope with the work in which he is engaged. The C.O., today visited Company Headquarters at Irish House, finding everything in order and comfortable.	
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM	Monday 25th Feb.		The wind is a little stronger today than yesterday, and all aerial work is suspended. The C.O. this morning paid a visit to the Transport Lines in KEMMEL and was very pleased with the whole show. The Staples were spotless and the Harness in splendid condition. The Horses too are in great fettle and fit for hard work. The Bootmakers, Tailors and Armourers were all in their own quarters and doing very good work. He came back delighted with the show. The place here is very quiet and except for getting the working parties away up to time very little to do. Bolt Drill was practised by every man in the Battalion not employed on working parties and all Rifles are inspected daily. Small Box Respirator Drill is also carried out by the Companies. "C" Company today lent 6 men to the Comforts Fund in KEMMEL to do some extra work. The Comforts Fund is excellent and we get many gifts for the men of all kinds.	
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM	Tuesday 26th Feb.		The wind has considerably diminished today and once more are our Planes on the move. The C.O. did a tour of the Company Quarters, visiting both Lancashire House and Irish House. He paid particular attention to the anti-aircraft defence of these places but found all in order. The Battalion have lent 3 N.C.O.'s as instructors to the 3rd Army Brigade Artillery in Lewis Gunnery. The 5th Divisional Topographical Section today put in an appearance at Battalion Headquarters and dug themselves in. Lieut. Fry, M.C., who is in charge of them, on the C.O.'s invitation joined the Headquarters Mess. Lieut-Colonel Simpson and Major Lucas of the 56th Battalion paid us a visit this afternoon and after staying a while was shown round the 16 inch Howitzers by the C.O. (Lieut. Lewis, R.F.A.)	
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM	Wednesday 27th Feb.		The weather still remains clear and fine. The C.O., today went to Lancashire House and inspected some Rifles and watched the men at Bolt Drill and Box Respirator Drill. Some Shells this morning nearly caught one of our working parties at Clark Dump but no damage was done. Lieut. A.C. Askham is very busy building extra shelters round Battalion Headquarters on account of the Topographical Section having taken up one of our largest Dug-outs. The Battalion Intelligence Officer, Capt. R.G. Downing, M.C., and Lieut. D. Mc Arthur, M.C., have been detailed to examine all dug-outs within a certain area and report on their condition and capacity. Nothing else of interest occurred. D Company today bathed 30 men at Wolverghen.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																										
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM.	Thursday 28th Feb.		<p>The day was clear and fine and there was considerable aerial activity. We had word this morning that the Corps Commander would be inspecting our area and though he came he did not stay long but pushed on to the forward area. We were advised last night that there would be a probable attack some 4 miles on out left during the early hours of the morning but nothing came of it. The C.O. visited Irish House at midday finding all in order. A conference was called for this afternoon of all Company Commanders by the C.O., the conference meeting at Battalion Headquarters at 4p.m. the recommendations for King's Birthday Honours was one subject for discussion and such other points as Gas and Alarm Posts. Rations were also discussed and Clothing. The meeting broke up at 5p.m., after a satisfactory understanding on all points. 60 men of "A" Company were today bathed at Wolverghem.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESUME FOR THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY 28th FEBRUARY.</u></p> <p>Most of the Battalion is on work under the supervision of the Engineers both in the forward and rear areas. Our own parties, under the Salvage Officer and Works Officer, have done excellent work. The organisation is working very smoothly, even under conditions such as are obtained at present when men are not only scattered but under different supervision; the work done by the details at the Transport Camp was very good.</p> <p>Our leave to the U.K. still continues, 45 O/Ranks leaving during the past week. A number of Officers left for various schools during the week. 2/Lt. F.W. Reid and Lieut. W.A.L. Senn to the X Army Corps School, 2/Lt. R.J.D. Midgley to the same School, while Lieut. M.F. Carrick went to the 4th Army Musketry School. Lieut. W.J. Treloar returned from Hospital and is at present at Norfolk Camp.</p> <p>23 N.C.O's and men were evacuated or went to Hospital during the week. Men rejoining us after being wounded or sick amount to 35, while 3 returned from 14th Training Battalion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Number of Other Ranks joined during the month 4 Officers 59 Other Ranks. Number gone during the month 1 69 "</p> <p>The effective strength of the Battalion as at 28/2/18 is as follows:-</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>On duty with Unit</td> <td>---</td> <td>33</td> <td>Offs.</td> <td>569</td> <td>O/Ranks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Brigade Duties</td> <td>---</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>42</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Schools</td> <td>---</td> <td>7</td> <td>"</td> <td>16</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Hospital</td> <td>---</td> <td>1</td> <td>"</td> <td>26</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On Command</td> <td>---</td> <td>3</td> <td>"</td> <td>237</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attached</td> <td>---</td> <td>3</td> <td>"</td> <td>4</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total.</td> <td>---</td> <td>48</td> <td>"</td> <td>894.</td> </tr> </table>	On duty with Unit	---	33	Offs.	569	O/Ranks.	On Brigade Duties	---	1	"	42	"	At Schools	---	7	"	16	"	In Hospital	---	1	"	26	"	On Command	---	3	"	237	"	Attached	---	3	"	4	"	Total.		---	48	"	894.	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																														
HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM	Thursday 28th Feb.		<p>The following is a Disposition List showing Officers of this Battalion as at 28/2/18.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>HEADQUARTERS.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Lt.Col. D. Mc Conaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O. Commanding Officer.</td> <td>Lieut. H. Brewer-----Signalling Officer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major. F.D.W. Oatley-----2nd in Command</td> <td>Lieut. A.F. Smith-----Transport Officer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. N.B. Lovett, M.C.-----Adjutant</td> <td>Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M. Intelligence Officer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. W.L. Palmer-----Asst. Adjutant.</td> <td>Lieut. E.P. Kinsella-----Lewis Gun Officer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. F.W. Hunt-----Act. Quartermaster.</td> <td>Lieut. E.W. Bennett-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/Lt. V.F. Back-----Bombing Officer</td> <td>Capt. C.H. Leedman, M.C.--Medical Officer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major. W.M. Holliday-----Chaplain</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>"A" COMPANY.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>"B" COMPANY.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>"C" COMPANY.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>"D" COMPANY.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C.--O.C.</td> <td>Capt. H.H. Young, M.C., O.C.</td> <td>Capt. J.H. Crombie O.C.</td> <td>Capt. B.D. Jack, O.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capt. S.A. Benson</td> <td>Lieut. R.H. Allen</td> <td>Capt. R.G. Downing, M.C.</td> <td>Capt. A.P. Vine-hall.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. G.A. Dickinson</td> <td>XXXXXXXXXXXXX.</td> <td>Lieut. J.A. Evans.</td> <td>Lieut. K.N. Wark, D.C.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. C.T. Winterbottom</td> <td>Lieut. W.T.R. Green</td> <td>Lieut. D. Mc Arthur, M.C.</td> <td>Lieut. M.F. Carrick.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. A.C. Askham.</td> <td>2/Lt. A.E. Rowe.</td> <td>Lieut. W.L. Agnew</td> <td>Lieut. F.C.R. Small.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. J.G. Steber</td> <td></td> <td>Lieut. W.J. Treloar.</td> <td>2/Lt. R.T. Gilligan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut. O.C. Ferns.</td> <td></td> <td>Lieut. J.H. Wicks</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>F.D.W. Oatley</i> Major. 2nd in Command. 54th Battalion, A.I.F. (Compiling Officer.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lieut-Colonel. Commanding. 54th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>	Lt.Col. D. Mc Conaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O. Commanding Officer.	Lieut. H. Brewer-----Signalling Officer.	Major. F.D.W. Oatley-----2nd in Command	Lieut. A.F. Smith-----Transport Officer.	Capt. N.B. Lovett, M.C.-----Adjutant	Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M. Intelligence Officer.	Lieut. W.L. Palmer-----Asst. Adjutant.	Lieut. E.P. Kinsella-----Lewis Gun Officer.	Capt. F.W. Hunt-----Act. Quartermaster.	Lieut. E.W. Bennett-----	2/Lt. V.F. Back-----Bombing Officer	Capt. C.H. Leedman, M.C.--Medical Officer.	Major. W.M. Holliday-----Chaplain		<u>"A" COMPANY.</u>	<u>"B" COMPANY.</u>	<u>"C" COMPANY.</u>	<u>"D" COMPANY.</u>	Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C.--O.C.	Capt. H.H. Young, M.C., O.C.	Capt. J.H. Crombie O.C.	Capt. B.D. Jack, O.C.	Capt. S.A. Benson	Lieut. R.H. Allen	Capt. R.G. Downing, M.C.	Capt. A.P. Vine-hall.	Lieut. G.A. Dickinson	XXXXXXXXXXXXX.	Lieut. J.A. Evans.	Lieut. K.N. Wark, D.C.M.	Lieut. C.T. Winterbottom	Lieut. W.T.R. Green	Lieut. D. Mc Arthur, M.C.	Lieut. M.F. Carrick.	Lieut. A.C. Askham.	2/Lt. A.E. Rowe.	Lieut. W.L. Agnew	Lieut. F.C.R. Small.	Lieut. J.G. Steber		Lieut. W.J. Treloar.	2/Lt. R.T. Gilligan	Lieut. O.C. Ferns.		Lieut. J.H. Wicks		
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WAR DIARY

OF

54th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

F E B R U A R Y 1918.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.FIFTY FOURTH BATTALIONINTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.31st January, and 1st February.
-----*Appendix
A'*OPERATIONS.

Owing to heavy fog throughout the day and night both Hostile and our own Artillery and M.G.'s were very inactive.

PATROLS.

A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 O/Ranks left No.6.0.23 at proceeded in an easterly direction 200 yards in front of our wire; they heard an enemy working party, but owing to a heavy fog were unable to locate them. The party are believed to be making a M.G. Post.

A Patrol left at 3a.m. to endeavour to locate the position but were unable to do so. Liaison Patrols left N.6.0.23 at 12 midnight and gained touch with 29th Battalion on our right. Patrols left No.0.0.17 at 11-50p.m. and 2-20a.m. and gained touch with 56th Battalion on our left. No enemy were encountered by either patrols.

WORKS

At 8p.m. a working party of 3 Officers & 60 O/Ranks put out 200 yards of wire in front of N.3.0.17. 2 Shelters were built in No.3.0.17, and the Parapets of Nos.20.17 and 6.0.23 were strengthened. Owing to observation being impossible Observers have nil to report.

Healy
Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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APP "A1"
Page 1*

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.From 6a.m. 1st. February, to 6a.m. 2nd February. *APP A²*
-----OPERATIONS.

Our Artillery fired at intervals during the day and night (18 pdrs.)
~~SEE~~ no results could be observed owing to weather conditions.

PATROLS.

A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 O/Ranks left N.6.0.23. for the purpose of locating supposed M.G. emplacements previously reported. The Patrol searched the suspected area but were unable to find it. The patrol then proceeded in a Northerly direction to No.3.0.17. where they reported and returned to No.6.0.23. Patrol was out 2½ hours. Liaison Patrols left No.3.0.17 at 11-50p.m. and 2a.m., and connected with 56th Battalion on our left. Liaison Patrol left No.6.0.23 at 12-15a.m. and 1-30a.m., and connected with 29th Battalion on our right. All Patrol returned safely without having encountered the enemy. *M.*

MACHINE GUNS.

Our M.G.'s fired at intervals during day and night.

TRENCH MORTARS.

At 5-30a.m. heavy T.M.'s opened fire but the range was considered too short, 3 shells landing in the vicinity of No.6.0.23 and No.1.0.17.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Very slight. Some H.E. and Shrapnel in vicinity of support line. At 2-45a.m. a few Pineapple Bombs landed near N.6.0.23, and at midnight near No.3.0.17, the direction was not located but it is believed they were fired by 1 Mortar moved along the front.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Machine Gun located at approximately O.17.b.3.5. This gun fired short bursts about every hour over No.6.0.23, just missing the Parapet; also a gun fired from a Pillbox at O.2.3.b.6.9. Enemy movement was observed at the point during the day.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

A working party could be heard by patrol about 400 yards in front of No.3. 0.17. No new work is visible.

SIGNALLING.

Very few flares were used during the night, the number being lower than usual.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A New Night Post was established in Pillbox at O.17.a.9.5.4. Sentries being posted, 1 at each corner.

WORKS.

100 yds of Double French & Barbed wire was put out in front of No.3.0.17, to WAMBEEKE SWAMP.

W. H. Staple

Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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Page 1*

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 6a.m.¹/₂ 2nd FEB. to 6a.m. 3rd FEB.OPERATIONS.

(a) Our Artillery (18 pdrs) were active during the day along the front. Heavy and Light Guns were active during the night on Enemy Front Line and Back Area.

(b) A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 6 O/Ranks left S.P.6.O.23 at 11-30p.m., and proceeded in an Easterly direction, and about 300 yards out they saw an enemy patrol - estimated strength 12 - Patrol then turned North and returned via S.P.1.O.17 at 12-40a.m.

A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 6 O/Ranks left S.P. 3.O.17 at 11-50p.m., and patrolled in the direction of GREEN FARM; patrol returned at 1a.m., without encountering the usual liaison patrols connected with right and left Battalions during the night.

(d) Our Machine Guns kept up harrassing fire during the night. Our Stokes Mortars fired on FLY BUILDINGS at midnight, and at 1-30a.m., on a M.G. position at O.17.b.9.6. result could not be seen.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy shelling increased considerably with the improved weather conditions, 4.2 Battery firing from the direction of HOUTHEM at 12-30p.m. fired a number of rounds on PIONEER LANE; and track leading to S.P.3.O.17. VERNE ROAD and VICINITY of WALL FARM were shelled with H.E. during the morning. At 4-30a.m. a 4.2. and 7.7. Barrage was put down on front line and supports lasting 10 minutes.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Except for Patrol mentioned, and a party which were seen to move in the direction of a Pillbox 700 yards to right front of S.P.6.O.23., no other movement was observed.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Aerial activity on both sides was increased yesterday.

(a) Enemy Planes patrolled their own lines continuously between daylight and 1p.m., at this time an enemy plane came over our lines but was driven off by A.A. fire. Enemy Balloon seen east from S.P.2.O.17.

(b) A Flight of 6 planes crossed over enemy's lines at 2p.m. in a S.E. direction; a heavy cloud of smoke was observed which appeared to have been caused by a Bomb dropped by one of them (Mag. bearing 183 degrees.) from S.P. 6.O.23.

SIGNALLING.

An unusual number of flares were used at 5p.m. A burst of 4 whites just after that hour on our immediate front seemed to indicate the "stand to" as a party was seen to move in direction of Pillbox known to be a night M.G. Position (vide para 4.)

WORKS.

3 Parties consisting of 1 Officer & 20 O/Ranks worked on S.P.6.O.23; 1.O.17 and 2.O.17, improving Parados and thickening Parapet. Also a complete shelter was built in S.P.1.O.17.

STATE OF GROUND.

The ground had just a thin crust which was easily broken through and made movement in no man's land difficult.

HEADQUARTERS - as before -

3/2/18.

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page 21*

Key. Staple
Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 3rd February to 6a.m. 4th February, 1918.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our Artillery were active throughout the day and night. A Howitzer Battery was continually shelling the vicinity of the Canal due East from O.16.d.9.3.
- (b) A patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 4 O/Ranks left No.2.O.17 at 9-30p.m. for the purpose of patrolling our front to familiarise themselves with the ground. Patrol proceeded East and patrolled the outer edges of the wire and the immediate vicinity - returning at 11-20p.m. via No.3.O.17. The usual liaison patrols were out and linked up with the right and left Battalions. 1 patrol was absent for 3 hours but eventually returned safely, no enemy were encountered.
- (c) Our M.G.'s kept up harrassing fire during the night. One T.M. firing from near ROSE WOOD registered several hits on WHIZ FARM. This T.M. fired again during the afternoon with the same good result. L.T.M.'s fired 20 rounds on positions to right of FLY BUILDINGS at 10-45p.m.

IDENTIFICATIONS.

Nil.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery were fairly active during the 24 hours. BUG FARM and VERNE ROAD were shelled slightly during the morning with 7.7.c.m. also WALL FARM. It was noticed that all enemy shelling came from the direction of HOUTHEN.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) Enemy Planes were flying over their own lines at 4p.m. 2 Planes crossed line on the Sector but were driven off by A.A. fire.
- (b) Our Planes were very active throughout the day, patrolling enemy front line and back area. Several Air fights occurred at the back of the enemy line - no results were observed.

SIGNALLING.

Few flares were used during the night, a great decrease from the number used on the preceding night.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Enemy had 3 Balloons up during the day.

WORKS.

New shelters were erected in No.3.O.17, and the paradocs of No.10.17 was Sandbagged and revetted.

STATE OF GROUND.

The ground is in a very wet and muddy condition.

Headquarters - as before.

Hester
Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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Page 21

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6a.m. 4th February to 6a.m. 5th February, 1918.

DM

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our Artillery kept up intermittent shelling throughout the 24 hours. At 3-50p.m. we shelled enemy front line with what appeared to be phosphorous in gas shells. At 4-10p.m. a heavy barrage was put down on the right and left of CHELUVELDT CHURCH.
- b) A Patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O/Ranks left S.P.O.1.17 at 11p.m., and proceeded in the direction of WHIZ FARM, patrol returned at 12-30a.m. via S.P.6.0.23. A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O/Ranks left S.P.6.0.23 at 3a.m. and also proceeded in the direction of WHIZ FARM, returning at 4-30a.m. No enemy were encountered by either patrols. The usual liaison patrols were sent out and connected with Battalions on right and left.
- (d) Our Machine Guns kept up harrassing fire during the night.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery were fairly active during daylight. Support Line was lightly shelled during the afternoon with 4.2. H.E. and 7.7.c.m. The vicinity of WALL FARM and RIDGE FARM was also shelled occasionally with 4.2. H.E.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Several heavy minnenwerfer were fired on the area to right of S.P.6.0.23., none actually in our Sector.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) Enemy Planes were not very active, being kept behind their own lines by the strength of our patrols.
- (b) Our Planes were very active during the day being continually patrolling enemy front line and immediate back area. Several heavy bombing planes passed over at 6p.m., and as they passed enemy' lines a flare was thrown high into the air, whereupon searchlights were opened up from the direction of COMINES.

SIGNALLING.

Enemy heliograph observed signalling from direction of HOUTHEM at 11a.m. Rather fewer flares than usual were used during the night.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A large fire was observed at 4-20a.m. due east from O.16.d.1.3.. It appeared to be an Ammunition Dump.

WORKS.

The Parapet and Parados of Strong Posts were strengthened, and drainage was improved in S.P.1.0.17. The strong points in support line were cleaned, and drainage improved.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

5/2/18.

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Page 3.*

H. H. H. H. Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6a.m. 5th February, to 6a.m. 6th February, 1918.

App A6

262

OPERATIONS.

(a) Our Artillery were active during the day using H.E. and Shrapnel on and around enemy front line system. During the night only occasional Artillery fire was observed.

(b) A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 4 O/Ranks left D.1.17 at 11p.m., and moved to O.1.23., from where they patrolled in the direction of WHIZZ FARM. Slight enemy movement was heard in this vicinity, but no enemy encountered. Patrol returned at 12-30a.m.

A Patrol of the 56th Battalion crossed in front of O.3.17 and returned to their own lines. The usual liaison patrols kept in contact with right and left Battalions throughout the night.

(d) Our M.G.'s were active during the night, keeping up constant harrassing fire throughout that period. Several rounds were fired by Stokes' on WHIZZ FARM, also 10 rounds on M.G. in vicinity of FLY BUILDINGS, and 5 rounds on M.G. approx., O.17.d.7.1. No results could be observed.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery were quiet during the 24th hours. During the morning the SUPPORT LINE and vicinity of RESTON DUMP was lightly shelled with H.E. only a few rounds being fired. Several 5.9 were fired during the night apparently in retaliation for T.M. activity.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

An enemy sniper fired a few rounds during the early part of the night from a position in front of GREEN WOOD. Enemy M.G.'s were fairly active during the night, VERNE ROAD AND PIONEER LANE being occasionally swept by fire.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) Enemy Planes (2) came over our lines at 3p.m., but were driven back by our A.A. Fire.
- (b) Our Planes were very active from daylight to dark. They were constantly patrolling enemy front line and back area, they were subjected to intense A.A. fire, but with no apparent result.

MOVEMENTS & ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

About 200 yds in front of O.1.17. about 6 men were seen to enter a pill-box, supposed enemy listening post in front of dis-used trench in O.3.17, a track leading to this point is recognisable. In front of O.6.23. enemy movement was heard, they appeared to be a working party.

SIGNALLING.

The usual number of flares were used during the night.

WORKS.

Work was continued on the (a) Parapets of posts and in support line. Dug-outs were improved and trenches cleaned up.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

Support Company H.Q. is now located at - 16.c.60.45.
 Regimental Aid Post. ----- - 15.c.80.45.
 Remainder as before.

6/2/18.

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 Page 3

AK/Slater
 Lieut.
 Intelligence Officer.
 54th Battalion, A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 6th February, to 6a.m. 7th February.

app A7

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our Artillery were active during the 24 hours. During the day WERVICQ was shelled considerably with H.E. and Shrapnel. At 10p.m. in conjunction with liaison Officer a M.G. at O.17.d.37.59., was bombarded, also BANG FARM O.17.b.90.29 where observer says a Pineapple was being fired from during the morning.
- (b) A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 2 O/Ranks left 2.0.17 to ascertain the result of Artillery Fire on M.G. and also with special instructions to proceed to WHIZZ FARM for the purpose of inspecting the wire in this area. No sign of M.G. was found. The patrol was **unable** to reach WHIZZ FARM owing to the bad state of ground and darkness. Patrol returned at 1a.m. A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 3 O/Ranks left O.2.17 at 2a.m. with special instructions to penetrate at least 200 yards east of road in direction of FLY BUILDINGS, but owing to bad ground and darkness it was impossible to gain the required information. The usual visiting patrols kept connections with the Battalions on left and right.
- (d) A new listening post has been established at O.17.a.80.85, approximately. Our M.G. kept up usual harrassing fire throughout the night. At 11p.m. Stokes fired 12 rounds, mostly dud, on Pill boxes immediately east of O.3.17, also from position near WALL FARM, they fired on FLY BUILDINGS and were retaliated on for a time with light minenwerfers.

ENEMY SHELLING.

During the morning & afternoon the enemy lightly shelled the Support Line with 7.7. H.E., otherwise enemy artillery were not very active.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Enemy M.G.'s were very quiet during the early part of the night, but were a little more active later. At 11a.m. O.3.17 was fired on by Pineapples, also O.6.2.3 at the same time; 20 rounds being fired. At 8p.m. Minenwerfer fired on WALL FARM, result not observed.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) Enemy Planes were not active. 1 crossed our lines about midday but was driven off by A.A. fire.
- (b) Our Planes were continuously patrolling the enemy front line and back area, but ~~not~~ not in such large numbers as on the previous day.

SIGNALLING.

Flares on this Sector were unusually few in number. On the night during artillery activity large numbers of colored and white flares were used.

WORKS.

A new listening Post was dug at approx., O.17.a.80 85., also revetting draining, and building up of parapet carried on in O.6.23.o.1.17 and O.3.17.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground very wet and muddy after recent light rain.

7/2/18.

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page 4

[Signature] Lieut-
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

262

APPENDIX 89²⁶

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

App A^g

SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

7/2/18.

An Observer has confirmed previous Patrol report on condition of Wire in front of WHIZZ FARM. It is reported to be at least 8 or 10 feet thick, and very strong. A special patrol sent out last night reported the ground in front of WHIZZ FARM to be very bad, but owing to darkness and absence of flares were unable to gain information about the wire.

A Special Patrol was sent out to gain similar information about FLY BUILDINGS, but owing to the same adverse conditions were unable to see the condition of the wire. I saw Lieut. Senn last night and he reports having been out during fog and found the wire around FLY BUILDINGS both strong & plentiful.

7/2/18.

*V01 24
APP. "A8"
page 4.*

[Signature]
Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 7th February to 6a.m. 8th February.

App A9

OPERATIONS.

(a) "B" Company was relieved from the front line by "C" Company. Relief completed by 7-30p.m.

Our Artillery was fairly active during the day; at 2p.m. a building to the left of COMINES was observed to be hit. Also 50 rounds were fired on to the Canal Bank and a factory in the town of HOUTHEN.

(b) A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 2 O/Ranks left at 12 midnight for the purpose of examining the wire along our front and reconnoitring the ground in the ground in the immediate vicinity. The patrol returned at No enemy encountered.

A patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O/Ranks left at 2a.m. for the purpose of reconnoitring in the direction of FLY BUILDINGS., but it was found to be too dark to successfully examine enemy wire. Patrol returned at 3-30a.m.

The usual liaison patrols kept communication with right and left Battalions

(d) Stokes' Mortars fired on FLY BUILDINGS just before daylight; also between 2 and 3a.m. 20 rounds were fired on the same target. Our M.G's kept up the usual harrassing fire during the night.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy Artillery was not very active. At 12-40p.m., in vicinity of Support Line was shelled with 4.2 H.E. from the direction of COMINES. A few 7.7.c.m's were fired along VERNE ROAD.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

An enemy patrol was seen at 4a.m., close to our wire by the listening post, they reported to the post who opened fire on them with Lewis Gun. A patrol set out immediately after but found no dead. It was thought the enemy were wire cutting but examination found this to be incorrect. At 1-30a.m., about 20 Pineapples were fired from the direction of FLY BUILDINGS; they all fell outside our wire. Enemy M.G's were also active during the night.

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Enemy movement was observed early in the morning outside small pillbox to left of FLY BUILDINGS. Two Pillboxes in front of 3.0.17 appeared to have had new sandbags added to left end.

SIGNALLING.

Few flares were fired during the night. They all appear to have been fired not nearer than 400 yds from our wire.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground very muddy and wet.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

8/2/18.

V07 24
APP "A9"
Patt

H. H. H. Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

App A¹⁰

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6 a.m. 8th. February to 6 a.m. 9th. February.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our Artillery was active during the 24 hours, our heavies retaliated on enemy battery at 10 a.m. with good effect. A large cloud of smoke appeared half right from O.20.b.22 at 4.30 p.m. Our Artillery were active in this vicinity at the time. At 10.40 p.m. our heavies were engaged on counter battery work with good effect.
- (b) A patrol 1 N.C.O. and 1 O/Rank left O.1.17 at 11 p.m. for the purpose of locating enemy M.G. they proceeded to L.P. 17.c.9.5. and from there to Hedge 17.d.2.6. and then along our wire towards O.2.17. During this time M.G. was inactive. Patrol returned at 12.30 a.m. without locating it. A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Ranks left O.3.17 at 11 p.m. and proceeded in a northerly direction to ROOZEBEEKE SWAMP when they turned East and followed edge of swamp as far as the cross-roads O.17.b.10.85. Patrol then turned back and moved South past GREEN FARM; M.G.'s were located in the latter. Patrol returned to O.3.17. at 12.30 a.m.. The usual liaison Patrols kept communication with the Battalions on left and right. No enemy were encountered by any Patrol.
- (d) Our Machine Guns kept up usual harassing fire during the night. Our H.T.M. fired on target between WHIZ FARM and FLY BUILDINGS at 6 a.m. Stokes fired 12 rounds on crater in VERNE ROAD.

ENEMY SHELLING.

At 9 a.m. enemy 5.9 battery commenced searching for H.T.M. About 20 rounds were from direction slightly North of COMINES, 4 rounds fell very near Front Line Company Headquarters. The vicinity of WALL FARM was shelled at intervals during the morning. Several rounds of 4.2 H.E. were fired on new S.P. O.20.c.8.7. at 10.30 p.m. Six 5.9 landed in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

At 3 a.m. an enemy Patrol of about 6 men approached L.P. of O.1.17 the Post was warned and Patrol fired on, and patrol sent out immediately afterwards found ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ no enemy dead or wounded.

Enemy M.G.'s were fairly active during the night. A few Pineapples were fired to the right of O.6.23 and some MINNENWESPER shells on WALL FARM.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) NIL
- (b) Our Planes were over the enemy lines during the night. Enemy searchlights could be seen searching for them.

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Trains were observed between COMINES and WERVICQ running in a southerly direction also what appeared to be smoke from an engine to the rear of COMINES CHURCH. A very large cloud of smoke observed due East of Battalion Headquarters, thought to be a Dump on Fire.

SIGNALLING.

Hellograph seen signalling 93 degrees T.B. from Battalion O.P. 4 Green Very Lights in vicinity of Enemy Front observed at 10.15. No immediate results. White Flares breaking Double were fired right along enemy front at "Stand-to" (5 p.m.) The usual number of flares were fired during the night.

2.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY CONTINUED

WORKS.

Accommodation improved at C.6.23 and O.1.17.

STATE OF GROUND.

Very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

9/2/18.

Lieut. Intelligence Officer 54th. Battalion A.I.F.

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Our Artillery was active during the 24 hours...
Enemy battery at 10 a.m. with good effect...
At 10.40 p.m. our heavies were...
used on very work with good effect...
A patrol of 10 men left O.1.17 at 11 p.m. for the...
they proceeded to I.P. 17. c. 2.30 a.m. they...
patrol returned at 12.30 a.m. and then along our wire...
A patrol of 10 men left O.1.17 at 11 p.m. for the...
they proceeded to I.P. 17. c. 2.30 a.m. they...
patrol returned at 12.30 a.m. and then along our wire...
The usual liaison patrol was communicated...
The battalions on left and right...
Our machine guns kept up usual harassing fire...
H.M. fired on target between W.I.P. and W.I.P. BUILDINGS...
At 9 a.m. enemy 5.2 battery commenced searching for...
4 rounds were fired in direction slightly north of COMINS...
Self very near front line Company Headquarters. The vicinity of...
W.I.P. was shelled at intervals during the morning. Several rounds...
were fired on new S.A. O.S. 2.7. at 10.30 a.m. Six 5.2...
ranged in vicinity of Battalion Headquarters...
At 8 a.m. an enemy patrol of about 8 men approached I.P. of O.1...
the post was warned and patrol fired on, and patrol sent out immediately...
y afterwards found XXXXXXXXX no enemy dead or wounded...
Enemy M.G.'s were fairly active during the night. A few Pineapple...
ere fired to the right of O.6.23 and some MINNIEWATER shells on...
W.I.P. and...
Our planes were over the enemy lines during the night. Enemy...
searchlights could be seen searching for them...
TRAIN ORGANIZATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES...
Trains were observed between COMINS and WERVIC running in a...
southerly direction also what appeared to be another train engine...
the rear of COMINS CHURCH. A very large cloud of smoke observed...
the east of Battalion Headquarters, thought to be a dump on fire...
Helicopter seen signalling 23 degrees T.B. from Battalion O.1...
Green Very lights in vicinity of Enemy front observed at 10.15...
No immediate results. White Flares breaking bottles were fired...
along enemy front at "stand-to" (Sp.m.) The usual number of flares...
ere fired during the night

App A''

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6 a.m. 9th. February to 6 a.m. 10th. February 1918.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our artillery was active during the day. At 9.30 a.m. enemy fired two M.W. They were immediately engaged by our artillery and ceased fire. Our heavy artillery were firing into COMINES with good effect.
- (b) A Patrol 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Ranks left 6.O.23 at 11.20 p.m. to examine wire as far as 2.O.17. Patrol returned at 12./o a.m. and reported it to be in good order. A Patrol 1 N.C.O and 2 O/Ranks left 2.O.17 at Midnight to examine wire as far as North edge of GREEN WOOD, Patrol returned at 1.10 a.m. and reported wire in good condition and providing a good obstacle, the usual Liaison Patrols kept up communication between Right and Left Battalions.
- (d) Our M.Gs. kept up a harassing fire during the night. Between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. our H.T.M. were active. A small section of trench to right of Battalion O.P. was hit several times and badly damaged.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy artillery were not very active during the day the vicinity of WALL FARM was lightly shelled during the morning and also the North side of GREEN WOOD, A few 4.2 were fired along VERNE ROAD. Shelling seemed to be mostly from the direction of HOUTHEM.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

At 9.50 a.m. L.M.W. were fired on to our front line. Our artillery immediately retaliated and M.W. ceased fire. Again between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. 6 "Minnies" were fired on to our front line.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) At 4 p.m. enemy plane crossed our lines but was driven off by A.A. Fire. At 4.30 p.m. enemy Plane patrolled our lines also driven off by our fire.
- (b) At 7.45 a.m. an R.E. 8 was patrolling enemy lines; nootherplanes were observed during the day.

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.

A good deal of train movement was observed between WERVICQ and COMINES

SIGNALLING.

The usual number of flares were used during the night.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Two Pigeons were seen at 1.35 p.m. flying low just above our lines. They were flying from North to South and seemed rather exhausted.

WORKS.

New shelters were completed in 1.O.17 and 2.O.17.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground is very wet and muddy; seems to be getting worse.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

The dusk and dawn R.E. 8 Patrol has not been observed.

10/2/18.

V07 24
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Page 6

Hej Stalle
Lieut.
Intelligence Officer, 54th. Bn. A.I.F.

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App A¹²

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6a.m. 10th. February to 6a.m. 11th. February 1918.

OPERATIONS

- (a) Our Artillery was fairly active during the day on enemy front line. At 4.50 p.m. several shells from our heavies were fired into WERVICQ to the left of the church; large volume of smoke and dust ensued. Our shelling was very intense during the raid on our right.
- (b) Owing to expected retaliation after raid, no patrols were out during the night except the usual liaison patrols to the right and left battalions.
- (d) Our M.G.'s were active. Tracer ~~ammunition~~ ammunition was fired by one gun during raid. Between 11a.m. and 12 midday 20 Rounds were fired on RIFLE FARM by our H.T.M.; several direct hits were observed. Enemy retaliated with 4.2 H.E. on or about WALL FARM

ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy shelled our front line at intervals during the day, also support line, but no damage was done. The vicinity of WALL FARM and the VERNE ROAD was also shelled, mostly with 4.2 and 77c.m.

ENEMY ATTITUDE

Enemy M.G.'s were active; their activity increased during the raid but quietened down afterwards. A M.W. fired several rounds during the morning, all of which seemed to fall in the enemy lines. Immediately this occurred 2 Green flares were sent up apparently as a signal to lengthen range.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

The dusk and Dawn R.E.8 patrol was not observed

SIGNALLING

The usual number of flares were used. During barrage very large numbers various coloured ones were sent up.

MISCELLANEOUS

A large cloud of white smoke was observed to the left of two church churches in COMMINES. 5.9 gun was observed firing from a position about 50 yards to the left of WERVICQ CHURCH. Gun flashes observed 107 degrees and 99 degrees T.B. from 0.16.d.9.3.

WORKS

No working parties were out owing to expected Artillery retaliation

STATE OF GROUND

Very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS

As before.

H. E. G. H. T. A. L. L.
Lieut.

Intelligence Officer 54th. Bn. A. I. F.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

App A12

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

From 6 a.m. 11th. February to 6 a.m. 12th February 1918.

OPERATIONS

- (a) Our artillery were fairly active. Our 18 pdrs. registered two hits on Pill Box (Machine Gun Position) in vicinity of SPUD FARM. At 2.40 p.m. two direct hits were observed on a building 82 degrees T.B. from Battalion O.P. just to rear of LORTEWILDE.
 - (b) A Patrol of 1 Officer and 3 N.C.O.'s left 6.O.23 at 7p.m. for the purpose of thoroughly examining the wire along the whole of our front; this they did and returned via 3.O.17. at 11.30 p.m. The usual liaison patrols kept touch with right and left Battalions.
 - (d) Our Machine Guns kept up usual harassing fire during the night. Our H.T.M. fired 13 rounds between 3 & 4p.m.; targets were LOCK 5 and HOLLEBEKE; ten rounds were fired at the former with 6 ~~xxxx~~ direct hits, 3 rounds at the latter but they fell short.
- Inter-Company reliefs took place, "C" Company being relieved from the Front Line by "D" Company. Relief completed by 7.25 p.m.

ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy shelling was fairly quiet yesterday. WALL FARM had 3 direct hits with 4.2 at 10.30a.m. from the direction of HOUTHEM; two 4.2 also fell just in front of forward company headquarters and 3 duds very near 6.O.25. At 10.50 a.m. 3 duds on WALL FARM and at 1.5.p.m. 5-4.2 fell in trenches in ROSE WOOD. A few shells fell near VERNE ROAD and Support Line during the afternoon, no damage being done.

ENEMY ATTITUDE

Enemy M.G.'s were not as active during the night as usual. T.M.'s -nil.

AERIAL ACTIVITY

The Dusk and Dawn P.E.S patrol was not seen

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES

More movement than usual was observed. At 9.30a.m. 4 men observed at cottage T.B. 72 degrees from Battalion O.P. (O.16.d.9.3). From above cottage three pigeons were released and flew in the direction of COMMINES. About 12 men were observed moving towards a building behind hedge (probably a cook-house), as smoke was seen issuing from there nearly all day) in a T.B. 52 degrees from O.P. At 11.35a.m. on T.B. 71 degrees, a building marked CAFE DE LA STATION, movement was observed all day. It appeared to be an H.Q. Smoke was rising from rear of FLY BUILDINGS. Seven trains going in a southerly direction at 9.50 a.m., 10.30a.m. and 10.50a.m.

SIGNALLING

The flares used during the night were much below the average in number.

STATE OF GROUND

Ground is very wet and muddy, the rain last night making it worse.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS

"C" and "D" Companies inter-changed. Remainder as before.

over

*Key Stable 11.0
54 11*

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AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY FORCE

FIFTH BATTALION

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

12th February 1918.

Our artillery were fairly active. On 12th registered two
 on Hill Box (Machine Gun Position) in vicinity of WOOD FARM.
 2.40 p.m. two direct hits were observed on a building 82 degrees
 from Battalion Q.F. Just to rear of LOSTWILLIE.
 A patrol of 1 Officer and 3 N.C.O.'s at 8.0 p.m. for the
 purpose of thoroughly examining the wire along the whole of our
 front; this they did and returned via 3.0 p.m. at 11.30 p.m. The
 patrol kept touch with rifle and light machine gun positions.
 Our Machine Guns kept up usual harassing fire during the night.
 Our H.T.M. fired 18 rounds between 3 & 4 a.m.; targets were
 OK 5 and HOLLEBERG; ten rounds were fired at the tower with 3
 direct hits, 3 rounds at the latter but they fell short.
 Inter-company reliefs took place, "C" Company being relieved
 of the front line by "D" Company. Relief completed by 7.30 p.m.

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Enemy shelling was fairly quiet yesterday. WALL FARM had 3
 direct hits with 4.2 at 10.30 a.m. from the direction of HOUTHAM;
 0.4.2 also fell just in front of forward company headquarters and
 5.4.2 very near 8.0.25. At 10.50 a.m. 3 duds on WALL FARM and at
 5.4.2 fell in trenches in ROSE WOOD. A few shells fell
 on VANE ROAD and support line during the afternoon, no damage
 being done.

Enemy V.C.'s were not as active during the night as usual.
 T.M. - all.

The Duck and Dawn V.C. patrol was not seen.
 ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES
 More movement than usual was observed. At 9.30 a.m. 4 men
 observed at cottage T.B. 72 degrees from Battalion Q.F. (0.18.4.2.3)
 from above cottage three pigeons were released and flew in the
 direction of SOMMERSET. About 12 men were observed moving towards
 building behind hedge (probably a c.o.h.-house), and smoke was
 seen issuing from there early in day in a T.B. 82 degrees from
 T. At 11.35 a.m. on T.B. 71 degrees, a building marked GARDEN
 STATION, movement was observed all day. It appeared to be an
 C. Smoke was rising from rear of WY BUILDINGS. Seven trains
 going in a southerly direction at 9.50 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 10.50 a.m.

The flares used during the night were much below the average in
 number.
 GROUND IS VERY WET AND SLIPPERY, THE RAIN LAST NIGHT MAKING IT
 SLIPPERY.
 HEADQUARTERS
 "C" and "D" Companies inter-changed. Remainder as before.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCEFIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

App A14

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FROM 6a.m. 12th to 6a.m. 13th. Feb. 1918.

OPERATIONS

(a) During the day our artillery were generally active, on enemy lines and forward areas. Heavy guns were observed firing particularly on ZANVOORDE and WERVICQ railway areas.

(b) A patrol of I.N.C.O. and 3 O/Ranks left 3.0.17 at 10p.m. for the purpose of reconnoitring the ground in the direction of GREEN FARM. The ground was found to be in an impassable condition; patrol returned at midnight. The usual liaison patrols kept communication with Battalions on right and left. No enemy were either seen or heard by any patrol.

(d) Our M.G.'s were active during the night keeping up the usual harassing fire. Our H.T.M. firing from ROSE WOOD at 1.45p.m. shelled vicinity of WHIZ FARM and at 2.45p.m. the vicinity of O.18.b.; no actual results were observed. At 2.50p.m. direct hits were observed on buildings adjoining CAFE DE LA STATION (O.13.b.6.4.) where movement was observed yesterday. HOUTHEM was also shelled.

ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy artillery was active yesterday at 2 p.m.; about 50 shells 4.2 and 5.9 fell in vicinity of posts and company Headquarters; no damage done. The support line was shelled lightly during the afternoon with 4.2 and 77c.m. shrapnel. At 10p.m. 13-4.2 shells landed near DUD CORNER.

ENEMY ATTITUDE

Enemy Machine Guns were very active between 8 and 10p.m. sweeping road between RIDGE FARM and WALL FARM also VERNE ROAD.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ AERIAL ACTIVITY

(a) Nil

(b) One of our planes was over the enemy lines at midday. At 4.45p.m. a plane crossed the lines three times. It had no marks of identification, but from general design was believed to be British. It was not fired on by either side. The Dusk and Dawn R.E.8 patrols were not seen.

MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 2p.m. men were seen going north along a hedge in (O.7.a.35.10) Visibility was poor during the day.

SIGNALLING

The usual number of flares were used

STATE OF GROUND

The ground is very wet and muddy, making movement very difficult.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS

As before.

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Page 7

H. H. H. H.

Lieut.
Intelligence Officer
54th. Battalion A.I.F.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

App. A15

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 13th. February to 6 a.m. 14th. February 1918.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our artillery were active during the day. At 10.10 a.m. our heavies fired 10 shells on to the vicinity of WERVICQ CHURCH, also about 50 shells on to the vicinity of LOCK 4. Our 18 pdrs. were active on Enemy front line and immediate area.
- (b) A patrol 1 N.C.O. and 7 O/Ranks left O.1.17. at 5.40 p.m. to reconnoitre the ground in vicinity of O.17.d.35.05. (the H.T.M. having shelled it previously according to plan). and for the purpose of intercepting a possible enemy patrol. No enemy was seen but voices could be heard inside the Pill-boxes. The patrol returned at 7.10 p.m. A patrol 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Ranks left 2.O.17 the proceeded as per map, no enemy were seen, a M.G. was located firing from GREEN FARM. The usual Liaison patrols kept communication with Battalion on right and left.
- (d) Our M.Gs. were quiet during early part of night but were more active later. According to plan our H.T.M. fired 8 rds. on to Pill-boxes in O.17.d.35.05. at 5.30 p.m. It was too dark to observe hits, 1 round fell short but owing to using 134 fuse it failed to explode. Stokes guns shelled a position to the right of this sector; the results could not be observed.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy artillery were very inactive during the day, At 9.15 a.m. 8 shells (4.2s.) were fired on WALL FARM. At 10 a.m. six 4.2s. fell near 3.O.17. and at 12.35 p.m. a 5.9 landed near H.T.M. position at TRENCH FARM. Shelling appeared to come from the direction of HOUTHEM.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Front line report unusual inactivity throughout the 24 hours. Frequent patrols were sent along our wire to listen for any working parties etc.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) NIL.
- (b) NIL.

Dusk and dawn R.E.8 patrol were not observed.

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.

Three men were seen to enter FLY BUILDINGS at 11.30 a.m.; the wore service caps. Visibility was very low during the greater part of the day.

SIGNALLING.

Fewer flares than usual were used.

WORKS.

A working party were at work improving 6.O.23. post and erecting shelters at Forward Company Headquarters. A guard wire was erected from the ~~KXXXX~~ ROOZEBEKE to 6.O.23. A party of 5th. Pioneer Battalion were at work on PIONEER LANE.

STATE OF GROUND.

Very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

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Page 7*

W. J. Blake
Lieut.,
Intelligence Officer,
54th. Battalion, A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD from 6a.m. 14th to 6a.m. 15th Feb.

OPERATIONS

(a) Our artillery were fairly quiet during the morning; during the afternoon activity increased. At 11.30 a.m. our 18 pdrs. opened fire on the CANAL (Lock 4). Howitzers were firing on back area and P16. At 12.7 p.m. 18 pdrs. firing from RAVINE WOOD again shelled CANAL near HOUTHEM and at 4.5 p.m. 18 pdrs. from RAVINE WOOD shelled PILLEGRIMS FARM with H.E.

(b) Three patrols left 6.0.23. (1 N.C.O. 4 O/Ranks) 1.0.17 and 3.0.17. at 10.30 p.m. to traverse and inspect the whole of our wire. Several gaps were reported as a result of recent shell fire; these were all repaired. All patrols had returned by 1 a.m. and wire was reported intact and in good condition.

(d) Our M.Gs. kept up usual harrassing fire during the night. At 2.30 p.m. our H.T.M. fired 5 rounds on 0.17.b. (GREEN FARM) again at 3 p.m. on enemy works in 0.11.d.central.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day. At 9.25 a.m. six 4.2s. H.E. were fired on T.M. position in 0.10.d.8.3. At 10.15 a.m. WALL FARM was shelled with 4.2 H.E. several direct hits were observed. The gun seemed to be very close up, apparently near PILLEGRIM'S FARM as only 3 seconds elapsed between the report of the gun and the explosion of the shell (this timed several times for verification) At 11.10 a.m. range was lengthened to 0.22.b. central (6 shells) and again dropped to WALL FARM at 11.15 a.m. 13 shells being fired. A Battery in region of HOUTHEM was firing along valley 0.22.c. at 11.30 a.m. between 2 and 4 p.m. the Support Line and vicinity was occasionally shelled. 4.20 to 5 p.m. the North bank of the ROOZEBEEKE and the lower end of PIONEER LANE were shelled with 4.2s. New work in Support Line was fired on by six 5.9s. at 5.30 p.m. During the night enemy artillery has been inactive.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

During the 24 hours enemy Machine guns and M.W. have been more than usually active; his attitude appears nervous. M.Gs. were very active between 5 and 7 p.m. and during the night they have kept up a very active harrassing fire. At 10.15 a.m. 6 pineapples were fired landing near 0.3.17. and 5 near JUNCTION BUILDINGS. These came from the direction 100 yards south of WHIZ FARM at 11.30 p.m. what appeared to be a medium M.W. was harrassing our posts 0.6.23 and 0.1.17.; artillery retaliation was obtained and M.W. was quietened, this gun was firing from vicinity of WHIZ FARM

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

(a) NIL.

(b) Dusk and dawn R.E.8 patrol was not seen.

MOVEMENT AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.

Enemy movement is still observed round FLY BUILDINGS. At 9.30 a.m. movement in tree resulted in O.P. being O.P. being observed (0.23.b.6.4.) our 18 pdrs. firing on buildings 0.18.b.central resulted in 2 enemy running out and making for the shelter without steel hats. At 3.50 p.m. whilst watching a building where it was suspected Pine apples were coming from one of the enemy was observed to the rear of the building he appeared to become aware he was being watched. He was later joined by another they both watched our O.P. with glasses. They then entered the rear of the building and emerged later and made off in the direction of HOUTHEM. The building is on T.B. of 121 degrees and slightly over 1,000 yards (Probably BAB FARM) 0.23.d.

SIGNALLING.

The usual number of white flares and an occasional "Golden Spray" were used during the night.

WORKS.

Work was carried out on 6.0.23. and forward Company Headquarters a breast high guard wire was completed across this sector.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground still very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

W. H. H. H. Lieut., I.O.
54th. Battalion, A.I.F.

OPERATIONS

(a) Our artillery were fairly active during the morning; during the afternoon activity increased. At 11.30 a.m. our 18 pounders opened fire on the enemy (look at) ...

(b) Three patrols left at 11.30 a.m. (1 patrol of 10 men and 2 machine guns) to traverse the ...

(c) Our M.G.s kept up usual harassing fire during the night. At 11.30 a.m. our M.G.s fired 5 rounds on ...

again at 3 p.m. on enemy works in ...

*Box 24
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ENEMY SHOOTING

Enemy artillery was fairly active during the day. At 9.15 a.m. six 4.2 inch M.G.s were fired on ...

At 10.15 a.m. a 15.2 inch M.G. was shelled with a 4.2 inch M.G. several direct hits were observed. The gun seemed to be very close up, apparently near ...

At 11.15 a.m. a range was lengthened to ...

At 11.30 a.m. and again dropped to ...

At 11.30 a.m. a 4.2 inch M.G. was fired along valley ...

Support line and vicinity was occasionally shelled. At 11.30 a.m. the north bank of the ...

New work in support line was fired on by six 4.2 inch M.G.s at 11.30 p.m. During the night enemy artillery has been inactive.

ENEMY ATTEMPTS

During the 24 hours enemy machine guns and M.G.s have been more than usually active; this attitude appears nervous. M.G.s were very active between 5 and 7 p.m. and during the night they have kept up a very active harassing fire. At 10.15 a.m. 6 pineapples were fired landing near ...

These came from the direction ...

At 11.30 a.m. what appeared to be a medium M.G. was harassing our position ...

was questioned, this gun was firing from vicinity of WHIPBAM

AIRIAL ACTIVITY

(a) Nil.
(b) One and down R.E.C. patrol was not seen.

MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION IN AND AROUND THE ENEMY LINES

Enemy movement is still observed round ...

movement in line resulted in ...

(0.4.3.3.4) our 18 pounders firing on buildings ...

resulted in 2 enemy running out and making for the shelter without steel hats. At 11.30 a.m. whilst passing a building where it was supposed the enemy were coming from one of the enemy was observed to the rear of the building he appeared to be going down he was being watched. He was later joined by another they both walked out ...

of the building and emerged later and made off in the direction of ...

The building is on ...

100 yards (probably ...)

REMARKS

The usual number of white flares and an occasional "Golden Spray" were used during the night.

Work was carried out on ...

A front night guard line was established across this sector.

STATE OF GROUND

Ground still very wet and muddy.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS

As before.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

From 6 a.m. 15th. February to 6 a.m. 16/2/18.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our artillery was less active than for the preceeding 24 hours. At 12 noon our 18 pdrs. were active on target along O.17.b.&d. At 2.30 p.m. our 4.5 shelled area in rear of CANAL. 3.10 p.m. our 18 pdrs. shelled HOLLEBEKE CHATEAU and O.11.b. with shrapnel. At 3.25 p.m. HOUTHEM was shelled with H.E. At 5.45 p.m. shrapnel was bursting on enemy front line. Between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. our activity increased considerably. At 2 a.m. retaliation was asked for to silence M.W. which was harrasing 2.0.17. Our guns were again very active a 3.3 a.m. and artillery was again called for and gun silenced. M.W. were firing from GREEN FARM and WHIZ FARM.
- (b) A patrol 1 N.C.O and 2 O/ranks went out at 2.30 a.m. to examine wire as it was thought M.W. activity might have been for the purpose of cutting it. Patrol returned 3.15 a.m. and reported all correct. The usual liaison patrols kept communication with Battalion on right and left.
- (d) Our M.Gs. were active keeping up a harrasing fire throughout the night. T.M. fired a intervals during the night. At 8 p.m. our H.T.M. put over 10 rounds on to BEE FARM 1 round reported to have fallen short.

ENEMY SHELLING.

Very slight during the day. At 7.30 p.m. activity increased. A heavy gun (probably 8") fired several rounds in the direction of COSTERVERNE WOOD. The gun fired from a position due East of O.20.b.15.15. The support in vicinity of PIONEER LANE (1 direct hit on the latter) was shelled with 4.2s. H.E. between 8 and 8.30 p.m.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Enemy M.Gs. were very active. Fire became intense during M.W. strafe. M.W. barrage fired on 2.0.17. at 2 a.m. and again at 3.30 a.m. they were silenced by our artillery.

AERIAL ACTIVITY .

- (a) An enemy plane was seen to make towards our lines at 5p.m. but it was lost in the clouds.
- (b) At 2 p.m. one of our planes patrolled our front line. One of our planes crossed the line at 3.50 a.m. it appeared to drop 4 bombs in the vicinity of WERVICQ and returned immediately.

MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND THE ENEMY LINE.

At 9.45 a.m. one of the enemy was standing near PILL FARM. Later he was joined by several more; they appeared to be working on a trench near by.

SIGNALLING.

Very few flares were used during the night. Enemy was using flash lamp ~~xxxxxx~~ continuously from buildings in WERVICQ and COMINES

MISCELLANEOUS.

A slight smell of gas was noticed at 7.30 p.m. No shelling took place at the time. It was thought to be our own gas blowing back. A sound like an electric bell was heard in enemy lines at this time.

STATE OF GROUND.

Slightly frozen on the surface but easily broken through.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

"D" Company relieved from front line by "C" Company relief complete by 7.15 p.m. The remaindrr of Headquarters as before.

Haystack
Lieut-Col.,
Commanding, 54th. Battalion, A.I.F.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.6a.m. 16th February to 6a.m. 17th February, 1918. A¹⁸OPERATIONS.

- (a) Our Guns were very active throughout the day. At 9-20a.m. the Heavies were shelling the back area, principally on a line CHELUVELT to WERVICQ. At 10-40a.m. Howitzer Battery shelled vicinity O.24.30. Central. At 10-55a.m. our A.A. opened fire on one of our own Planes, 18 pdr., bursting shrapnel on HIGH FARM (O.18.c.) At 11-10a.m. HOUTHEM AREA shelled for half an hour. Several direct hits on LOCK 4 and WATER TOWER (P.7.C.5.0.) COMINES & WERVICQ were shelled at 1-20p.m. A fire started in the former.
- (b) A Patrol consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Ranks left 1.0.17 at 8-30p.m. for the purpose of locating M.W. positions. Battery was located as per attached map. Patrol returned at 9-45p.m. A Patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 1 O/Rank left 3.0.17. at 1a.m. to ascertain if old trench about 250 yds to the left front of post was occupied. Patrol returned at 4a.m. reporting trench unoccupied.
- (d) Our M.G.'s were active during the night keeping up harassing fire. At 2p.m. H.T.M. fired 15 rounds on to RIFLE FARM. At 4p.m. BANG FARM and vicinity were shelled (T.M. firing from ROSE WOOD)

ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy artillery were active during the day, their A.A. guns firing persistently against our patrolling planes. At 10-35a.m. PRESTON DUMP and vicinity of O.16.c. were shelled with 4.2 H.E. At 12-45p.m. Heavy Shrapnel bursting over ROSE WOOD. At 2-20p.m. enemy shelling vicinity of VERNE WOOD and PIONEER LANE. Shells coming from HOUTHEM. At 2-55p.m. 6 4.2. H.E. fell on VERNE ROAD near Battalion, O.P., and at 3-20p.m. 4 more fell near TRENCH FARM. At 4-30p.m. 4.2. Battery firing from HOUTHEM fired 22 rounds on to Support Line at O.16.a.&c. and 4 4.2. fell on DENYS WOOD.

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

Enemy M.G.'s were very active during the early part of the night. 2 M.G. and M.W. Barrages were put down on front line at 6 and 7p.m. M.G.'s and M.W. firing from WHIZ FARM & GREEN FARM. M.G. firing from a position near WHIZ FARM was silenced by out STOKES. M.G.'s kept up usual harassing fire during the night.

AERIAL ACTIVITY

- (a) Enemy Planes were over our lines at 9-30a.m. 6 Machines came over our lines. At 9-28a.m. 2 Planes crossed our line and patrolled it until driven off by A.A. fire. At 9-45a.m. 10 enemy Planes observed behind their own lines. At 10-10a.m. 4 Machines attempted to cross our lines but were driven off by A.A. fire. At 2-45p.m. an enemy plane flying very slowly patrolled our front line for one hour, flares and smoke balls were dropped over H.T.M. position which was immediately shelled with 4.2. H.E.
- (b) Our planes were very active throughout the day, continuously flying over enemy lines; at dusk several R.E.8 Machines were patrolling the line. Bombing Planes were active during the night over enemy back areas.

MOVEMENT & ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

Movement was observed in HOUTHEM. at 3-10p.m. 12 men near O.24.c. were watching enemy plane over our lines. Much movement was observed about the buildings in vicinity of O.24. Central. A man, probably an Officer, as he had a peak cap, entered a building about 2000 yards from O.P. on a T.B. of 100 degrees.

SIGNALLING.

The usual White flares were used during the night. A Message was picked up from a Building on high ground 15 degrees North of WERVICQ.

STATE OF GROUND.

Ground was frozen hard.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

"A" COMPANY relieved "D" COMPANY from Support Line - relief complete by 7-30p.m., remaining H.Q. as before.

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Keppeler Lieut.
Intelligence Officer.

54th Battalion, A. I. F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 17th February to 6a.m. 18th February.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) During the morning our guns remained quiet, except for A.A. and Long Range Guns firing at enemy Balloons. Visibility improved for us in the afternoon and our Field Guns registered on FLY BUILDINGS (O.23.c.) PILLEGREMS FARM (O.24.b.) BAB FARM (O.23.d.) LOCK 4 (P.13.a.) and from 3p.m. to 4-20 ~~xxxx~~ HOUTHEM and vicinity was strafed. Back areas were shelled but mist prevented observation of fire. At 3-15p.m. our Howitzers shelled WERVICQ and COMINES causing clouds of SMOKE.
- (b) A patrol of 2 Officers left 3.O.17 at 7-30a.m. to reconnoitre ground in vicinity of GREEN FARM. Patrol moved through the WOOD to O.17.b.1.6. Ground was thoroughly examined, very little was seen around GREEN FARM., and it was thought to be unoccupied. At 12-30p.m. A patrol of 2 Officers and 4 O/Ranks left 3.O.17 to ascertain definitely if GREEN FARM is occupied and if possible to obtain an identification. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ The patrol moved along edge of Wood to an old trench at O.17.b.20.55. Buildings were watched from this point for some hours and then Patrol moved round the ground in vicinity of pillboxes, which were definitely found to be unoccupied, no enemy being seen or heard. At 9-10p.m. a Klaxon horn was heard in the direction of WHIZ FARM. At 9-20p.m. the enemy put down a barrage of M.W. and M.G. fire on to the front line. M.W. seemed to be firing from direction of WHIZ and BANG FARM but they seemed to be coming from a greater distance than these places, possibly the buildings in O.18.b. & d. Patrol returned at 12 midnight. The usual liaison patrols kept communication with Battalions on right and left.
- (d) Our H.T.M. firing from O.22.b. direction of BEE FARM.

ENEMY SHELLING

Enemy shelling our captive balloons with shrapnel. A.A. Guns active on our aircraft. At 12-35p.m. enemy 5.9. bursting in ROSE WOOD shell coming from COMINES. At 12-50p.m. 4.2. H.E. registered on RIDGE FARM, and TRNCH FARM. Our Support Line and O.P. 20 shells 2 duds. At 1-30p.m. same battery opened upon OMEGA TRENCH and valley in vicinity. At 2-30p.m. enemy batteries strafed the whole of our forward area. At 3-50p.m. 5.2 H.E. was directed on to VERNE ROAD, COSTAVERNE CROSS ROADS and our wire in that vicinity (50 shells.)

ENEMY ATTITUDE.

During the early hours of the morning enemy M.G's were active on Trenches in VERNE ROAD, they opened up again at 5-15p.m. During the day much A.A. M.G. fire was directed on to our planes.

ENEMY DEFENCES.

Two heaps of new duckboards were noticed on a road in vicinity of P.7.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Aerial activity started very early. Our Planes were over enemy lines at 6-30a.m. and continued to patrol our front, and occasionally enemy positions drawing much A.A. fire. At 9-55a.m. 6 Enemy Machines flying high failed to cross our line in face of heavy fire from M.G. and A.A. During the following 2 hours many air fights took place. At 11a.m. a large grey plane, probably D.F.W. ~~xxx~~ AVIATIK (c) flying very low continued to fly up and down our line, and as far back as supports; this plane supported by 2 others returned and did not depart until 12-20p.m. At 12-10p.m. 1 of our planes (R.E.8.) whilst making towards the front line was struck by one of our A.A. Shells and both wings were carried away, the plane fell in O.15.b. Central, both men were killed. Aerial activity continued very brisk until dusk. At 6p.m. Enemy Planes were heard flying high making over towards our lines.

MOVEMENT & ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

During the morning smoke fires were noticed coming from BAB FARM and FLY BUILDINGS. Several of the enemy observed operating Machine Gun in the open, movement noticed around HOUTHEM and ground between our front and HOUTHEM. At 1-30p.m. Heliograph Signalling noticed between COMINES and WERVICQ.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT

4 Gas Shells fell over our Support Line at 4-30p.m.

SIGNALLING.

Very few flares used during the period.

STATE OF GROUND.

Owing to heavy Frost ground remained frozen during the day.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As Before.

H. J. ...
Lieut-
Intelligence Officer.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely a military report or diary entry, covering the main body of the page.]

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 18th February to 6a.m. 19th February, 1918.

OPERATIONS.

- (a) Except for occasional shelling by our 6" Howitzers our Artillery was quiet during the morning. A.A. Guns succeeded in driving enemy planes away during early part of the morning, but later on enemy planes flying low succeeded in evading our guns altogether. Visibility improved for us in the afternoon and our heavy batteries and 4.5. howitzers carried our garrassing fire on back roads and railways. At 1-55p.m. 18 pdr. batteries swept ground around PILLEGREMS FARM and towards HOUTHEM with Shrapnel & H.E. At 3-20p.m. the area immediately south of FLY BUILDINGS, also OMELETTE TRENCH were strafed with 18 pdrs., H.E. and Shrapnel. At 3-45p.m. 6" Howitzers shelled WERVICQ causing clouds of dust, During 18 pdrs registered on THE TWINS, the WATER TANK and ZERO Point.
- (b) A Patrol of 1 Officer & 6 O/Ranks left 6.0.23. at 1a.m. for the purpose of ascertaining strength of enemy wire around FLY BUILDINGS. Patrol moved in an Easterly direction for about 200 yards, where they halted and listened for 25 minutes, the patrol then moved North where they again halted. Patrol then turned West and headed in the direction of 1.0.17., much broken wire was encountered en route, also a sound system. Enemy movement was heard at a distance, no enemy were seen. Patrol returned via 1.0.17 at 3-50a.m. The usual liaison patrols kept communication with right and left Battalions.
- (d) Our M.G.'s fired many rounds at enemy planes during the day; no results noticed. The usual M.G. Fire was carried out during the night.

ENEMY SHELLING.

An enemy battery opened fire on VERNE ROAD and COSTTAVERNE CROSS ROADS and our Support Line at 7-30a.m. The fire was continued until 8-40a.m. 43 rounds in all, many shells fell amongst new wire defenses there. At 9-50a.m. 7 shells fell on ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ TRENCH FARM and RIDGE FARM. Enemy Shelling active during afternoon. At 2-5p.m. 6" Shrapnel on RAVINE WOOD. A 4.2 Battery shelled the Ridges in 0.22.a. from the direction of HOUTHEM. At 2-30p.m. this Battery again opened fire in direction of T.M. position in 0.22.b. and lengthened range to OMEGA TRENCH 20 Shells, also 3 Gas Shells fell on our Support Line, and several 5.9. at rear of DENYS WOOD. At 5-10p.m. 6 H.E. 4.2 Shells fell near COSTTAVERNE WOOD. An enemy sniper was busy during the afternoon, he seemed to be located in 0.23.d. Central, his shooting was ineffective. Enemy M.G.'s were very active on our Aircraft. A nest of A.A.M.G. is located in P.19.c. Enemy was noticed firing Pineapples or other L.T.M.'s, probably with a time fuse at our planes when they came within range. Enemy T.M.'s opened up in conjunction with M.G.'s on our front line at 7-40p.m.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

- (a) Owing to high visibility Aerial Activity was brisk during the period. At 11-5a.m. in the absence of our planes 2 enemy planes crossed our lines and flying low patrolled our outposts and support line, they remained 35 minutes in the locality and dropped several flare signals over our outposts, they were noticed paying particular attention to the ground in 0.18.c.&d. and 0.22.a.&b. At 2-15p.m. several air fights took place over enemy lines in our vicinity, no results noticed.
- (b) During the morning and later in the afternoon 2 R.E.8 Planes continued to patrol our front 5 Sopwith Camelo crossed the enemy lines and returned after going over enemy back area. 9 of our largest planes flying at a great height passed at 3-30p.m. towards the enemy lines. At 6-15p.m. a flight of Gothas crossed out line making inland and dropped 2 bombs near 0.25.

MOVEMENT & ORGANISATION IN AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

At 2-40 p.m. Heliograph observed in direction of WERVICQ, but at an angle whereat it was impossible to read same. The M.G. and A.A. Guns as reported yesterday again observed today. Smoke observed coming from BAG FARM, FLY BUILDINGS and BUILDINGS at rear. Observer noticed at rear of BAB FARM.

STATE OF GROUND.

Owing to heavy frost the ground still frozen and hard.

LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.

As before.

V01 24
 APP A20
 P248 121

[Signature]
 Lieut.
 Intelligence Officer.
 54th Battalion, A.I.F.

APPENDIX 21

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1. Inter-Company relief according to sub-joined Table will be carried out on the night 3/4th February.
2. Details of relief, including arrangements for guides etc., will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. Advance Parties will report to O.C. "A" Company, and the Officer in charge of this party for the correct taking over of all Trench Stores etc., Duplicate of handing over receipts will be forwarded to B.O.R. before 9a.m. 4th inst.
4. O.C. "B" Company will arrange direct with O.C. Gumboot Store for any Boots required. Boots must not be handed over in the Line, O.C. "A" Company arranging to return all Wet Boots to the Drying Shed before 9a.m. 4th inst.
5. No movement of troops to commence before 4 5-15p.m.
6. Completion of relief to be wired to B.H.Q. by Code.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

COY.	FROM	TO	RELIEVING	REMARKS.
" B"	Support Line	Front Line	"A" COMPANY.	By way of PIONEER LANE.
"A"	Front Line	Support Line	"B" COMPANY.	By way of PIONEER LANE.
#62 & "D"	Companies remain in present location.			

No.	Copy	File.
2	"	"A" Coy.
3	"	"B" "
4	"	"C" "
5	"	"D" "
6	"	War Diary.
7	"	" "
8	"	" "
9	"	" "

W. H. G. H.

Capt. & Adj. G.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

FIFTY

FOURTH

BATTALION

APPENDIX 22

OPERATION ORDER No.86.

6/2/18

1. Inter-Company reliefs according to sub-joined Table will be carried out on the night 7/8th February.
2. Details of relief, including arrangements for guides etc., will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. In the case of the front line relief Advance Parties should report from Companies to their opposite numbers on the night 6/7th inst. In the cases of the remaining Companies parties will report early on the 7th inst. These parties will be responsible for the correct taking over of all trench stores; duplicates of handingover receipts will be forwarded to B.O.R., by 9a.m. 8th inst., according to pro-forma as laid down.
4. O.C."C" Company will arrange direct with the Officer i/c Gunboot Store for any Boots required. Boots must not be handed over in the Line. O.C."B" Company arranging to return all wet boots to the drying shed before 9a.m. 4th inst.
5. Officers Commanding "C" & "D" Companies will mutually arrange as to the time of starting. No movement of troops to commence before 5p.m.
6. No Engineer Working Parties will be requisitioned from Companies during the night 7/8th inst. Lieut. Mc Arthur will make mutual arrangements with Officers Commanding Support Companies and Forward Reserve Companies relative to the time of reporting of Rationing Parties, this must of necessity be after reliefs are complete.
7. Completion of relief to be wired to B.H.Q., by code.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E .

COY.	FROM	TO	RELIEVING	ROUTE.
"B"	Front Line	Forward Reserve	"C" Coy.	PIONEER LANE.
"A"	Support Line	Rear Reserve	"D" Coy.	PIONEER LANE.
"C"	Forward Reserve	Front Line	"B" Coy.	PIONEER LANE.
"D"	Rear Reserve	Support Line	"A" Coy.	PIONEER LANE.

W. Lorett

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

6/2/18.

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app. "B2"
page 4.*

SECRET

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION
OPERATION ORDER NO. 57.

23
app B3

10/2/18.

1. Inter-Company Reliefs according to sub-joined table will be carried out on the night 11/12th February.
2. Details of Relief, including arrangements for Guides etc., will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. Advance Parties will report to O.C. "C" Company, and the Officer in charge of this party will be responsible for the correct taking over of all Trench stores etc.. Duplicate of handing-over receipts will be forwarded to B.C.R. before 9 a.m. 12th inst.
4. O.C. "D" Company will arrange direct with O.C. Gumboot store for any Boots required. Boots must not be handed over in the Line, O.C. "C" Company arranging to return all wet boots to the Drying Shed before 9 a.m. 12th inst.
5. No movement of Troops to commence before 5.15 p.m.
6. Completion of Relief to be wired to H.H.Q. by Code.
7. ACKNOWLEDGE

COY.	FROM.	TO.	RELIEVING.	REMARKS.
"D"	Support Line	Front Line	"C" Coy.	By way of Pioneer Line
"C"	Front Line	Support Line	"D" Coy.	By way of PIONEER LINE
"A" & "B" Companies remain in present locations.				

No.	1 Copy	File
2	"	"A" Company
3	"	"B" "
4	"	"C" "
5	"	"D" "
6	"	War Diary
7	"	"
8	"	"
9	"	"

Loret
Capt. & Adjutant.
54th. Battalion A.I.F.

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APP "B3"
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SECRET

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

OPERATION ORDER NO. 88

copy N. 67
24

14/2/18

1. Inter-Company reliefs in accordance with the subjoined table will be carried out on the night 15/16th. February.
2. Details of relief, including arrangements for guides, etc., will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. Advance parties will report to O.C. "D" Company, and the Officer in charge of the party will be responsible for the correct taking over of all trench stores etc. Duplicate of handing-over receipts will be forwarded to B.C.M.W. BEFORE 9 a.m. 16th. inst.
4. O.C. "D" Company will arrange direct with O.C. Gunboot Store for any Boots required. Boots must not be handed over in the line, O.C. "D" Company will arrange to return all wet boots to the Drying Sheds BEFORE 9 a.m. 16th. inst.
5. No movement of troops to commence before 5.15 p.m.
6. Completion of relief to be wired to B.C.M.W. by "Code".
7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

COY	FROM	TO	RELIEVING	REMARKS
"C"	Support Line	Front Line	"D"	By way of PIONEER LANE
"D"	Front Line	Support Line	"C"	By way of PIONEER LANE
"A" & "B" Companies will remain in present locations.				

- No 1 Copy----- File
- 2 " " " " "A" Company
 - 3 " " " " "B" " "
 - 4 " " " " "C" " "
 - 5 " " " " "D" " "
 - 6 " " " " War Diary
 - 7 " " " " " " "
 - 8 " " " " " " "
 - 9 " " " " " " "
 - 10 " " " " R.V.D. McPherson M.C.

L. O'Connell
 Captain & Adjutant
 54th. Battalion A.I.F.

*See 24
 app "B4"
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AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY FORCE.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

ISSUING ORDER No. 89.

10/2/18.

It is expected that the 55th Battalion will relieve the 54th Battalion in the line on the night 24/21st inst.

In expectation of this eventuality Company Commanders will take all necessary steps to have their sections in handing over order. Extreme care must be taken regarding the handing over of Trench stores etc. A pro-forma of handing over lists is attached and must be rigidly adhered to. Any serious discrepancy from the previous handing over receipt will be the Company Commanders responsibility. The remarks column is essentially for the explanation of discrepancies and not for the description or location. The fact that only 80 boxes of Bombs were taken over in a section does not mean that if that section really has 120 boxes that only 80 should be shown. The entry should be:-

<u>Item.</u>	<u>Taken over.</u>	<u>Handed over.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Bombs	80 boxes	120 boxes	80 salvaged.

The Forward and Rear Reserve Companies will be prepared to relieve Engineer Parties, at present found by 55th Battalion, at 1 hour's notice.

Immediate steps will be taken to put all dug-outs, Trenches, Cookhouses, latrines etc., in a clean and sanitary condition ready for inspection by I.C.M. Courses, 24th inst.

W. Palmer for
 Capt. & Adj.
 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

V07 24
 APP "B5"
 page 11.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

OPERATION ORDER No. 90.

REFERENCE MAP - WYTSCHAETE. 1/10,000

1. The 55th Battalion, A.I.F. will relieve the 54th Battalion, A.I.F. in the line on the night 20/21st February.
2. Reliefs will be carried out in accordance with attached table.
3. Officers Commanding Companies will arrange that an Officer and 2 N.C.O's per Company report to the 55th Battalion as soon as possible to take over their respective Company areas. These parties will be assembled at Battalion Headquarters at 4p.m. to meet incoming troops and guide them to their respective areas.
4. Front Line Company will arrange for Platoon guides to meet relieving platoons at the inter-section of duckwalks to Company Headquarters at PIONEER LANE at 6p.m.
Support & Reserve Companies will have Platoon guides at Battalion H.Q. at 5-30p.m. to meet incoming platoons.
5. Rationing in new area will be under Company arrangements, and the method of supply as follows:-
For Lancashire Garrison & Battalion Headquarters - by light railway to WOOD SIDING., thence manhandled to destination. For Irish House Garrison - By first line transport from MACONCHIE SIDING to Irish House. Companies will make all arrangements to have dixies etc., taken to new location on the 20th inst., The Q.M. will arrange to have Cookers sent to Irish House.
6. Handing & Taking over receipts to be forwarded to Battalion H.Q., by 9a.m. 21st inst.
7. All Gumboots to be returned to Gumboot Store by 9a.m. 21st inst, and receipts obtained for same.
8. Completion of relief to be notified to Battalion Headquarters by code.
9. Command will pass to C.O., 55th Battalion on completion of relief.
10. B.H.Q. will open at SCOTT FARM after relief.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E

20/2/18.

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W. Lorett,

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

AUSTRA LIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

F I F T Y F O U R T H B A T T A L I O N.

RELIEF TABLE TO ACCOMPANY OPERATION ORDER No. 9D.

APPENDIX 26

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SERIAL NO.	COMPANY.	R E L I E V E D		MOVING TO	RELIEVING	ROUTE
		IN	BY			
1.	"A" 54th Bn.	Front Line	"D" 55th Bn.	LANCASHIRE HOUSE	"D" 55th Bn.	PIONEER LANE.
2.	"C" 54th.	Support Line.	"C" "	" "	"C" "	PIONEER LANE.
3.	"B" "	Est Reserve	"B" "	IRISH HOUSE	"B" "	PIONEER LANE.
4.	"D" "	2nd Reserve	"A" "	" "	"A" "	PIONEER LANE.
5.	B.H.Q. "	Prince Rupert's BHp Dug-outs.	"	SCOTT FARM	B.H.Q. "	"

*See 24
appendix 'B6'
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FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.REPORT ON MINOR ENTERPRISES CARRIED OUT BY THE 54th BATTALION ON THE NIGHT
19th FEBRUARY, 1918.

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REFERENCE MAP - HOUTHEN - 1/10,000.

1. On the 16th February instructions were received from the 14th A.I. Brigade ordering a raid to be carried out by the 54th Battalion on GREEN FARM (O.17.b.4.4.)

On the evening of the 17th inst., a reconnoitring patrol consisting of the Battalion Intelligence Officer (Lieut. R. E. G. Staples, M.M.), the Officer Commanding the projected raid (Lieut. A. G. Bates, D.C.M.), and 6 O/Ranks of the raiding party penetrated GREEN FARM and found that it was not occupied by the enemy. Identifications being imperative another objective had to be chosen. This was decided at a conference held at the 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10a.m. on the 18th inst. The conference was attended by the G.O.C. 14th A.I. Brigade, the Officer Commanding HOLLERBEKE Artillery Group and 54th Battalion Headquarters Staff. WHIZ FARM was chosen as an objective, and all arrangements were made relative to the raid.

2. ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

- (a) WHIZ FARM, the objective named, being a series of enemy strong points extending over a frontage of about 100 yards, the actual point of entry for the raiding party was left to the discretion of the Officer Commanding raid. A personal reconnaissance on the part of the raid Commander on the night of the 18/19th February determined that the trenches or shelters shown immediately south of WHIZ FARM (as per aerial photograph) would be the main objective.
- (b) It was decided that the number of the raiding party would be 1 Officer and 20 O/Ranks.
- (c) It was arranged that the party would leave O.P. 17. at 8-15p.m. and be assembled in a line of old trenches (O.17.d.15.90. to O.17.d.30.60.) by 8-45p.m. At ZERO the party were to move forward under the protection of the Artillery Barrage, and at ZERO plus two minutes to rush the objective, the Artillery Barrage having lifted to targets further in rear. The HOLLERBEKE Artillery Group arranged, at ZERO, to open fire on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM, and THE TWINS. At ZERO plus two minutes the Barrage was to lift from WHIZ FARM and be distributed on targets further in rear.

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS.

- (a) Everything went as per programme until the assembly point was reached. A light mist by this time having enveloped the front the O.C. raid decided to get as far forward as possible under cover of this mist before ZERO. This resulted in the party being 20 yards from the enemy wire at ZERO. At ZERO (9p.m.) the Artillery Barrage opened and the party pushed through the enemy's first line of entanglements. At ZERO plus two minutes the second line of entanglements was passed and the party rushed the first system of posts and dug-outs.
- (b) No enemy was met with in the first 2 dug-outs. Bombs were thrown into these and sentries posted at the entrances. A third and larger dug-out was then rushed and the O.C. raid arrived just as a Bosche came to the entrance. Lieut. Bates was fired on and missed by this man, whom he shot. The garrison showed signs of resisting until Pte. White of the Battalion Headquarters Intelligence Section, a German speaker, called on them in German to surrender; this they did, leaving their arms, in accordance with Pte. White's instructions, in the dug-out. The object of the raid being attained, Lieut. Bates decided to withdraw with his prisoners, who numbered 7. One of the raiding party was detailed to each prisoner, the remainder of the party covered the retirement until the guard wire was reached when the whole party made all haste to PIONEER LAKE. The guard wire was reached on the return journey at ZERO plus ten minutes.
- (c) ARTILLERY ACTION. This was admirably timed and carried out and was so accurate that Lieut. Bates reports that his party were operating directly under the shrapnel bursts and within 40 yards of the H.M. bursts, the shooting was remarkably accurate

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS (CONTINUED.)

(d) ENEMY ACTION. No enemy action commenced until 2300 plus five minutes when the 4 posts (S.P.2.0.17. particularly) were heavily bombarded by minnenwerfer, 7.7's and 4.2's. Machine guns also opened up over the whole front but fired high and affected the rear area rather than the forward posts. No casualties were suffered by the raiding party.

4. INFORMATION OBTAINED.

The enemy held the front on similar lines to the system adopted by us. The prisoners, who belong to the 162nd Regiment (17th Division) only having been in this Sector 2 days, do not know where the main defensive position is. The WHIZ F RM Garrisons consist of 4 or 5 dug-outs or concrete shelters, each containing from 3 to 7 men.

The locality is strongly wired with 2 bands of wire. This is, however, in constant need of repair, as a result of our 9.5 H.T.W. activity.

5. RESULT OF RAID.

The result of the raid was to capture of the enemy and inflict a number of casualties. Two of the enemy were known to have been killed, and 1 officer severely wounded; it is possible that the casualties sustained by the enemy were even heavier than this.

The success of the enterprise was due to:-

1. Good leadership.
2. An enthusiastic and carefully chosen raiding party (volunteers.)
3. Previous reconnaissance by the whole party of the locality to be raided.
4. The inclusion of a German speaker in the raiding personnel.
5. Last but not least splendid Artillery co-operation.

W. J. H. [Signature]
 Lieut.-Colonel.
 Commanding
 54th Battalion, A.I.F.

19/2/18.

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SECRET.
FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

Reference Map: WYTCORANTS DEFENCE SCHEMATA
28 S.W.2 1/10,000. ----- 21/2/18.

1. DESCRIPTIVE OF BRIGADE AREA.

- (1) Frontage: The frontage held by the Brigade extends from O.23.a.9.8. to O.12.a.0.8. - a distance of approximately 1900 yards.
- (2) Boundaries. (a) Brigade. The Southern Boundary runs from Southern Edge of COSTAVERNE ROAD - Cross Roads in COSTAVERNE. O.22.a.80.65. - O.22.b.75.70. - WALL FARM (exclusive) - FLY BUILDINGS (inclusive.)
The Northern Boundary (also N. Divisional Boundary) runs along ST ELOI - HOLLIBAKE ROAD to LOCK 5.
- (b) Inter-Battalion. Northern edge of ZERO FOOD - HARTERS FARM - O.9.d.0.0. - O.15.b.75.45. - O.16.a.2.4. - the ROCKBANK.

2. DISPOSITIONS OF RIGHT RESERVE BATTALION.

The Dispositions of the 54th Battalion are as follows:-

Battalion Headquarters	--	O.26.a.300. (O.25.a.3.9.)
"A" Company	--	LANCASHIRE HOUSE (Deep dug-outs.) Coy. H.Q. at O.19.d.9.9.
"C" Company	--	Ground Shelters in vicinity of O.19.b.95. Coy. H.Q. at O.19.b.95.00.
"B" Company	--	IRISH HOUSE (Ground Shelters.) Coy. H.Q. at N.23.c.9.7.
"D" Company	--	IRISH HOUSE. Coy.H.Q. at N.23.b.4.3.
R. A. P.	--	O.20.c.20.85.
1st line transport	--	Norfolk Camp - N.32.b.5.6.
R.Q.M.Store	--	N.27.a.6.1.

3. ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCES.

Lewis Guns for Anti-aircraft defense are mounted at:-

- O.20.c.00.85.
- O.19.a.95.85.
- N.23.d.4.6.
- N.23.b.4.8.

4. ROUTES TO FRONT LINE, RIGHT BATTALION SECTOR.

Route forward from LANCASHIRE HOUSE is as follows:- Via Duckboard Track leading from YPRES, MESSINES ROAD at O.20.c.20.95., through O.20. - O.21.a. - O.15.c. - to FICKER LANE, thence through O.15.d. - O.16. - to FRONT LINE in .17.82

Route forward from IRISH HOUSE is as follows:- Along PIER Line from IRISH HOUSE through N.23.d. and N.24.c. to GORDON ROAD at N.24.d.5.4. thence via GORDON ROAD and Duckboard Track from O.19.b.3.0. to O.20.c.20.95. thence as for route from LANCASHIRE HOUSE.

5. SIGNAL COMMUNICATION. Battalion Headquarters is in telephonic and visual communication with Brigade Headquarters.

Each Company is in telephonic communication with Battalion Headquarters. Signal Offices, with location and position calls are as follows:-

Battalion Headquarters	O.25.a.6.9. - P.T.87.
"A" Company	-- O.19.d.9.9. - F.W.89.
"C" Company	-- O.19.b.9.0. - 22K.
"B" Company	-- N.23.c.8.7. - F.I.103.
"D" Company	-- N.23.b.4.3. - FI 33.

Communication with transport lines can be obtained by telephone through Brigade Headquarters.

6. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

Companies will be ready at all times to move at ten minutes notice. On receipt of word that hostile attack has been launched Companies will be warned by the code message "Box on". On receipt of this message Companies will stand to on their alarm posts and await further orders. Companies will notify Battalion Headquarters by the code message "O.K." when they are ready to move.

Should any parties be engaged in work at the time the attack takes

- 6. (Continue.)
place they will be forced up in the nearest sewer and will report their positions to the nearest Company or Battalion Headquarters.
- 7. ACTION IN CASE OF A GAS ATTACK.
Standing Orders for defence against Gas (No. 124) will obtain. In the event of hostile gas shell bomb descent as distinct from a gas cloud attack, gas rattles only will be used as a warning.
- 8. RATIONS AND SUPPLIES.
Rations are drawn from the Brigade Dump at N.27.a.8.1. and carried to H.Q.S. where which is adjacent.
Rations for the 2 Companies at LANCASHIRE HOUSE are delivered by 1st line transport. The 2 Companies at LANCASHIRE HOUSE and for Battalion H.Q. are taken forward by light railway to SOUTH SIDING, G.19.c.9.9., and manhandled from there forward. Cooking is carried out under Company arrangements.
- 9. SOUP KITCHEN.
A Soup and Coffee Stall controlled by Chaplain D.S. Brownell, 55th Batta., and supplied by the Australian Comforts Fund is located at LAMP POST C.22.e. at G.19.c.5.7.
- 10. BATHS.
Baths under Corps arrangements are at LINDENHURST - N.27.a.8.1. There is a small bath house under Battalion arrangements at LANCASHIRE HOUSE.

W. Lorett

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

21/2/18.

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