

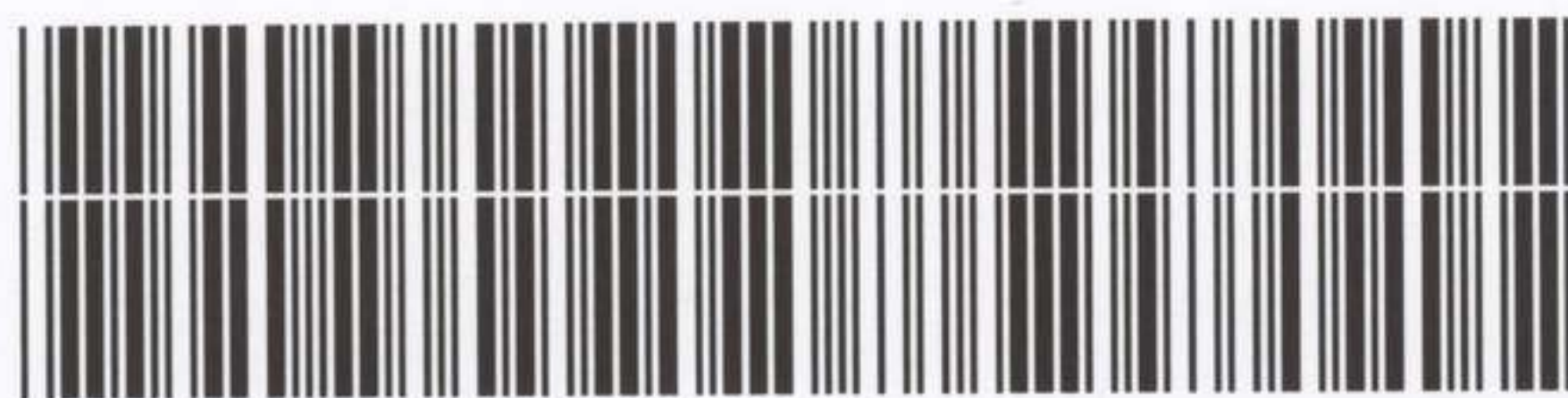
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/26

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

March 1918



AWM4-23/71/26

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

54th. Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

March 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

BD Jack Major.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Quinnaghy Lt Col
Co. 54th Bn AIF

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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VOLUME 25

PAGE 1.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BATTALION HEADQUARTERS SCOTT FARM.	Friday 1st March.		<p>The weather is fine, but cloudy and rather cold. Working Parties under engineer supervision continued as usual. Number employed as for today are 2 Officers & 50 O/Ranks in the morning and 2 Officers & 40 O/Ranks in the evening. In addition several small parties totalling about 40 O/Ranks are employed daily on water carrying to Soup Kitchen, Salvage, Battalion Works etc. 1 N.C.O. and 30 Other Ranks are detached with 184th Tunnelling Company, and 1 N.C.O. & 25 O/Ranks with 14th Field Company.</p> <p>The Battalion was paid today, but as there are no opportunities of spending in our present location the amount paid out was a great deal below the average.</p> <p>3 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave, 2 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital and 11 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital and Wounded.</p>	
SCOTT FARM	Saturday 2nd March.		<p>Today has been bitterly cold - light snow and intermittent sleet and snow falling throughout the day.</p> <p>Except for usual detail of Working Parties nothing of importance has occurred.</p> <p>Word was today received that Major F.D.W. Oatley had been granted Temporary Rank of Lieut-Colonel and would Command 56th Battalion. He left today for 56th Battalion.</p> <p>Capt. B.D. Jack and Lieut. J.H. Wicks proceeded on U.K. Leave, and 6 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital.</p>	
SCOTT FARM	Sunday. 3rd March.		<p>Being Sunday no working parties were supplied today. Under instructions from Brigade Lieut. D.A. Mc Arthur M.C., as Battalion Musketry Officer inspected a Rifle Range already used by the 15th Brigade with a view to repairing and carrying out Musketry Practice. He however found it in a very bad state and even if improved he considered it to be of little use. He suggested that a better Range could be constructed in WYTSCHAETE WOOD, and the Adjutant and he inspected the place this afternoon.</p> <p>Lieut-Colonel D. Mc Conaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O., (Commanding Officer) left today for a demonstration at Army Headquarters FLIXECOURT; during his absence Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C., will Temporarily Command.</p> <p>15 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave, and 1 O/Rank was admitted to Hospital.</p>	
SCOTT FARM	Monday 4th March.		<p>Today has been bitterly cold. Lieut. A.C. Askham, Battalion Works Officer, today completed erecting a cupola hut at Battalion Headquarters, and same is now occupied by B.H. Officers' Batmen.</p> <p>Works today were as usual. A Chinese Raid was carried out tonight by the front line Battalion, and another Raid proper by 3rd Division on our right. From our position the barrage seemed extremely good.</p> <p>Lieut. F.C.R. Small was admitted to Hospital, and 2 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SCOTT FARM	Tuesday 5th March.		A Raiding platoon was today formed with Lieut. D.A. Mc Arthur M.C., as O.C. and Lieut. O.C. Ferns as 2nd in Command. It consists of xxx volunteers drawn from all Companies, totalling 2 Officers and 53 O/Ranks. Its object is to establish a trained Platoon which can be used in the event of a raid being ordered at short notice. The Platoon is billeted with "B" Company at IRISH HOUSE. A Patrol Party of 1 Officer and 16 O/Ranks was also today formed - with the Battalion Patrolling Officer, Lieut. F.A. Pickup, in charge. They are also quartered with "B" Company. 2 Other Ranks were admitted to Hospital, and 2 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
SCOTT FARM.	Wednesday 6th March.		Today has been warm and bright which was taken full advantage of by our Planes; a great number passed over our position to the line. The 15 inch Gun - about 250 yards down the WULVERGEM Road from B.O.R. - fired a few shots. The day was otherwise quiet. The C.O. today returned from Army H.Q. like Capt. Capt. Mc Nab therefore returns to "A" Company. Lieut. R.H. Allen returned from U.K. Leave, 3 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital and 6 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
SCOTT FARM.	Thursday 7th March.		The good weather still continues. The Battalion Works Officer today commenced work on the Rifle Range. The work entails clearing of a few trees, draining shell holes and building a breastwork to shelter markers. For this purpose he is using the Salvage Party as no further men are available - Salvage except independently by Companies has therefore been suspended. 3 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital, 1 O/Rank rejoined ex Wounded and 2 ex Training Battalion.	
SCOTT FARM.	Friday 8th March.		Usual daily working parties were supplied. A tour of inspection was today made by the C.O., taking in IRISH HOUSE and CHINA WALL & LANCASHIRE HOUSE Companies. A Propoganda Balloon came over our lines and after much firing from every direction was brought down by our A.A. Lewis Guns. On inspection it was found to be about 6 feet long and made of red oiled silk. The Papers, a publication in French printed in ARBENNES, were held by a loop and dropped by motion of wind; both Papers and Balloon were despatched to Brigade Headquarters. Lieut. H.E.G. Staples and Lieut. H. Brewer proceeded on leave to Paris. Lieut. R.A. Smith rejoined ex Training Battalion, 10 O/Ranks rejoined ex U.K. Leave, 5 O/Ranks ex Hospital, 3 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital. Lieut. J.G. Steber proceeded to Australian Corps Gas School and Lieut. A.E. Rowe to Australian Corps Infantry School	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SCOTT FARM.	Saturday 9th March.		In addition to usual detail of parties today 30 O/Ranks were supplied to carry L.T.M. Ammunition forward. This necessitated using some of the Raiding Party, although as far as possible it is exempt from work, all time being devoted to training. The Adjutant was engaged for the better part of the day at Brigade Headquarters on the Courts Martial of two of this Battalion. At 11p.m. the clocks were put forward to midnight and from now on Summer time is enforced Lieuts. C.W. Harvey and F.C.R. Small and 14 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital, 2 O/Ranks ex Wounded, 8 O/Ranks rejoined ex U.K. Leave, and 10 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave.	
SCOTT FARM	Sunday 10th March.		Beautiful weather still prevails. In accordance with Corps instructions no work was carried out today. Notification was today received that Lieut. A.G. Bates, D.C.M. was awarded the Military Cross for his good work as O.C. Raiding Party which had such a signal success last months against WHIZ FARM. Corpl. de Bell C.A.J. 4620 Pte. White J and 1622 Pte Buckley J., were awarded the Military Medal. 7 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital, 2 O/Ranks from Paris Leave, Lieut. J.H. Barton and 5 O/Ranks from U.K. Leave.	
SCOTT FARM	Monday 11th March.		Working Parties were today varied and from now on 30 O/Ranks are to be supplied at 9a.m., and 60 O/Ranks at 6-30p.m.. Lieut. B.P. Kinsella marched out today for 6 months leave to AUSTRALIA. 2 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital. Capt. J.H. Crombie returned from Gas School, and 3 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital.	
SCOTT FARM	Tuesday 12th March		The C.O. today visited Companies at IRISH HOUSE and Raiding Party. A special effort was made today and the Rifle Range completed, except the erections of Targets which came from Pioneer Sergeant this evening. A number of Raiding Party were employed on Range today to expedite completion. Capt. H.H. Young, M.C., O.C. "B" Company attended a lecture at 10th Corps School BOESCHER on Cavalry. 4 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital, 2 O/Ranks ex Wounded, 4 O/Ranks from U.K. Leave. 3 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital, and 6 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SCOTT FARM.	wednesday 13th March		The C.O. today visited Transport Lines at Norfolk Camp and found everything in very good order. All vehicles have been painted and the whole Transport is in better order than it has been for a long while. The Raiding Party today used Rifle Range, and with few exceptions, made very good results. The weather is still very good - bright and warm. 3 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital. 6 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave, 11 O/Ranks returned from U.K. Leave., and 2 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital.	
SCOTT FARM.	Thursday 14th March		The fine weather has come to an end for awhile and today has been very wet. Lieut. A.C. Askham, Battalion Works Officer, attended a lecture at a Corps School BOESCHAPPE on Military Engineering. 1 O/Rank marched in from Hospital, and 8 O/Ranks from U.K. Leave,	
SCOTT FARM.	Friday. 15th March		Pay was today available for the Battalion, and as a large amount of money had been returned to the Paymaster last pay the amount requisitioned for this time was cut down to 27,000 Francs, and this proved easily sufficient. The rain has ceased but it is still cloudy. 2 O/Ranks rejoined from Paris Leave, and 2 O/Ranks from U.K. Leave. 4 O/Ranks marched in from Hospital, and 1 O/Rank was admitted to Hospital.	
SCOTT FARM	Saturday 16th March.		The weather is again very fine - Today has been bright and sunny and beautifully warm. Everything is quiet and except for daily working parties nothing of importance was done today. 25 O/Ranks proceeded on U.K. Leave. 1 O/Rank rejoined ex Hospital, and 15 O/Ranks from U.K. Leave.	
SCOTT FARM	Sunday, 17th March.		About 5a.m. this morning a number of Gas Shells were heard to fall in the direction of IANCA SHIRE HOUSE. "A" Company was immediately rung up and they reported that no gas could be detected. The Gas Alarm Alert was given at once to all Companies by 'Phone. A presentation of Medals was today held by the G.O.C., A.I.F. at ROSSIGNOL CAMP, KEMMEL, when Exptix Bucklax Corpl. de Bell and Pte. Buckley, both of "A" Company - awarded Military Medals for good work in raid on WHIL FARM - were presented with Ribands. Pte. White, the other recipient of the Military Medal for work with the party is on leave and could not be present. 6 O/Ranks rejoined ex U.K. Leave, 6 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital, 3 O/Ranks rejoined ex Hospital, 4 O/Ranks rejoined ex wounded.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS.	Thursday 21st March		The 54th Battalion will relieve the 55th Battalion in the Line (Left Right Battalion Left Bde) tonight. The relief was completed by 9-30p.m. without incident. Prior to moving from SCOTT FARM that locality was paid considerable attention to by enemy long range Artillery who fired some 200 77 c.m.'s and 4.2. No damage was done to Headquarters or casualties caused by this shelling. Happenings in the Sector are outlined in this Battalion's Intelligence Summary for period 6a.m. 21/3/18 to 6a.m. 22/3/18, (Appendix "B") attached.	App. "B"
PRINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS.	Friday 22nd March.		The last 24 hours has been particularly quiet; nothing of importance has happened in the Sector. Our own and enemy Artillery is outlined in this Battalion Intelligence Summary for period 6a.m. 22/3/18 to 6a.m. 23/3/18. (Appendix "C" attached.) Our rationing arrangements are practically the same as obtained when last we were in this Sector. Mules however are employed carrying hot rations from the kitchen to the front line instead of it being manhandled as previously. We are supplying the usual parties required for a Battalion in the Line; they include 80 O/Ranks on ration carrying for front and support Companies, 40 O/Ranks for work under Field Company supervision on the Support Line and 20 O/Ranks as an ammunition carrying party for the Medium Trench Mortars. Only 4 Strong Posts were occupied by the 55th Battalion in our reserve line, 2 other have been constructed and these are being manned by us as from today. 120,000 rounds of S.A.A. were requisitioned from Brigade Dump today for the purpose of completing the establishment of S.A.A. in each Strong Point to Divisional requirements, i.e., 9000 rounds per post; this is being done tonight. 8 O/Ranks rejoined ex U.K. leave and 3 O/Ranks were admitted to Hospital.	App. "C"
PRINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS.	Saturday 23rd March		The weather during the day was perfect, nice and sunny with a gentle wind blowing towards the Hun. The night was a very brilliant and clear one. During the day the C.O. inspected the area occupied by the XXXXXX two reserve Companies in the Reserve Line and OOSTTAVERN WOOD, and the M.O. inspected the sanitary arrangements of same, also Battalion Cookhouse and Canteen. The I.O. of the 46th Battalion came to look round and inquire into dispositions preparatory to a relief, and inspected the Reserve and Support areas during the morning, and Front Line by night. Each man received a small parcel as a Xmas box from the War Chest Fund and the 2nd & 54th Battalion Comforts Fund. The parcels contained a varied assortment of articles, and the men were very grateful as they arrived at a most opportune time while in the Front Line.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PRINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS.	Sunday 23rd March (Cont'd.)		<p>A farewell order was received from Brig. General C. J. Hobkirk, D.S.O., on relinquishing the Command of the 14th Brigade; he had been in Command of the Brigade for close on 18 months during which time the Brigade had distinguished itself both in battle and sports. All ranks were very sorry at his departure. Copy of farewell order (Appendix "D") is attached.</p> <p>Owing to enemy movement on a large scale on a Southern Sector all leave was cancelled, and many officers and men were turned back from CAIAIS.</p> <p>A Battalion Defence Scheme was issued for the Defence of the Battalion Area during its occupation of same. Appendix "E" attached.</p> <p>Intelligence Summary for period 6a.m. 23/3/18 to 6a.m. 24/3/18, is attached.</p>	App. "D"
P RINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS.	Monday. 24th March		<p>Another bright sunny day, but there was no wind blowing. Observation Balloons in the vicinity were up very early and much good observation was effected.</p> <p>Lieut-Colonel Mitchell, D.S.O., in Command of the 5th Battalion, with his Staff made a very early appearance to make preliminary arrangements for the relief, orders having been changed since the previous day. During the morning Brigade Orders were received for the relief of the Battalion, and the Reserve Area, preparatory to a move to another Area.</p> <p>Battalion Operation Order No. 2 (Appendix "G"), was issued and the Battalion returned to its former area at IRISH HOUSE and WYTSCHAETE with Battalion Headquarters at SCOTT FARM. The relief was carried out in a most scientific and quick manner and was over very early. It was marred by one regrettable incident - that of the death of C.S.M. Andrews, who was killed in Support Line by a long range M.G. Bullet.</p>	App. "E" App. "F"
SCOTT FARM.	Tuesday 25th March		<p>The day broke with a rather cloudy sky, and rain threatened throughout the day. The temperature was a little lower than usual, and a cold wind blew from the N.E.</p> <p>Orders were received early to stand fast and await orders movement orders, and many were the rumours as to our destination. In spite of the cold snap winter clothing such as Sheep Skin Vests, Cardigan Jackets, Woollen Gloves and a second blanket were returned to store.</p> <p>The attitude of the enemy had changed very considerably to our previous occupation occupation of this area and there was no shelling to speak of.</p> <p>Lieut-Colonel F. D. W. Oatley, 56th Battalion, paid a visit to the C.O. during the afternoon. Word was today received from Brigade that the promotion of Capt. B. D. Jack to Temp. Major had been approved. Orders were issued this evening for move to the RENINGHELST AREA.</p> <p>The move was carried out in accordance with Operation Order No. 3. (Appendix "H") and Administrative Instructions (Appendix "H1"), attached.</p>	App. "G"
				App. "H"
				App. "H1"

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEVONSHIRE CAMP RENINGHALLST	Wednesday 26th March.		Another fine sunny day and white frost on the ground during the early morning. At midday the Battalion assembled at LA POLKA Siding, near the KEMMEL Chateau, for entrainment on the Decaville Railway to RENINGHALLST. The Battalion, less Transport and T.M.B., occupied two trains and had a pleasant and rather novel ride - as the engine had to call for reinforcements on some of the grades. We detrained at RENINGHALLST and marched to Devonshire Camp where we were put in a rather cosy camp. Orders for tomorrow's move were issued this evening - Operation Order No. 4 (Appendix "I" attached.	App. "I"
DEVONSHIRE CAMP RENINGHALLST	Thursday 27th March		The day broke with a cloudy sky again and again a cold wind blowing. The C.O. held a parade of each Company and inspected the clothing and equipment of each. He also told them as much of the situation as was known concerning the Hun Offensive. Soon after midday the Battalion moved by train to MONDICOURT. Entrainment States (Appendix "J") attached.	App. "J"
LOUVENCOURT	Friday 28th March		Mondicourt was reached at an early hour. The men had breakfast and were allowed a little time to get off the stiffness of the train journey. The Battalion then marched to LOUVENCOURT along a very pretty road through the hills; the night was spent there and orders were received for tomorrow's move.	
ACHEUX	Saturday 29th March.		During the night a good deal of rain fell with an occasional shower during the day. A nucleus of Officers and Specialists of the Battalion were selected and sent to the 5th Div., Reinforcement Wing VAUSHELLES. At 10a.m. the Battalion was on the move again towards ACHEUX, the next village. We were here getting rather close to the line, and as communication between billets was not established protective measures were taken, and an Outpost position established during the afternoon by "C" Company under Capt. J.H.Crombie.	
ACHEUX	Sunday 30th March		Another dull day with threatening rain clouds and a few showers. The Battalion remained at rest in ACHEUX. The billets of the Officers are in most cases good and all the men are in good comfortable billets. Most of the inhabitants have moved to villages in rear. Capt. A.P. Vinehall in charge of "D" Company was in charge of the outpost line, and owing to the rain had rather an uncomfortable time.	

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BSJ

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ACHEUX	Sunday 31st March		<p>The Officers actually with unit as at 6p.m. today are:-</p> <p>Lieut-Colonel. D. Mc Conaghy, C.M.G., D.S.O. Commanding.</p> <p>Capt. N.B. Lovett-M.C.-----Adjutant.</p> <p>Major. B.D. Jack-----2nd in Command.</p> <p>Capt. F.W. Hunt-----Quartermaster.</p> <p>Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M.-----Intelligence Off.</p> <p>Capt. H. Leadman, M.C.-----Medical Officer.</p> <p>Lieut. A.F. Smith-----Transport Officer.</p> <p>Lieut. W.L. Palmer-----Asst Adjtu</p> <p>Lieut. A.C. Askham-----</p> <p>Lieut. H. Brewer-----Signalling Officer.</p> <p>Lieut. K.N. Wark, D.C.M.-----Bombing Officer.</p> <p>Major. W.M. Holliday-----Chaplain.</p>	
			<p>"A" COMPANY</p> <p>Capt. D.A. Mc Nab, M.C.</p> <p>Capt. S.A. Benson</p> <p>Lieut. G.A. Dickinson</p> <p>Lieut. C.T. Winterbottom</p> <p>Lieut. O.C. Ferns.</p> <p>Lieut. J.H. Pollock.</p> <p>Lieut. J.G. Steber.</p> <p>"B" COMPANY</p> <p>Capt. H.H. Young M.C.</p> <p>Lieut. G. Adams</p> <p>Lieut. H.R. Allen</p> <p>Lieut. C.J. Small.</p> <p>Lieut. W.T.R. Green.</p> <p>Lieut. F.A. Pickup.</p> <p>"C" COMPANY</p> <p>Capt. J.H. Crombie</p> <p>Capt. R.G. Downing M.C.</p> <p>Lieut. J.A. Evans.</p> <p>Lieut. F.A. Smith.</p> <p>Lieut. J.H. Barton</p> <p>Lieut. W.L. Agnew.</p> <p>Lieut. D. Mc Arthur M.C.</p> <p>Lieut. J.H. Wicks.</p> <p>"D" COMPANY.</p> <p>Capt. A.P. Vine-Hall.</p> <p>Lieut. F.C.R. Small.</p> <p>2/Lieut. C.W. Harvey</p> <p>2/Lt. R.T. Gilligan.</p> <p>2/Lt. F.W. Reid.</p>	
			<p><i>BSJ</i> Major. Compiling Officer.</p> <p><i>Mc Conaghy</i> Lieut-Colonel. Commanding. 54th Battalion, A.I.F.</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

54th BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

MARCH

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No. Page.	<u>Appendix.</u>	Subject.
5	"A"	Operation Order No.1
5	"A1"	Instructions further to O.O. No.1
6	"B"	Summary of Intelligence.
6	"C"	do do do
7	"D"	Farewell Order.
7	"E"	Provisional Defence Scheme.
7	"F"	Summary of Intelligence.
7	"G"	Operation Order No.2
7	"H"	Operation Order No.3.
8	"H1"	Administrative Instructions.
8	"I"	Operation Order No.4
9	"J"	Entraining State.

SECRET.AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE%FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.OPERATION ORDER No. 1.REFERENCE MAP - WYTSCHAETM - 1/10,000.

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20/3/18.

1. The 54th Battalion, A.I.F., will relieve the 55th Battalion, A.I.F., in the Right Battalion Sector (left Bde. "B" Division) on the 21st. and during the night 21/22nd February, 1918.
2. The relief will be carried out in accordance with sub-joined table.
3. Subject to terms of this order details of relief will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
4. If the weather is fine the Support Line must not be passed before 8p.m. And WYTSCHAETM RIDGE before 7-15p.m. If however, mists or present rainy conditions prevail the abovenamed points may be passed half an hour earlier than the times stated above.
5. Existing L.G. A.A. Defences in the 1st and 2nd echelons will be taken over and maintained as at present laid down.
6. Completion of relief will be reported to B.H.Q., by code wire.
7. Battalion Headquarters will open at PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS at 7-30p.m. 21st inst., closing at SCOTT FARM at that time.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E.

T A B L E O F R E L I E F.

<u>COY.</u>	<u>FROM.</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>R E M A R K S.</u>
"B"	IRISH HOUSE	FRONT LINE	O.C. "D" Company will arrange to attach 2 L.G. Sections, each 1 N.C.O., and 6 O.R., to "B" Coy. L.G.'s in front line will then be as follows:- 2 each in S.P.'s 2.O.17 & 3.O.17. 1 each at G.H.Q. (A.A.) and S.P.'s 6.O.23. & 1.O.17.
"A"	LANCASHIRE HOUSE	SUPPORT LINE	
"C"	LANCASHIRE HOUSE	RESERVE LINE	Take over S.P.'s 1.O.15. 2.O.15. 5.O.15. and 6.O.15.
"D"	IRISH HOUSE	REAR RESERVE	

NOTE.

Rationing arrangements later.

20/3/18.

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INSTRUCTIONS FURTHER TO OPERATION ORDER No. 1 20/3/18.

1. RATIONING ARRANGEMENTS.

The rationing arrangements for the 21st and night 21/22nd March will be as follows:-

Dry Rations for IRISH HOUSE will be delivered during the early afternoon.

Dry Rations for LANCASHIRE HOUSE Companies will be limbered to LAMP POST CORNER at 3p.m. and there collected by parties sent from "A" and "C" Companies.

Companies will arrange for a hot meal before they move forward. The same arrangements re cooking in the line will obtain as in last tour, i.e., Reserve Companies will cook under Company arrangements. And the front and support line Companies at the Battalion Cookhouse SOMER FARM. Lieut. D.A. Mc Arthur M.C. will again act as Messing Officer.

A hot meal will be cooked for the front and support line Companies on the morning of the 22nd inst. The support Company will detail a party of 1 N.C.O., and 12 O/Ranks to report at Battalion Cookhouse at 4a.m. to collect and carry to their Companies. The meal for the front line will be carried by mule pack to RIDGE FARM DUMP and thence manhandled to the forward Companies.

The Reserve Company will detail 1 N.C.O., and 12 O/Ranks to report to the Battalion Cookhouse at 2a.m. 22nd inst., to accompany mule train and carry to Companies. O.C. Front Line Company will arrange that a guide from each of the posts meet the pack train at 3-30a.m. at RIDGE FARM DUMP.

All Company Cookhouse gear will be taken by limbers from present location to the Battalion Cookhouse. Reserve Companies will collect same from there. Limbers will report to Companies as follows:-

1 to IRISH HOUSE at 6p.m. to collect "B" & "D" Company's Utensils, and 1 to LANCASHIRE HOUSE at 7-30p.m. to take "A" & "C" Companies'.

2. RECEIPTS FOR TRENCH STORES.

Great care must be taken in the handing over of these stores, and receipts, on the usual pro-forma, must be forwarded to B.O.R. by 9a.m. on the 22nd inst.

3. GUMBOOTS. If Gumboots are required Companies will make their own arrangements with the N.C.O. i/c Gumboot Store.

4. LEWIS GUNS. Transport Officer will arrange for 1 limber to collect "B" & "D" Companies Lewis Gun Magazines at IRISH HOUSE at 5p.m. They will be carried to WYTSCHAETE CROSS ROADS. Lewis Gun Teams should accompany limbers so as to obviate any delay in unloading. An Officer will supervise the unloading.

5. BAGGAGE. Officers Baggage will be collected as follows to be taken back to the Q.M. Stores:-
Companies at IRISH HOUSE will send their valises back on ration limber. They should be stacked at 2-30p.m. ready for loading. Companies at LANCASHIRE HOUSE will stack their valises ready for collection by 7p.m. at the intersection of road and duckboard walk near "C" Company.

6. BLANKETS. Only 1 Blanket per man will be taken forward. The 2nd Blank will be rolled in bundles of twenty and stacked with Officers' valises where they will be collected and taken to the Q.M. Stores.

7. SPECIALIST OFFICERS AND N.C.O.'s WILL REPORT TO 55th BATTALION as under
Lieut. F.A. Pickup (Bn. Scouting Officer.) ----- at 11a.m.
Lieut. D.A. Mc Arthur, M.C. (Messing & Gumboot Officer.) 11a.m.
Lieut. K.W. Wark, D.C.M. (Bn. Bombing Officer.) --- 11a.m.
Lieut. H.E.G. Staples, M.M. (Bn. I.O., & L.G. Officer.) --- 11a.m.
Lieut. F.C.R. Small (Bn. Works Officer.) --- 11a.m.
Lieut. H. Brewer (Bn. Signal Officer.) --- 10a.m.

RAIDING & PATROLLING PARTY.

8.

The raiding party will report to their respective Companies

by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The Patrolling Party will remain intact and will be billeted in the Rear Reserve Company Area. Lieut. Pickup will report to the Adjutant at 9-30 a.m. prior to reporting to 55th Battalion.

The raiding arrangements for the 21st and 22nd March will be as follows:-

DRY BARRACKS for IRISH HOUSE will be delivered during the early after-

noon. The IRISH HOUSE Companies will be billeted to LAMP POST CORNER at 3 p.m. and collected by parties sent from "A" and "B" Companies at 54th Battalion, A.T.T.

1/4/18.

Companies will arrange for a hot meal before they move forward. The same arrangements for cooking in the line will obtain as in last tour. i.e., Reserve Companies will cook under Company arrangements. And the front and support line Companies at the Battalion Cookhouse SOMER FARM. Lieut. D.A. McArthur M.C. will again act as Messing Officer. A hot meal will be cooked for the front and support line Companies on the morning of the 22nd inst. The support Company will detail a party of 1 N.C.O., and 12 O.Ranks to report at Battalion Cookhouse at 4 a.m. to collect and carry to their Companies. The meal for the front line will be carried by mule pack to RIDGE FARM and thence manhandled to the forward Companies.

The Reserve Company will detail 1 N.C.O., and 12 O.Ranks to report to the Battalion Cookhouse at 2 a.m. 22nd inst., to accompany mule train and carry to Companies. O.C. Front Line Company will arrange that a guide from each of the posts meet the pack train at 3-30 a.m. at RIDGE FARM HUMP.

All Company Cookhouse gear will be taken by limbers from present location to the Battalion Cookhouse. Reserve Companies will collect same from there. Limbers will report to Companies as follows:- 1 to IRISH HOUSE at 6 p.m. to collect "B" & "D" Companies' stores, and 1 to LANGASHINE HOUSE at 7-30 p.m. to take "A" & "C" Companies' stores.

RECEIPTS FOR TRUCK STORES.

Great care must be taken in the handling over of these stores, and receipts, on the usual pro-forma, must be forwarded to B.O.R. by 9 a.m. on the 22nd inst.

GUMBOOTS. If gumboots are required Companies will make their own arrangements with the B.O.R. of Gumboot Store.

LEWIS GUNS. Transport Officer will arrange for 1 limber to collect "B" & "D" Companies Lewis Gun Magazines at IRISH HOUSE at 5 p.m. They will be carried to WYTSCHART CROSS ROADS. Lewis Gun Teams should accompany limbers so as to obviate any delay in unloading. An Officer will supervise the unloading.

BAGGAGE. Officers' baggage will be collected as follows to be taken

back to the O.M. Stores:- Companies at IRISH HOUSE will send their valises back on nation limber. They should be stacked at 2-30 p.m. ready for loading. Companies at LANGASHINE HOUSE will stack their valises ready for collection by 7 p.m. at the intersection of road and backroad with near "C" Company.

BLANKETS. Only 1 blanket per man will be taken forward. The 2nd Blanket will be rolled in bundles of twenty and stacked with Officers' valises where they will be collected and taken to the O.M. Stores.

SPECIALIST CHIEFS AND N.C.O.'s will report to 55th Battalion under Lieut. P.A. Pickup (M.C. Section Officer.) at 11 a.m. Lieut. D.A. McArthur, M.C. (Messing & Gumboot Officer.) at 11 a.m. Lieut. D.A. McArthur (M.C. Section Officer.) at 11 a.m.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 21/3/18 to 6a.m. 22/3/18

App. B.

1. The 54th Battalion, A.I.F. relieved the 55th Battalion, A.I.F., in Front Line Sector. Relief completed 9-30p.m., without casualties.
- (a) 7a.m. to 9-15a.m. Active distributive fire. wing to low visibility effect could not be observed.
9-25a.m. to 9-35a.m. 18 Pdrs. fired 20 rounds on FLY BUILDINGS.
9-45a.m. to 10-30a.m. 18 and 60 Pdrs. very active on Enemy positions from LOCK 4 to HOUTHAM.
1p.m. to 1-45p.m. 18 Pdrs. active firing in direction of HOUTHAM, and again between 2-15 and 3-45 pm. in direction of HOUTHAM and LOCK 4, several hits observed on latter.
- (b) A patrol of 1 M.G. and 2 P/Ranks examined wire between S.P.S.O.23. and 1.8.17., and found it broken for about 20 yards midway between the posts. Seven enemy dead were seen in this vicinity.
A patrol of 1 M.G. and 3 P/Ranks left 3.8.17., for the purpose of examining our wire, they report that from 17.a.9.7. to 17.a.85.85. it is badly broken by recent enemy T.M. fire.
The usual visiting patrols established communication with the flanks.
- (d) Our M.G.'s kept up a fairly continuous harassing fire during the night.
4. Enemy attitude was generally quiet, no patrols were seen or heard and T.M. and M.G. activity was only slight.
6. (a) At 1-15p.m. seven enemy planes crossed our lines from the direction of WARVICQ and heading North went as far as left flank of left Battalion Sector, and returned in direct on of WARVICQ.
At 11-30p.m. enemy plane crossed our line and dropped flares in our back area.
(b) Two planes over enemy lines were fired on by A.A. Guns from the direct on of GUMINAS at 9-15a.m.
At 11-15a.m. Plane over enemy lines was fired on by A.A. from direction of WARVICQ.
At 11-45a.m. four planes patrolling enemy line were fired on by A.A. from direction of HOUTHAM and WARVICQ SUB.
At 4-15p.m. one plane returning to our lines was fired on by A.A. from direction of GUMINAS and A.A.M.G.'s from LAKE FARM.
At 5 p.m. one plane patrolling enemy lines fired on by A.A.M.G.'s from LAKE and WASP FARMS.
At 10p.m. one machine crossed enemy lines and dropped three bombs in direction of HOUTHAM.
7. At 4p.m. smoke was seen issuing from WASP and BAB FARMS, also cloud of white smoke seen to rise from WHITE FARM.
9. Flares of a small nature sent up at intervals in groups of three, four, five and six were followed by bursts of Machine Gun Fire.
10. From 7a.m. to 8-45a.m. Gas was sent over in vicinity of Support and Reserve Areas; respirators being worn during the period. Low lying mist obscured observation throughout the day.
12. Ground muddy, but drying rapidly.
13.

Battalion Headquarters	--	0.20.b.15.15.
"B" Company	---	0.17.c.25.
"A" Company	---	0.16.c.3.4.
"C" Company	---	0.20.b.7.7.8.1.
"D" Company	---	0.14.d.2.8.15.

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Apr. B.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Cont'd.)

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3. ENEMY SHELLING.

<u>Time.</u>	<u>Locality.</u>	<u>No. of shells.</u>	<u>Cal.</u>	<u>Direction.</u>
9-15 - 9-45a.m.	O.17.a.	1	4.2	W-RVICA.
11-15a.m.	O.23.a.	2 duds	4.2	do
4-45p.m.	O.16.b.	1	do	"
4-45p.m.	O.17.a.	2 duds	"	"
4-45p.m.	O.17.b.	4 (2 duds)	"	"
7p.m.	O.20.b.	4	"	"
12-30 - 2-30a.m.	O.14.d.	80 (Gas)	"	"

22/3/18.

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

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 22/3/18 to 6a.m. 23/3/18.

1. (a) Our Artillery has been active on various targets during the 24 hours. 18 Pdrs., and Heavies engaged HOUTHEM, LOCK 4 PILLEGREMS FARM at 12-20p.m. and continued until 2p.m. Previous to this heavy mist prevented observation of our fire. At 2-20p.m. 250 rounds H.E. in Shrapnel were fired on O.18 and beyond. Between 2-30 and 2-45p.m. WHIZ FARM was engaged with Shrapnel in conjunction with H.T.M.B.'s. At 6p.m. a heavy barrage by 18 Pdrs., was put down on WATER TOWER and CANAL. At 7p.m. a Dump was hit North of WERVICQ Church. At this time our 60 Pdrs were shelling COMINES. During the night occasional bursts of fire were directed against enemy back areas.
- (b) 1 Officer (Lieut. O.C.Ferns) and 6 O/Ranks left S.P.6.O.23., at 9p.m. for the purpose of inspecting enemy wire opposite FLY-BUILDINGS; this was found to be in good condition, patrol returned at 12 midnight via S.P.1.O.17. No enemy were seen or heard. The usual liaison patrols kept lateral communication with Battalions on right and left.
4. (d) Our Machine Guns were active during the night, harassing fire being directed on enemy back areas. At 2-30p.m. H.T.M. fired 8 rounds on WHIZ FARM, good results were obtained but no movement seen.
4. Enemy Machine Guns were active, occasionally sweeping front line VERN ROAD and Tracks to Company Headquarters. M.W. were quiet. At intervals during the day GREEN WOOD and PIONEER LANE were lightly shelled from direction of HIGH FARM. At 1-30p.m. 3 rounds fell about 150 yards in rear of 1.O.17., and later 3 rounds in rear of 2.O.17. The Battery was located at O.17.d.55.50.
- (5) New wire was observed around FLY BUILDINGS and BEE FARM. Also a new Trench 120 yds long in front of HIGH FARM.
- (6) (a) Enemy Planes were not active during the day. At 6-10p.m. 6 Machines attempted to cross our lines but were driven off by our Patrols.
- (b) Our ~~Planes~~ were very active throughout the day patrolling enemy front line and immediate back area. At 5-50p.m. one of our Machines came down and engaged enemy in trench with Machine Gun Fire.
- (7) Until 12-30p.m. observation of enemy movement was prevented by fog. Isolated movement was observed at BAB FARM, PILLEGREMS FARM, OMELLETS TRENCH and L K FARM. At P.8.c.4.6. a party of 20 were observed working on a new concrete construction. Artillery were immediately communicated with and the party dispersed.

18
appc.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Cont'd.)

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One man seen observing from top of pillbox immediately in front of S.P.6.0.23. He was concealed in a hedge and camouflage between two buildings, he left at 5-50p.m. At 7-20p.m. 30 men were seen to leave OMELLETE TRANC, some were carrying water and food containers. At 3-30a.m. a good deal of movement was heard at about 0.23.b.9.8. Artillery was put on with apparently good results as no movement was heard afterwards.

- 10. A big explosion occurred during 18 pdr. shelling near 0.18.a. debris was thrown back as far as our front line.
- 9. Lamp Sign lling was observed in HOUTH during the night. Several strings of white lights were sent up in rear of enemy lines.
- 12 Ground hardening and drying quickly.
- 13. As before.

3. ENEMY SHELLING.

Time.	Locality.	No. of rounds.	Cal.	Direction.	Remarks
2p.m.	0.17.a.&.c.	10	5.9	HOUTH	
3p.m.	GREEN WOOD	10	"	"	
4 to 6-30p.m.	do	30	4.2	"	
6-20p.m.	Front Line.	56	5.9.	"	(Gas)
7-30p.m.	GREEN WOOD	5	4.2	"	
7-40p.m.	Front Line	192	4.2.	"	(Gas.)
8p.m.	Support Line	8	4.2.	"	
12-20a.m.	Front Line	9	4.2.	"	
2a.m.	Support Line	4	4.2.	"	

Unfavourable wind blew gas back on enemy line. 8 Golden Spray Flares fired at the time, immediately stopped shelling.

23/3/18.

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

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*App. D.*F A R E W E L L O R D E R .

On relinquishing the Command of the 14th Brigade, I wish to express to the Commanding Officers, Officers, N.C.O's. and men of the Brigade, my deep gratitude for the loyal and unwavering support I have at all times received during the long period I have held this Command.

I have felt it a proud privilege to command a Brigade with such a fighting record and such a reputation as the 14th has gained for itself.

The many acts of courtesy and kindness which I have received from all ranks, and which I have so much appreciated, will long be remembered by me and only intensify the sincere regret I feel at having now to say goodbye to my comrades, and this I do with my heartfelt wishes for their continued success and a safe return to AUSTRALIA.

22/3/18.

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APP "10"*

(Sgd) C.J.HOBKIRK, Brig.-Genl.,
Comdg. 14th.AUST. INF. BDE.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

APPENDIX E.

REFERENCE MAP

WYTS HASTE.

28 S.W.

1/10,000

PROVISI NAL DEFENCE SCHEME.RIGHT BATTALION OF LEFT BRIGADE.

Battalion H'Qrs.

23rd March, 1918.

-----oooOooo-----

1. DESCRIPTION OF BRIGADE AREA.

(i) Frontage: The frontage held by the Brigade extends from O.23.a.9.8. to O.12.a.0.6. - a distance of approximately 1900 yards.

(ii) Boundaries. (a) Brigade. The southern boundary runs from southern edge of OOSTTAVERNE WOOD - cross roads in OOSTTAVERNE - O.22.a.80.6 - O.22.b.75.70. - W LL FARM (exclusive) - FLY BUILDINGS (inclusive) The Northern Boundary (also N.Divisional Boundary) runs along ST ELOI - HOLLEBEKE Road to LOCK 5.

(b) Inter-Battalion. Northern edge of Z RO WOOD - MARTEN'S FARM - O.9.d.0.0. - O.15.b.75.45. - O.16.a.2.4. - the ROOZEBECK.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BATTALION AREA.(i) Dispositions.

(a) Front System. Garrison 1 Company - in a series of four Platoon Piquets with listening posts arranged as follows:-

Piquet 6.0.23. - O.23.a.7.5.9.5. furnishing night listening posts at O.23.a.7.2.85. and O.17.v.82.05.

Piquet 1.0.17. about O.17.c.75.30. furnishing night listening posts near TINY FARM at O.17.c.95.30..

Piquet 2.0.17. About O.17.c.82.70. furnishing night listening posts at O.17.c.90.60 and O.17.d.05.75.

Piquet 3.0.17. About O.17.a.75.30. furnishing night listening posts at O.17.a.92.30. and detached post in Pillbox at O.17.a.80.55.

Night listening posts mount with double sentries and in case of attack, having given warning of enemy approach, withdraw to piquet. ~~Comp~~

Company Headquarters at O.17.c.20.50 (accommodation for 25 Other Ranks.)

(b) Support Line. Garrison 1 Company. Consists of a series of three Strong Points located as follows:-

S.P.6.0.22 -- O.22.a.25.75.-- Garrison 1 Platoon.

S.P.1.0.16.-- O.16.c.40.55.-- Garrison 2 Platoons.

S.P.2.0.16.-- O.16.c.75.95.-- Garrison 1 Platoon.

There is only accommodation in S.P.1.0.16. for 1 Platoon. The other Platoon is accommodated in BUG FARM -(O.16.c.45.85.)

Company Headquarters. At O.16.c.35.40.

(c) First Reserve Line. Garrison 1 Company. Consists of a series of six Strong Points located as follows:-

S.P.1.0.15.-- O.15.c.95.20.-- Garrison 1 Platoon.

S.P.2.0.15.-- O.15.d.10.45.-- Garrison 1 Platoon.

S.P.3.0.15.-- O.15.d.05.80.-- Garrison 1 Platoon. (less 1 Sec.)

S.P.4.0.15.-- O.15.b.05.15.-- Garrison 1 Section. (Nucleus.)

S.P.5.0.15.-- O.15.b.15.65.-- Garrison 1 Platoon.

S.P.6.0.15.-- O.15.d.38.68.-- Garrison - This Strong Point is only occupied on an alarm being given.

Company Headquarters. At O.20.b.80.80.

(d) Second Reserve Line. Garrison 1 Company. Distributed in Pillboxes in OOSTTAVERNE WOOD.

Company Headquarters. At O.14.d.80.15.

(e) Battalion Headquarters. Prince Rupert's Dug-outs - O.20.b.15.1

(f) R.A.P. at O.15.c.55.90.

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APP E

APPENDIX K.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BATTALION AREA (Cont'd.)(ii) Topography.

The Battalion Area for the greater part lays in the southern portion of the ROOZEBEEK VALLEY. The ROOZEBEEK is about three feet wide inside our lines, but becomes wider in No Man's Land. Its course is North East through O.15.c. and running East from O.16.a.1.5. forms the North Battalion Boundary. From the ROOZEBEEK the ground gradually rises towards the Southern Boundary which rests on the crown of the ROOZEBEEK SPUR which juts out East of the MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE RIDGE. The highest point of the ROOZEBEEK SPUR within the Battalion Area is on the East edge of OOSTTAVERNE WOOD at about O.15.c.0.0%, and there is a gradual fall from there towards the front line. Our Piquet Line averages ten feet higher than the enemy's front system of Defences. The ROOZEBEEK VALLEY is marshy in wet weather or after a thaw, and when the going, both within our line and in No Man's Land is heavy the worst patch being that part of No Man's Land in North half of O.17.b. During a frost all ground is easy to traverse. Most of the ground East of the Support Line is under the direct observation of the enemy. In front of the Battalion Sector the enemy position is in very low ground which is intersected by numerous ditches and streams. The YPRES - COMINES CANAL crosses our front behind the enemy front system. The nature of the ground renders it difficult for the enemy to move guns freely.

(iii) Communications.(a) Signal Communications and Position Calls.

The Battalion has visual as well as telephonic communication with Brigade Headquarters., and the Support and First Reserve Companies. There is also visual communication between the Support Company and the Left Battalion Support Company. Visual Stations are established at (1) Battalion Headquarters, (2) Near Support Company at O.19.d.7.8. and (3) First Reserve Company H.Q. Signal Officers, with position calls, are located as follows:-

<u>Office.</u>	<u>Position Call.</u>
Battalion Headquarters.....	F.S.47
Front Line Company.....	F.S.59
Support Company.....	F.S. 7
First Reserve Company.....	F.S.57
Second Reserve Company.....	F.S.54
Brigade Headquarters.....	F.N.28
Group Artillery Headquarters.....	E.X.103
Divisional M.G. Company.....	F.S.45
Right Battalion.....	F.T. 6
Left Battalion.....	E.W.85.

(b) Light Railways, Tracks Approaches etc.

The Area is served with a Light Railway passing through Sq. O.14.d. to near PRESTON DUMP at O.15.c.

Pioneer Track commencing from the YPRES - MESSINES Road at O.20.a.2.0. (WYTSCHAETE Cross Roads) is duckboarded, and passing Battalion Headquarters leads to the WAMBEEK ROAD where it merges into PIONEER LANE. The latter a shallow duckboarded G.T., cuts through the Reserve and Support Lines and leads to the centre of Front Line Defences. Lateral Duckboard Tracks lead from PIONEER TRACK to the Headquarters of the Battalion on our right, to each of the two ~~Reserve~~ Reserve Company Headquarters and to VERNE DUMP. And from PIONEER LANE to the Front Company Headquarters and the Front Line Piquets.

The VERNE ROAD passing through OOSTTAVERNE goes to within 100 yds of the Front Line Company Headquarters; it is in good condition to some distance beyond the Support Line.

The WAMBEEK ROAD runs latterly from OOSTTAVERNE across the Battalion Area passing through the First Reserve Line.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BATTALION AREA (Cont'd.)(iv) Machine Guns.

The Vickers Guns located in the Area are disposed as follows:-

<u>Line.</u>	<u>Gun number.</u>	<u>Location.</u>
Support Line	S.16.	0.21.b.95.75
	S.17	0.16.c.25.10.
	S.18	0.16.a.50.15
	S.19	0.16.a.45.20
Reserve Line	R.20	0.21.a.70.90
	R.21	0.15.a.80.05
	R.22	0.15.c.90.70
	R.23	0.15.b.10.50

In addition, the following guns give supporting fire on to Battalion Sector:-

Support Line	S.20	0.16.a.60.70.
	S.21	0.16.a.15.80
Reserve Line	R.24	0.15.b.15.95

(v) Lewis Guns.

The Lewis Gun Positions in the Battalion Area are sited as follows

Front Line 1 Gun at S.P.6.0.23.-(0.23.a.75.95.)

1 Gun at S.P.1.0.17.-(0.17.c.75.30.)

2 Guns at S.P.2.0.17.-(0.17.c.82.70.)

2 Guns at S.P.3.0.17.-(0.17.a.75.30.)

1 Gun at Company Headquarters - 0.17.c.20.50.

Alternate Positions for these Guns are as follows:-

Gun at S.P. 6.0.23. - Old Pillbox at 0.23.50.90.

Gun at S.P. 1.0.17. - Old Trench at 0.17.c.70.25.

Guns at S.P.2.0.17. - JUNCTION BUILDINGS - 0.17.c.65.60.

Guns at S.P.3.0.17 - Old Pillbox at 0.17.a.75.45.

Support Line. or 0.17.a.70.30.

1 Gun at S.P. 6.0.22 - 0.22.a.25.75. X.

1 Gun at S.P. 1.0.16 - 0.16.c.40.55. X.

1 Gun at S.P. 2.0.16 - 0.16.c.75.95. X.

1 Gun at BUG FARM - 0.16.c.45.85. X.

Alternative Positions for these Guns are as follows:-

Guns at S.P. 2.0.16 - 0.16.c.40.85

Gun at S.P. 1.0.16. - 0.16.c.15.65.

Guns at S.P. 6.0.22. - 0.21.b.85.00.

Gun at BUG FARM - 0.15.d.90.45.

Reserve Line.

1 Gun at S.P. 1.0.15.- 0.15.c.95.20. X.

1 Gun at S.P. 2.0.15.- 0.15.d.05.15. X.

1 Gun at S.P. 3.0.15.- 0.15.d.05.80

11 Gun at S.P. 5.0.15.- 0.15.b.15.65. X.

1 Gun at S.P. 6.0.15.- 0.15.d.38.68.

Note. Guns marked X. denote Anti-aircraft mountings.

Other Anti-aircraft Guns are situated at locations as follows:-

1 Gun at 0.15.c.00.25.

1 Gun at Battalion Headquarters (0.20.b.15.10.)

1 Gun at First Reserve Line Company Headquarters (0.20.b.80.80.)

1 Gun at Second Reserve Line Company Headquarters (0.14.d.80.15.)

(vi) Infantry Mortars.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BATTALION AREA (Cont'd.)(vi) Trench Mortars.

H.T.M.B. Headquarters at POLKA ESTAMINET - 0.22.a.3.2.

Gun Positions :- TRENCH FARM - 0.16.d.6.1. and RIDGE FARM - 0.16.d.7.5.

M.T.M.B. Gun Positions at 0.16.e.50.05. and 0.16.c.65.80.

L.T.M.B. Headquarters at 0.19.d.9.9.

Day S.O.S. Gun Positions - 0.23.a.20.95 and 0.17.c.20.50.

Reserve Gun Position at BUG FARM - 0.16.c.45.85.

(vii) S.O.S. Relay Stations.

S.O.S. Relay Stations are established at Battalion Headquarters and each Company Headquarters. Each Front Line Post is an S.O.S. Station.

3. PRINCIPLES OF DEFENCE.

The Area is held as thinly as is consistent with security, the principle of distribution in depth being adhered to. To guard against surprise it is essential that close and constant observation of the enemy territory be maintained by means of patrols. All posts and Machine Guns are so sited as to give mutual protection and cross fire. Constant touch must be maintained between posts and with flanking Units and mutual protection and support given. The principle of immediate local counter-attack will be observed.

4. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK.

(1) In the event of a hostile attack the S.O.S. signal will be sent up from the Piquet Line and will be repeated at all relay stations, when the Artillery will open on the S.O.S. barrage lines. All Companies will stand to, manning the trenches occupied by them.

(ii) General attack.

In the event of a hostile attack on a wide front the Garrison of the Piquet Line will be thinned out, leaving a nucleus of twenty per cent of the Garrison with 1 Lewis Gun at each post. These men will be specially chosen before taking over the post and instructed as to their duties in the event of an attack. The remainder of the Garrison will withdraw to Positions previously selected by O.C. Company, preferably in the vicinity of the North and South Line through 0.17.c.2.5., where they will be held in readiness for a local counter-attack. This action will be taken in the event of a warning of an impending attack, e.g., a heavy and continuous preliminary bombardment. The nucleus Garrison in each post will direct a maximum volume of fire on the enemy, defending the position until the line is regained by our counter-attack. An alternative position will be selected for each Lewis Gun, and if the enemy's bombardment is directed on the post the alternative position will be taken up.

(b) The Support Company will man the strong points and be in readiness for a counter-attack and the moment for its delivery will be decided by the Commander on the spot, who will use his own discretion. O.C. Support Company will keep himself informed as to the Defence of the Piquet Line, and, if the situation demands it, he may ~~co-ordinate~~ co-ordinate his local counter-attack with that delivered by the Front Company.

(c) The First Reserve Company will be held as Battalion Reserve and will await orders from Battalion H.Q.

(d) The Second Company will not be depleted or move from its position until orders are received from G.O.C. Brigade.

(iii) Minor Operation.

The following will be the action in the case of a minor attack or raid:-

The Artillery Group has a forward O.P., which is in direct telephonic communication. If the S.O.S. Signal is sent up the Artillery opens on the usual S.O.S. barrage lines. In order to bring Concentrated Artillery Fire to bear on the enemy raiders, as soon as the locality on which the raid is being made can be determined, a special light signal is sent up from the Company attacked.

4. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK (Cont'd.)

(iii) (Cont'd.) The Signal is issued to, and sent up by Officers of the Front Line Company only. If the special light signal is sent up the Artillery barrage is concentrated on the Battalion Front. The special signal to be employed is notified from time to time. Should the enemy succeed in establishing himself in our line he is to be counter-attacked immediately from both flanks and from the Support Trenches. The counter-attack is to be launched by the order of the Commander on the spot - the Company Commander, Platoon Commander, Section Commander or Oldest Soldier of the party. It is essential that the counter-attack be delivered without delay to prevent the enemy consolidating.

(iv) Action in case of Gas attack.

The standing orders for defence against Gas (S.S.193) will obtain. In the event of a hostile gas shell bombardment, as distinct from a Gas Cloud attack, rattles only will be used as a warning.

(xx) Artillery.

5. The Brigade Front is covered by the HOLLEBEKE GROUP, with Headquarters at N.18.b.8.2. The Group consists of three batteries of 18 pdrs., and one Battery of 4.5. Hows., all of six guns each. The Group O.P. is at O.11.c.15.95., and at night an Artillery Liaison Officer is stationed at Battalion Headquarters.

6. (xi) Works.

The Battalion Works Officer, acting in conjunction with the Engineer Officer of the Area, will supervise all works.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

(i) Ammunition.

A Brigade Dump is situated at CATEAU FARM - O.8.c.80.50. Battalion Dump is at PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS - O.20.b.15.10. Each Strong Point in the Battalion Area has a reserve supply of 9000 rounds of S.A.A., and an adequate supply of long and short range rifle grenades. Small reserves of S.A.A. and Grenades are kept at each Company Headquarters.

(ii) Reserve Rations.

Reserve Rations are located as follows:-

Battalion H.Q. -- 400 Rations and 50 Tins of Water.
Front Line Coy. H.Q. 1000 Rations.

(iii) Rations and Supplies, Cooking etc.

Rations are delivered by Light Railway from MACONACHIE SIDING to the Battalion as follows:-

The rations for the two Reserve Companies are dealt with under Company arrangements.

Rations for the Front Line and Support Companies are dropped at Battalion Kitchen, established near SOMER FARM - O.14.c.90.25. where they are dealt with under the supervision of the Battalion Messing Officer. This Officer is responsible for the cooking arrangements and the supply of all hot and dry rations to the front and support line Companies. Two hot meals are supplied to the two latter Companies at 4-30a.m. and 7-30p.m. Meals are transported for the front line Company by pack mule from the cookhouse to RIDGE FARM, whence it is manhandled to the posts. The Support Company's hot rations are manhandled from the cookhouse.

(iv) Miscellaneous.

The Regimental Canteen is established in O ST AVERNE W OD near SOMER FARM.

A Y.M.C.A. Soup Kitchen is established in PIONEER LANE at O.15.d.2.6.

Battalion Baths capable of putting through about 15 men per hour are established near PRINCE RUPERT'S DUG-OUTS. The water is drawn from a well close by.

The Gumboot drying store is located in a pillbox at O.20.b.8.1.

23/3/18.

Loth

Capt. Adjt.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6a.m. 23rd to 6a.m. 24th March, 1918.

1. (a) Our Artillery was very active during the day. Observation of results was impossible during early parts of morning owing to low visibility. From 9 to 11-30a.m. our Guns were very active, both 18 pdrs and heavies,

At 12noon our 4.5's were active on enemy lines at about 17.d.

At 2-30p.m. our heavies were shelling at approximately P.15.d.

A fire was caused, which is still faintly burning.

At 3p.m. Hows., were shelling 25.c., and at 3-20 a Battery in rear RAVINE WOOD shelled enemy line in front of 2.0.17 with shrapnel.

At 6-30p.m. 18 pdrs were active on vicinity of WHITE FARM.

- (b) A Patrol of 1 Officer (Lieut. O.C. Ferns) and 8 O Ranks left 3.0.17 at 10-30p.m. for the purpose of inspecting the whole of our own wire, and also if enemy patrol was seen to engage them. Patrol moved along our wire from 0.17.b.0.8. to 0.17.d.0.5. The Wire from 0.17.b.0.8. to 0.17.b.2.0. approximately is in bad condition, being much broken and gapped by the 1 and M.W. fire. A large gap was found at about 0.17.d.2.9. The remainder of the wire is in good condition as far as 0.17.d.0.3. Wire from 0.17.b.0.8. to 0.17.b.2.0. consist for the greater part, of French Wire with single strand of Barbed wire on top, and is fairly easy to negotiate. No enemy patrol was seen. Noise of limbers was heard during the whole of the time that the patrol was out. When opposite GREEN FARM noise of a Motor Cycle could be heard. Artillery fire was put on to vicinity of where limbers were heard, with apparently good results, as soon afterwards noise ceased. Patrol returned via 1.0.17. at 12-45a.m. Lieut. Ferns did not proceed farther in direction of FLY BUILDINGS as he considered the visibility was too high.
- (d) Our Machine Guns were active with usual harassing fire on enemy line and tracks. Transport was heard to move more quickly when fire commenced.

4. Enemy Shelling was very light during past 24 hours. H.T.M. between 6-30 and 8-30a.m. fired on to vicinity of 3.0.17. from the direction of BANG FARM. At 7-30p.m. several landed near 1.0.17. and to the left of 3.0.17., 3 men being wounded. Machine Guns were quiet. Enemy attitude generally has been much quieter than the preceding 24 hours.

6. (a) Enemy aerial activity was practically nil. All attempts of enemy planes to cross our lines were frustrated by our patrols.
- (b) Our Planes were active from daylight to dark patrolling enemy lines and back area. From 10p.m. to midnight our bombing planes were heard crossing enemy lines.

7. A good deal of movement was observed near BLUE FARM. Several Officers were seen at various times; all seemed to be carefully noting our positions, 1 appeared to be making a sketch. Artillery was communicated with but target was too close to our own line to engage it with safety. A red cross flag was placed outside WATER TOWER during the morning. At 5-30p.m. a Working Party was observed near LOCK 4, they were dispersed by Shrapnel fire. Movement also seen near BAB FARM and OMELLETT TRENCH.

9. Very few flares were used during the night. Flash light again signalling in HOWTHEM continuously during the night. Bursts of flares varying from 3 to 6 were used well behind enemy lines during times that our planes were over.

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10. At 9-30p.m. a big fire occurred east of 2.0.17.
At 6-35p.m. several small fires were observed at approximately
0.24.a. causing dense clouds of smoke.
At 6p.m. enemy Balloon went up in direction of SERVICE.

11. Our wire was repaired and strengthened in front of 1.0.17.

12. Ground is drying and hardening rapidly.

13. As before.

3. ENEMY SHELLING.

Time.	Locality.	No.	Cal.	Direction.	Remarks.
7-30a.m.	Wall Farm.	5	5.9	HOUEH.	
12-5p.m.	0.17.b.	8	4.2	do	
5-30p.m.	Wall Farm	3	4.2	do	2ADuds.
7-30p.m.	17.c.central	4	5.9	do	

(b) A Patrol of 1 Officer (Lieut. C.C. Ferns) and 8 O.Rank left 3.0.17 at 10-30p.m. for the purpose of inspecting the whole of our own wire, and also if enemy patrol was seen to engage them. Patrol moved along our wire from 0.17.b.0.8 to 0.17.b.0.5. The wire from 0.17.b.0.5 to 0.17.b.0.8 approximately is in bad condition, being broken and sagged by the I and W. fire. A large gap was noticed in the wire between 0.17.b.0.8 and 0.17.b.0.5. The remainder of the wire is in good condition as far as 0.17.b.0.8. Wire from 0.17.b.0.8 to 0.17.b.0.5 consisted of French wire with single strand of barbed wire on top, and is fairly easy to negotiate. No enemy patrol was seen. Noise of timber was heard during the whole of the time that the patrol was out. When opposite GRAM F.M. noise of a Moto Cycle could be heard. Artillery fire was put on to vicinity of where timber were heard, with apparently good results, as soon afterwards noise ceased. Patrol returned via 1.0.17 at 12-45a.m. Lieut. Ferns did not proceed further in direction of FLY BUILDING as he considered the visibility was too high.

(d) Our Machine Guns were active with usual harassing fire on enemy line and tracks. Transport was heard to move more quickly when fire commenced.

Enemy shelling was very light during past 24 hours. H.T.M. between 6-30 and 8-30a.m. fired on to vicinity of 3.0.17. from the direction of BANG FARM. At 7-30p.m. several landed near 1.0.17. and to the left of 3.0.17. 3 men bel. & wounded. Machine Gs were quiet. Enemy attitude generally has been much quieter than the preceding 24 hours.

(a) Enemy aerial activity was practically nil. All attempts of enemy planes to cross our lines were frustrated by our patrols.

(b) Our planes were active from daylight to dark patrolling enemy lines and back area. From 10p.m. to midnight our bombing planes were heard crossing enemy lines.

A good deal of movement was observed near B.L. FARM. Several Officer were seen at various times; all seemed to be carefully noting our positions. It appeared to be making a sketch. Artillery was commenced with but target was too close to our own line to engage it with safety. A red cross flag was placed outside WATER TOWER during the morning. At 8-30p.m. a Working Party was observed near LOCK 4, they were dispersed by Shrapnel fire. Movement also seen near BAB FARM and OMLLETT TROUGH.

Very few flares were used during the night. Flash light again signalling in HOUEH continuously during the night.

Bursts of flares varying from 2 to 8 were used well behind enemy lines during times that our planes were over.

SECRET.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

OPERATION ORDER No. 2

REFERENCE SHEET 28 S.W. 1/20,000.

.81 15/18
24/3/18.

1. The 14th A.I. Brigade together with the remainder of the 5th Australian Division is being withdrawn into Corps Reserve between the 24th and 26th inst.
2. The 54th Battalion will be relieved by the 8th Battalion, A.I.F., on the night 24/25th inst.
3. On relief the Battalion will move to the LOCRIE AREA. Details as to the Area to be occupied by the Battalion will be issued later.
4. Company Commanders have already been interviewed by their Opposite numbers.
5. The 8th Battalion will not pass the WYTSCHAETE RIDGE before 8p.m.
6. Companies will ~~have~~ arrange to have guides at the commencement of PIONEER TRACK (WYTSCHAETE CROSS ROADS - O.9.b.4.O.) as follows:-

STRENGTH	REQUIRED TO GUIDE	SUPPLIED BY%
1 Off. 4 N.C.O's	Coy. taking over front line	Coy. in Support.
1 Off. 4 N.C.O's	Coy. taking over Support "	Coy. in Support.
1 Off. 4 N.C.O's	Coy. taking over 1st Res.	Coy. in 1st Res.
1 Off. 4 N.C.O's	Coy. taking over 2nd Res.	Coy. in 2nd Res.

Parties will all be at the Rendezvous at 7-30p.m.

In the case of the relief of the front line Company the "A" Company Guides will conduct the relieving Company to the intersection of the duckboard walk leading to S.P.3.O.17. and PIONEER LANE.

The Officer Commanding "B" Company will arrange to have guides from the posts meet the incoming Company at this Point.

7. Lieut. O.C. Ferns will cover the relief with the Battalion Patrolling Section. O.C. "B" Company will be given full details of the scheme later.
8. All Defence Schemes, Trench Maps, Area Stores etc., will be handed over and receipts for same forwarded to B.H.Q., by 9a.m. 26th inst. Extreme care must be taken in the compilation of these receipts. Any surplus or deficiency over or from the taking over statements forwarded after last relief will be explained in the remarks column of the receipts, which will be in accordance with the usual pro-formas. The S.A.A. Grenades etc installed last night, and during the day, will be included. A 54th Battalion "Defence Scheme" was issued last night and has been handed over to the 8th Battalion direct by B.H.Q.
9. Completion of relief will be wired to B.H.Q. by code.
10. INSTRUCTIONS.
 - (a) The T.O. will arrange to collect all Lewis Guns and Magazines at the end of PIONEER TRACK - O.19.b.4.O.
 - (b) All Cooking Utensils will be stacked at Battalion Cookhouse as early as possible after the last meal is served. The T.O. will arrange to collect them there.
 - (c) All B.H.Q., gear will be collected at the usual place, 3 limbers being required. Officers' Chargers will be sent to LAMP POST CORNER.
 - (d) B.H.Q. will close at PRINCE RUPERT'S DUGOUTS on completion of relief, and open at a place to be notified later.
 - (e) Gumboots must NOT be taken past Gumboot Store tonight. All those at present in use by "Companies will be returned immediately by all save the front line Company.

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Capt. & Adjt.
54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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AUSTRA L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .

Copy No. 29

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

APPENDIX H

O P E R A T I O N O R D E R N o . 3 .

R E F E R E N C E M A P - S H E E T 28 1 / 40,000.

1. The 54th Battalion together with the remainder of the 14th A.I. Brigade Group will move from present location to the REMINGHELST AREA on the 26th inst.
2. The dismounted portion of the Battalion will move by Light Railway from LA POLKA Station (N.21.d., as follows:-
 - (a) "B" Coy. "CD" Coy., and Battalion Headquarters (including "C" Coy's Guard at present attached to Headquarters) by train No.4 leaving the Station at 12 noon.
 - (b) "A" Coy. "C" Coy., and L.T.M.B., by train No.5 leaving LA POLKA at 12-30p.m.
 - (c) Officers Commanding parties will arrange to be assembled in the vicinity of the entraining point a clear 45 minutes before the departure of the train.
 - (d) Lieut. Wark will supervise all entraining arrangements for trains No.4 and No.5.
 - (e) Parties must move from IRISH HOUSE to the entraining point by the route most shielded from balloon or aeroplane observation.
3. Transport will move by road. Separate instructions will be issued to the T.O.
4. In order to pass the WYTSCHAETE RIDGE before visibility obtains on the 26th inst. Officers Commanding "A" and "C" Companies will arrange to move to IRISH HOUSE before 8a.m. On arrival there men will be crowded into the dugout space available, and only essential movement will be allowed. The WYTSCHAETE RIDGE will be crossed in parties of not more than 6 O/Ranks
5. An Advance Party consisting of Lieut. Staples and 5 M.C.O's (1 per Company and 1 from Headquarters) will assemble at KEMMEL CHURCH at 5a.m. on the 26th inst. They will previously have arranged with the Q.M. for bicycles. They will carry Marching Order. Lieut. Staples will receive special instructions from the Adjutant.
6. I N S T R U C T I O N S .
 - (a) D R E S S . - Full Marching Order. Steel Helmets to be worn.
 - (b) Present Billiting areas will be left scrupulously clean.
 - (c) Instructions re Baggage will be issued later.
7. Battalion Headquarters will close at SCOTT FARM at 10a.m. 26th inst. and reopen at a location and time to be notified later.
8. A C K N O W L E D G E .

25/3/18.

Capt. & Adjt.

Distribution.

No.	copy	"A" Company.
2	"B"	"
3	"C"	"
4	"D"	"
5	Q.M. & T.O.	
6	War Diary.	
7	"	
8	"	
9	"	

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APP H.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
TO ACCOMPANY OPERATION ORDER No. 3.

25/3/18.

1. LEWIS GUNS. Those Companies whose Lewis Guns have not already been sent to the Q.M.'s Store will arrange that same are stacked at IRISH HOUSE by 8a.m. The T.O. will arrange to collect.
2. TRAVELLING COOKERS AND COOKHOUSE GEAR. "B" and "D" Company Cookers will be prepared in readiness to be drawn out by 8a.m. All Cookhouse gear belonging to all 4 Companies will be stacked at IRISH HOUSE ready for collection by the T.O. by 8a.m.
The Mess Cart will report to IRISH HOUSE at 8a.m. Having collected the four Companies' Officers' Mess Gear it will proceed to LAMP POST CORNER to collect Headquarters Gear.
The T.O. will arrange for limbers to be sent as under to LAMP POST CORNER for Headquarters Baggage:-
 - 1 Limber at 9a.m. for Orderly Room and Signal Gear.
 - 1 Limber for Officers' Kits at 7a.m.
3. WATER BOTTLES. Company Commanders will ensure that all water Bottles are filled before moving off tomorrow.
4. RATIONING ARRANGEMENTS The Troops will be supplied with a hot breakfast tomorrow morning. A Haversack lunch will be carried for midday. Arrangements are being made for a hot meal to be served on arrival at Billets. Companies will arrange that two cooks per Company will accompany the Kitchens. The Sergeant Cook will also accompany the Cookers.
5. NOTE. It is essential that all the above instructions are carried out exactly to the times set down, failure to do this by any Company will mean a delay in rationing arrangements at our destination.

Distribution.

No. 1 copy "A" COMPANY.
 2 "B" "
 3 "C" "
 4 "D" "
 5 Q.M.
 6

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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 app "H.I"

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

APPENDIX I.

OPERATION ORDER No. 4
REFERENCE SHEET 28 - 1/40,000
27 - 1/40,000

26/3/18.

1. The 54th Battalion together with the remainder of the 14th A.I. Bde., Group will move from present location to "X" on the 27th inst.
2. The move will be carried out by train, the entraining point being HOPOUTRE - Sheel 27 L.17.d.
3. (a) The 54th Battalion (less "A" Company) 1 travelling kitchen & team) will move by train No.3, leaving the entraining point at 5-45p.m.
(b) "C" Company, plus 1 travelling kitchen and team, will move by No.5 train departing at 11-45p.m.
(c) All transport will report at the entraining point 3 hours and remaining personnel one and a half hours before the schedule time of departure of train.
4. DUTIES.
(a) Lieut. H.G. Staples and 5 N.C.O.'s (1 per Company and 1 for H.Q.) will constitute an advance party and will proceed by train No.1 leaving HOPOUTRE at 11-45a.m. The Q.M. will arrange to supply the party with bicycles. On arrival at X they will report to a Brigade representative at R.T.O.'s Office. This party will assemble at B.O.R. at 9-30a.m. 27th inst.
(b) Capt. J.H. Crombie will act as Brigade entraining Officer and will report to Brigade Headquarters at 8a.m. on the 27th inst., proceeding to X by train No.8, leaving HOPOUTRE at 8-45a.m on 28th inst.
5. RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.
Lieut. K.N. Wark will supervise entrainment for the Battalion. All Trains will consist of 1 Officers' Carriage, 17 flat trucks and 30 covered trucks; each flat truck will take on an average four axles. Each covered truck will take 8 H.D. Horses, 8 L.D. Horses or 40 men. Entrainment must be completed half an hour before the departure of the train.
6. Complete Marching Out States will be prepared by Companies and Transport Officer and forwarded to B.O.R. by 11a.m. 27th inst. They will show the numbers of Officers, O/Ranks, Horses H.D. or L.D. (or Mules) Wagons, G.S. and Limbered G.S., two-wheeled vehicles and Bicycles. Supply & Baggage wagons will be included.
7. The Q.M. has been instructed re supplies and will promulgate same to Q.M. Sgts.
8. INSTRUCTIONS.
(a) The T.O. will ensure that the Transport Section is ready to take the road at 1p.m.
(b) The Battalion, less "A" Company, will assemble on Company Parade Grounds ready to move off at 2-15p.m.
(c) Dress. Marching Order, Steel Helmets to be worn.
(d) Order of March - Headquarters, "B" "C" and "D" Company.
(e) Lieut. K.N. Wark will arrange to post two A.A.L.G.'s on the train ready for immediate action.
(f) O.C. "A" Company will receive special instructions re entrainment.

9 A C K N O W L E D G E.

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Capt. & Adj't

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

26/3/18.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

APPENDIX J.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

ENTRAINING STATE.

No.3 Train.

Officers.
27

O/Ranks.
528

VEHICLES

ANIMALS.

Wagons.
G.S. & L.G.S.

Cookers

Two-wheeled.

H.D. L.D. or Mules.

4

10

3

4

15

48

No.5 Train.

6 Offs. 131 O/Ranks

1 Cooker

2 Heavy Draught Horses.

27/3/18

Immanuel Barth.

Capt. & Adjt.

54th Battalion, A.I.F.

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