

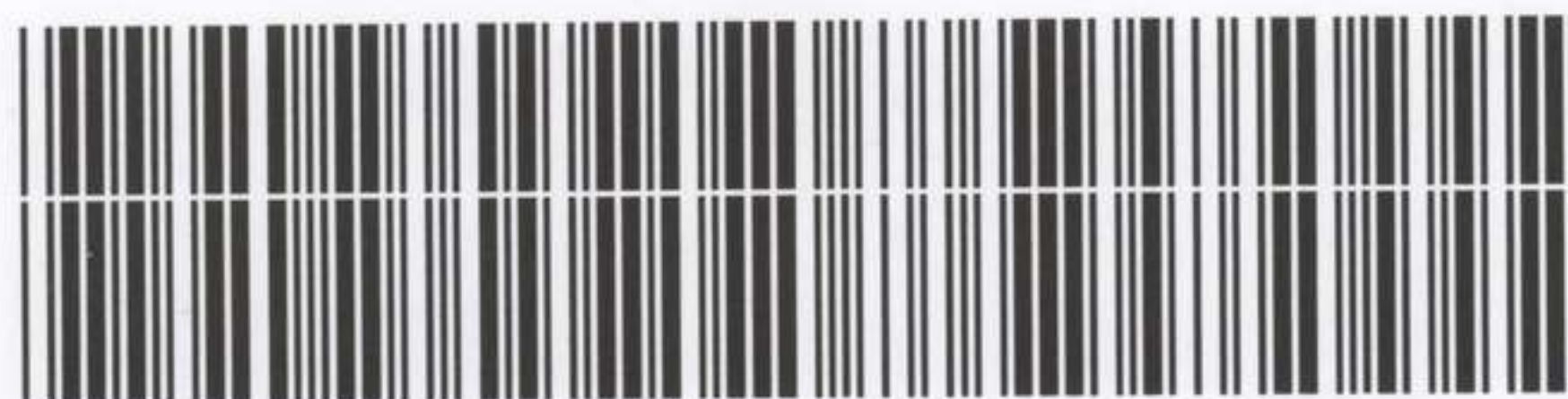
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/71/31

**Title:** 54th Infantry Battalion

August 1918



AWM4-23/71/31



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262

**Australian Imperial Force.**

# WAR DIARY

*54<sup>th</sup>* OF *Bn*

FOR

*August* 1918



Signature of Officer compiling

*W. J. Harrison L.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*D. J. Dickenson*  
*F. L. L.*



# WAR DIARY

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St. VAST.	1st.	12 noon.	<p>This morning 50<sup>th</sup> Company and 30 other ranks attended a co-operation demonstration of Tanks and Infantry at the 5th. Brigade Tank Hqrs. The remainder devoted the morning to refitting and equipping, inspection and general re-organisation,.</p> <p>The second in command called a meeting of Sports representatives to discuss future fixtures. It was decided to await details from the Brigade Sports Committee before preparing a programme. In the meantime sports were to be carried out under Company arrangements.</p>	
St. VAST.	2nd.		<p>The morning was devoted to bathing personnel at the Divisional Baths in VAUX. Pay was drawn from the Field Cashier at ALLONVILLE and Company Commanders paid their men in the afternoon. A total of 22,000 francs was drawn for the Battalion but this being found to be insufficient the C.O. instructed Mr. Pickup to draw another 8,000 on the morrow.</p> <p>Heavy rain in the morning prevented the afternoon sports.</p> <p>Movements in the Battalion were as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lieut. V.F. Back and four other ranks to Corps Schools.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lieut. Brewer )</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2/Lieut. Dodimead) and 20 other ranks reinforcements ex Hospital &amp; Wounded.</p>	
St. VAST.	3rd.	5p.m.	<p>Company parades occupied the hours from 8-30 a.m. till 12 noon. The work consisted mainly of re-organisation and refitting. It is not yet quite complete though it is hoped that another day every thing will be satisfactory.</p> <p>At 12 noon the Brigade School personnel reported back and were reallocated to their respective Companies.</p> <p>During the afternoon Major Trickey called a meeting of Company Commanders and Headquarter officers to discuss the mobility of the Battalion in connecting with the move which is foreshadowed.</p> <p>Instructions were received from Brigade for the move on night 4th/5th. The 54th. Battalion will move to a location between AUBIGNEY and DAOURS (0.7. central 1/20,000) Lieut. C. Upfold and one N.C.O. from each Company and Hqrs. details moved ahead as billeting party. Operation Order (App. 1.) was prepared.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p>	



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ST.VAST	August 4th.		<p>Preparations were early afoot for the move later in the day. Late instructions received ay 10 a.m. altered the destination from DAOURS to CARDONETTE and the orders which were in draft had to be changed to meet the emergency. See App. 1</p> <p>"B" and "C" Coys., being engaged upon the Tank Demonstration practice will not move until the afternoon of the 6th. Further movement for these two Coys are to be issued later. The 54th.Bn.Nucleus is to proceed by separate route to the BOIS de MAI where it will await the conclusion of the Battalions' tour of duty in the Line.</p>	
CARDONETTE	5th.	9-0 a.m to 8-30 p.m.	<p>The part of the Battalion detailed to proceed to CARDONETTE arrived at their destination at 2-39 a.m. and were billeted within the town. Rain threatened during the latter portion of the mch and as the low clouds entirely obscured the moon the movement awakened little interest and was to a degree rather fatiguing.</p> <p>The latter hours of the morning were entirely given over to rest. In the afternoon Companies and Headquarters details were bathed in the 5th.Div.Baths located near the Church.Fresh underclothing was issued and the opportunity to again become clean and feel afresh was gladly welcomed. At 4-45 p.m. a Battalion parade was held at which Major Trickey,temporarily Commanding the Battalion during the absence of Colonel Marshall on Corps duties- gave the men an outline of possible forthcoming operations. Rumours (furries) of a battle to be had been rife throughout the ranks earlier in the day and it was in order to create a favorable understanding and to justify the present move that the disclosure was made. Briefly stated, an advance is to be made by the Australian Corps in co_operation with the Canadian,French and English troops on the Amiens front and the operations to be carried out are to be of a larger scale than any our troops have yet taken part in in France. The effect of this news was general throughout and a feeling of expectancy and impatience to be in the fight became everywhere visible.</p> <p>At 8-39 p.m. <del>BAB-BBB</del> "A" "D" and Hqrtrs Coys moved off for the new destination in front of DAOURS. The commencement was unpropitious. Five minutes after passing the starting point rain fell and quickly developed into a heavy downpour which lasted half an hour. The route followed was via ALLONVILLE: upon reaching the far outskirts of that village marching became heavy and stretchers of mud and water on the road caused considerable annoyance. So dark was the night that "D" Coy lost communication with the leading unit and fully half an hours' delay was caused. The passage through DAOURS was</p>	



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CARDONETTE Contd.	August 5 th.		<p>especially disconcerting ; the men had to work their way through intricate lines of Tanks and Artillery convoys and the roads, more busy than the stir of a great city, needed very careful negotiation.</p> <p>The location on the embankment about 0.7.e and c. was reached at midnight.</p>	
DAOURS	August 6th.		<p>The morning was given over to rest. During the afternoon slight enemy shelling occurred about 200 yards further along the embankment in the vicinity of a tank park but no damage was done. Preparations for the coming offensive were actively proceeded with and an inspection was made soon after lunch to ensure every man was in possession of his correct issue. At 5-0 p.m. the remainder of the Battalion comprising "B" and "C" Coys rejoined from the Tank Demonstration practice.</p> <p>As soon as dusk set in the whole area about DAOURS again lived up and the bustle and traffic became more pronounced than even that of the previous night.</p> <p>The magnitude of the coming operations is becoming more apparent. During the hours of darkness the movement of tanks and armoured cars is ceaseless, and this, combined with the unusual activity in the air, is a good augur to speculate upon. What is particularly agreeable is the small amount of bombing by enemy planes within the area of concentration - an indication that the enemy is unaware of our intention on this front.</p>	
DAOURS	August 7th.		<p>The day was one of quietness. Slight shelling occurred in the embankment area, but no casualties were suffered. Movement for the morrow was regulated by Operation Order No.30 (App. 4) At about 8-0 p.m. preparations for the advance were completed and Officers and men alike went to rest in anticipation of a strenuous day on the morrow.</p> <p>Characteristic of all such present day operations the material carried by the personnel merges into a formidable load to carry especially taking into consideration the summer heat, nature of country and the length of marches imperative to such undertakings. The advantage of travelling lightly was early recognised and although the Commanding Officer had carefully eliminated unnecessary articles from the men's kit the following list of articles was considered indispensable:-</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DAOURS Contd.	August 7th.		<p>Two iron rations One aeroplane flare Two bombs 2 Sandbags One discharger cup Waterproof sheet &amp; blanket</p> <p>Two water bottles filled One S.O.S rocket 170 rounds S.A.A. One flash disc for aeroplanes Unexpired portion of day Vs rations</p> <p>The total weight of the above articles is of course augmented by a steel hat, gasrespirator and rifle and bayonet.</p>	
DAOURS	August 8th.		<p>The day was ushered in, chilly and cold. At 2-0 a.m. the valleys became concealed in a fog which gradually arose and enveloped the higher locations. When breakfast was served at 3-0 o'clock it was almost impossible to discern outstanding objects 20 yards away; the fog had been predicted by the Army Meteorologist and it was calculated to lift at about 7-0 a.m.</p> <p>Zero hour had been fixed for 4-20 a.m.;</p> <p>At 4-0 a.m. troops were moving to arms in all directions to their rendezvous on the level ground banking the River ANCRE about 0.7. e. and c.. Dawn dimly revealed long parallel columns of Companies at intervals of about 200 yards waiting for the signal to move.</p> <p>The role of the 14th, A.I. Brigade was Reserve Brigade to the 5th Division, and the 54th Battalion was detailed as Reserve Battalion to the Brigade.</p> <p>The movement from the start point commenced simultaneously with the barrage, which could be distinctly heard. Direction was made to Banana Trench on the North of VILLERS BRETONNEAUX but as the march had been timed to synchronise with the advance of the assault troops the destination was not reached until 8.20 a.m. Here a halt was made. The area had but a few minutes previous been occupied by a unit of the 5th Division Artillery, who had suffered severe casualties from enemy bombs, and their dead - both men and horses - were still lying about when the Battalion moved into occupation.</p> <p>At 12 noon preparative instructions for a further move East was made verbally by the Brigadier, and Lieut. Wark with a party of 4 men was sent forward to reconnoitre the new location. This move took place at 2.0 p.m. to a destination at P 35a.</p>	

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DAOURS (Cont)	August 8th		<p>The place proved to be on an embankment and active preparations were immediately set afoot for the erection of temporary shelters for the night. This work no sooner commenced was stopped and instructions were received for a further move forward to area in vicinity of Cross Roads in N 7 b. Upon arrival Company sites were selected and the location was speedily made defensive. At 7.30 p.m. the cooks arrived and a hot meal was served out to all ranks.</p> <p>The march through the but recently owned Boche territory, was accomplished during the heat of an exceptionally hot summers day. The signs by the wayside were evident proof of the enemys hasty and precipitate retreat. Only in selected spots had a resistance been offered to the assault troops, and these places marked by a small group of German dead, was sufficient testimony of our own decisive methods of advance.</p> <p>At about 10 p.m. expectations were held of a German counter attack but the event failed to materialize, and the remainder of the night was spent midst a quietness broken only by short periods of enemy bombing.</p>	
BAYONVILLERS	August 9th.		<p>Nothing important occurred during the morning. At 2 p.m. the C.O. was informed that role of the 14th Brigade was changed, and that it was now acting as Reserve Brigade to the 2nd Australian Division. Battle Instructions No. 33 were accordingly issued to Companies (See App. 6) Towards evening the roads and outlying fields became animated with activity and both horse and motor transport passed to and fro in never ending streams. The openness with which these columns moved brought about their own chastisement; and as soon as the dusk of evening set in enemy aeroplanes flew over and inflicted considerable damage both to personnel and material. Our casualties from this source were one killed and one wounded.</p>	
BAYONVILLERS	August 10th		<p>At 2 a.m. message was received from Headquarters 14th A.I. Brigade that H.M. the King would inspect a representative personnel of units of the Australian Forces on the 11th instant. The 54th Battalion were allotted a quota of 1 Sergeant and 4 others. At the same hour movement orders were received for Sgt. McInnes and Sgt. Bryan to proceed to Australia on 6 months leave: both N.C.O's are 1914 men, and have served with the Battalion almost continuously since its inauguration in Egypt.</p> <p>An order received from Brigade at 10 a.m. contained instructions for a move to</p>	

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BAYONVILLERS (Contd.)	August 10th		<p>the back areas North of VILLERS BRETONNEAUX at short notice; an advanced party <del>ma</del> under 2/Lieut. Dodimead was sent rearward shortly after. This news was immensely disappointing, for great hopes had been entertained of a further forward drive, with this Battalion taking a very active part. It was with rather despondent feelings therefore that the men fell in for the march back. By 12 noon the Headquarters had passed the starting point, in W 1 b. Whilst en route message was received by despatch rider that the destination was altered for FUILLOY, and the new area was reached by 5 p.m. Here a hot meal was issued and the men settled down to one or two days rest.</p>	
FUILLOY	August 11th		<p>No parades were held during the day. The party detailed to attend the King's inspection moved off at 9 a.m. for VACQUEMONT where they met the remainder of the Brigade quota. The inspection was held in a field outside that town.</p> <p>The canal being near by advantage was taken to bathe the men, and the Q.M. arranged with Companies for a clean issue of underclothing.</p> <p>During the hours of darkness enemy bombing was active in the surrounding area but no casualties were suffered by this unit.</p>	
FUILLOY	August 12th		<p>An hours parade consisting mainly of refitting of equipment was held during the morning</p> <p>During the afternoon anticipatory orders were issued verbally by the C.O. for a move on the following day.</p>	
FUILLOY	August 13th		<p>At 8 a.m. orders were issued for a move to Caix. (See app. 7) Lieut. K.N. Wark was sent forward with a party of 4 other ranks to reconnoitre the new area, and the Battalion prepared to be clear of FUILLOY by 11 a.m. The route followed was via MARCELCAVE - IGNAUCOURT - CAYEUX to CAIX.</p> <p>The march was undertaken during the heat of a day when the summer sun chanced to be exceptionally severe. The roads too, had been powdered to fine dust by the heavy traffic of the few days past, and as the column moved along, it arose in</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FUILLOY (Contd)	August 13th		<p>clouds and covered man and equipment with a white layer. As plenty of water was available little discomfort was felt in that direction, but the distance (about 16 kilos) being rather long, was fatiguing.</p> <p>Half an hour after arrival at CAIX M Lieut. Harrison was detailed to proceed forward in the direction of MEHARICOURT, to reconnoitre the area that it was anticipated the Battalion would occupy upon the morrow. About the same time, Major Trickey was summoned to a Conference of C.O.'s, to discuss details of the assault it was expected the 14th Brigade would make on the 15th inst. This operation however was postponed 24 hours, and the forward party of guides which had been sent on to MAHRICOURT to meet Lieut. Harrison were recalled.</p>	
CAIX	August 14th		<p>Operation order No. 32 (See App. 8) issued at 9 a.m. in the morning, instructed Company Commanders of a move to area about F.10 and 11 on night 14th/15th. A later order (See App.9) outlined the objective and organisation of the attack. Lieut. Harrison was detailed ahead <del>to allocate</del> with an advance party to allocate Company areas and to guide the units into position.</p> <p>At 6 p.m. instructions from Brigade cancelled <del>order</del> all arrangements and the advanced party had to be again withdrawn. A great deal of interest as well as enthusiasm had been awakened about the <del>the</del> intended attack. A small <del>arm</del> of practically every arm of the service was to be attached to the Battalion, - tanks, aeroplanes, light horse, artillery, engineers, pioneers, signal service and A.M.C. and the successful co-operation of the whole under the direct command of the C.O. was looked forward to with expectation.</p> <p>During the night enemy bombing about the area became pronounced and towards 12 midnight slight shelling commenced.</p>	
CAIX	August 15th		<p>Instructions for a move to area about Q.24 were issued at 11 a.m. (See App.10) but an hour later <del>the</del> instructions were issued postponing the move for 24 hours</p> <p>The day passed without incident.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAIX	August 16th		<p>At noon the C.O. called a meeting of Company Commanders, and instructed them about the move to be undertaken in the evening. Lieut. Harrison was sent forward with guides to reconnoitre the new area, and to make any necessary provision for the shelter of the men upon arrival: at 2 p.m. operation order No. 35 was issued ( App. )</p> <p>The Battalion commenced the march at 8.45 p.m., and by 11.45 p.m. the new area was taken over from the North Lancastershire Fusiliers and relief reported complete to Brigade. The new site consisted of dugouts and small positions cut out beneath the shelter of trees. Fairly good protection was afforded from the weather but none from enemy shells or bombs.</p>	
Q. 20 a	August 17th		<p>An hours parade was held during the morning. At noon order to occupy the area about Q 31 arrived from Brigade. Upon this the C.O. issued verbal instructions for the move, which was to be made independently by Companies. The sector was taken over from the 6th Dorsets by midnight without incident.</p> <p>The Transport lines and Rear Headquarters remained in the wood at Q 20 a.</p>	
R.31.a.	August 18th		<p>During the early hours of the morning the enemy airman were active about the PROYART area and along the main WARFUSEE Road. At 10 a.m. shelling with 5.9's commenced in the vicinity of the abandoned German dump in R.25. and 26., and shortly after a part of the timbers there were observed to be on fire.</p> <p>The defensive area occupied is an open trench system, parts of which indicate considerable wear and tear. The disposition of Companies and scheme of defence is attached. ( App. 12 )</p> <p>Little movement of note occurred throughout the day</p> <p>Departures from the Battalion were as follows:-</p> <p>To U.K. on leave Lieut. J, Midgeley</p>	
R.31.a.	August 19th		<p>The shelling commenced on the previous day continued throughout the night. A considerable portion of the dump was damaged by the fire, but a large quantity is</p>	



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Remarks and references to Appendices

R.31.a.  
(Contd.)

August  
19th

still available for salving.  
About dusk enemy aircraft crossed our lines, and destroyed an observation balloon anchored in Q.35.b.; otherwise the day passed without incident.

R.31.a.

August  
20th

During the morning enemy artillery actively fired upon area about Q.30.c. - in vicinity of Brigade Headquarters. A small German bomb dump lying by the side of the road at Q.29.d.99.00. was blown up by shell fire, and was a feature of considerable danger to passing traffic for some time. Shelling in various areas about the Battalion location was harassing throughout the day, but decreased towards night.  
Later in the day a readjustment in the Battalion dispositions were made, "C" Company moving from North of WARFUSEE Road to South of it (See App. 13).

R.31.a.

August  
21st.

At 11 a.m. orders were received for a Battalion relief in the night, and instructions were issued to Companies shortly afterwards. (See App. 14).  
The new location is in vicinity of Q.13.c.40.40. and is occupied at present by 6th Australian Battalion of Right Reserve.  
For reconnoitring purposes Lieut. Wark and party of 4 proceeded ahead, and returning to rendez vous guided the Battalion into the new site. The relief was complete at 11 p.m.  
Intelligence Summary for 17th/21st. attached (App.15).

Q.13.c.

August  
22nd.

At 9 a.m. a meeting of Sports Representatives was held Major Trickey presiding to arrange a programme for a Boxing Tournament the same afternoon. Material for a Stadium had been salvaged from the German Dump the day previous and its erection in a suitable site was being proceeded with.  
Shortly after midday Headquarters details were bathed in Canal at GAILLY and the Companies held a short inspection parade.  
The Boxing Tournament, held more as a try out- was commenced at 7.30 p.m. and proved both an entertainment for the men and an incentive for further contests. When a more restive era in active operations is reached it is proposed to organise not

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Q.13.c. (Contd.)	August 22nd.		only boxing, but other sports upon a more permanent footing, and to create a more competitive spirit amongst the men. Lieut. A.F. Smith arrived back to-day from U.K. Leave.	
Q.13.c.	August 23rd.		A few minutes after midnight a wire was received ordering instant move into area previously occupied on 21st. - Battalion operation order No. 36 (App. 16) followed The hour being dark and cloudy, a deal of time was taken up in awaking the men and getting them assembled. By 1-45 a.m. Battalion Headquarters had left the area and upon arrival at the new location the C.O. was informed that the Company reliefs were all complete. The remainder of the day was quite, and was spent in resting During the movement the Major's groom was thrown from his horse, which was startled by enemy shelling: it was last seen going towards the German lines at high speed with the saddle dangling by its side.	
R.31.a.	August 24th.		During the morning slight rain fell, and settled the dust on the roads. Except for slight shelling during the afternoon the day was not marked by anything of note. Movements in the Battalion were - Capt. H.H. Young from Reinforcement Wing to Nucleus. Capt. J.H. Benson to U.K. on leave.	
R.31.c.	August 25th.		During the morning Lt. Colonel Marshall reported back to the Battalion, and resumed command from the Major, who had been acting during his absence. At 9 p.m. enemy aeroplanes flew along the main WARFUSEE Road, and somewhat delayed a column of troops who were on their way towards the forward area. The day was marked by a chilly atmosphere, and the keenness of the night air is a portent of the early approach of winter. Such a night is a memory of those 1916 men who were on the SOMME during that severe winter; and the forthcoming one is not looked forward to with any feelings of expectation.	

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R.31.c. (Contd.)	August 25th.		<p>in Movements of the Battalion were:- n Lieut. Carrick to U.K. on leave Lieut. Dickinson from U.K. leave</p>	
R.31.c.	August 26th		<p>Nothing of note occurred throughout the day. It was thought likely that the enemy would make a counter attack in vicinity of PROYART; and Company Commanders were sent forward to reconnoitre the area likely to be occupied by the Battalion should the event occur: but nothing happened.</p>	
R.31.c	August 27th.		<p>To-day an amount of 30,000 francs was drawn from the Divisional Paymaster as pay for the Battalion personnel. Verbal instructions had been issued by the Brigadier that a move forward early in the morning was probable, and consequently all ranks were warned to be ready at a moments notice after midnight. During the night heavy rain fell, but caused little discomfort amongst the men as ample shelter had been provided during the first few days of occupation Movements in the Battalion were:- Capt D.A. McNab to U.K. on leave.</p>	
.31.c.	August 28th.		<p>The morning was spent in quietness. During the afternoon orders were received for a move forward on the following day. Upon this the Q.M. and T.O. were instructed to move their lines to a position in copse in R.32.d. before dusk.</p>	
R.31.c.	August 29th.		<p>The orders regulating the move were issued verbally to Company Commanders by the C.O. The Battalion was to move to a position in M.30 main WARFUSEE - FOUCAUCOURT Road. Lieut. Wark and a party of four were sent forward to allocate the area to Companies and Headquarters and the Battalion arrived in position at 12 noon.</p>	

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R.31.c. (Contd.)	August 29th.		<p>A few minutes after arrival however further orders detailed another move <del>to</del> to area near BELLOY at N.26.c. which was <del>to</del> commence immediately. The midday meal was straightaway issued and at 1-45 p.m. the march was continued. The area left was obnoxious on account of the number of German dead <del>left</del> lying about unburied and the unsanitary condition of the dugouts and trenches made them uninhabitable. No regrets were felt then when the order to move was given.</p> <p>No casualties were suffered during the march forward to the new area which was a part of the old 1916 SOMME battle area. As expectations were held of another immediate move, the evening meal was issued upon arrival. At 7-30 p.m. the C.O. arrived from a C.O.'s conference and straightaway gave instructions for a move before VILLERS CARBONNELL. The march was no sooner made than cancellation orders arrived and the Companies turned back to the positions just vacated, and remained there throughout the night.</p> <p>One casualty - a Battalion Headquarter's runner - was suffered.</p>	
N.26.c.	August 30th		<p>By 6 a.m. the Battalion was again on the move and proceeded to a location at N.11.a. and N.11.b. The transport lines remained in the copse at N.26.c.</p> <p>As soon as the new location was reached defensive dispositions were immediately proceeded with. The 14th. Brigade having been detailed as support to the 15th. Brigade which was to attempt the crossing of the SOMME hopes were held of the Battalion being drawn into the action. The operation was however cancelled and the men being informed that movement during the night was unlikely proceeded to rest.</p>	

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## or

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# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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## WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

FOR

AUGUST 1918

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

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*St. Mackeray Major*  
*for C.O.*



FIFTY \* FOURTH \* BATTALION.

Ref.-Map.

Sheet-62D.S.W.

1/20,000.

SPECIAL BATTALION ORDER. No.28.

4.8.18.

1. M O V E.- The Battalion will move on night 4th/5th. inst., from St.VAST. to CARDONNETTE.
2. ORDER OF MARCH.- H.Qrs., "A", B, C, and "D" Coys., Rear Guard Transport. Interval of 100 yards to be observed between Coys., and between "D" Coy., and Transport. The rear platoon of "D" Coy., will be detailed asv Rear Guard. The O.C. Rear Guard is responsible that all men of the Battalion arrive at destination.
3. R O U T E.- VAUX- COISY- CARDONNETTE.
4. D R E S S.- Battle Order with blanket and ground sheet rolled over right shoulder and under left arm.
5. ANTI-AIR-CRAFT PRE-CAUTIONS.- The usual precautions are to be taken against attack by enemy air-craft, and 2 A.A.Guns are to mounted on forward vehicles of Transport. L.G. Officer to arrange.
6. MOVEMENT & OBSERVATION.- Movement on route and in new area to be reduced to an absolute minimum.
7. D U M P.- Only necessary mobilisation and specialists Stores, S.A.A and Lewis Guns- 28 magazines per gun- to be carried by Transport. Officers valises must be reduced below authorised weight or dumped. Dumps will be formed by Q.M. at VAUX. Guard to be detailed later by Battalion Headquarters. Officers valises, packs, surplus kits, stores etc., will be dumped at E.22b.20.85, near "B" Company H.Qrs., by 1.30.p.m. to-day.
8. NUCLEUS.- Nucleus will be accomodated at BOI-de-MAY and will proceed by march route on night 4th/5th. inst., They will fall in near "B" Company Headquarters at 8.25.p.m. and be ready to move off at 8.30.p.m. Capt.C.E.Shaw will be in charge.

DRESS.- Battle Order with blanket and ground sheet rolled over right shoulder and under left arm.

DUMP.- Officers valises, packs, surplus kit, stores etc, will be dumped at E.22.b.20.85. near "B" Coy. Hqrs. by 1.0.p.m. T.O. will arrange Transport to BOI-de-MAY.

Issued to Copy No.

"A" Coy.....	1.
B " .....	2.
C " .....	3.
D " .....	4.
Q.M. & T.O.....	5.
Copies to.....	6.
C.O.....	7.
14th.A.I.Bde..	8,9,& 10.
War Diary.....	11.
File.....	

*W. Mann*  
Lieut., & A/Adjt  
54th. Battalion. A. I. F.



app. 2.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.  
.....

To:- Os. C. Companies,  
Q.M. & T.O.

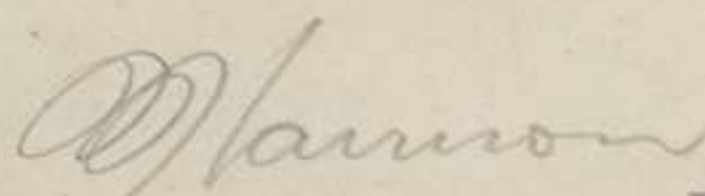
A marching out parade will be held this afternoon at 4.45.p.m. Parade will be formed up at this time on ground about G.11.b.20.60.

Headquarters and Coys. will supply one marker to report to R.S.M. on parade ground at 4.55 P.M.

Dress- Battle order, with blanket and waterproof sheet rolled over right shoulder and under left arm. Steel helmets will be worn.

Officers commanding H.Q. and Coys. will render marching out state showing all ranks marching out to forward area to-night. A marching out state of Q.M. and Transport personnel will be rendered to reach B.O.R. by 5.0.p.m.

5.8.18.



Lieut. & A/Adjt,  
54th. Battalion. A. I. F.





SECRET. FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

Copy No. ....

Ref. 26  
Sheet 520  
1/400000.

OPERATION ORDER NO 29.

5/8/18.

1. The Battalion less B. and C. Coys. will move on night 5th/6th inst. from CARDONNETTE to bivouacs - O.7.a. and C, O.13.a. H.18.a.
2. Order of march will be :-  
H.Q., "D" Coy., "A" Coy., Rear Guard, Transport.  
Intervals of 300 yards to be observed between Coys., and between "A" Coy. and Transport. Head of column will pass Cross Roads G.11.a.7.7. at 9 p.m. "A" Coy. to supply Rear Guard of one Platoon. The C.O. Rear Guard is responsible that all men arrive at destination.
3. Route to be taken - from G.11.a.7.7. along road to ALBONVILLE to BUSSEY-les-BAOURS, to BAOURS Railway Sta. thence to Bivouacs.
4. Lieut. C. Upfold with guide from H.Q. and one guide per Coy. will meet Battalion on arrival at BAOURS Railway Sta., O.7.a. Central.
5. Dress - Battle order with blanket and ground sheet rolled over right shoulder and under left arm. Steel helmets will be worn.
6. Each Coy. will mount 2 Lewis guns on arrival at Coy. positions. Coy. Commanders to arrange.  
Movement in new area to be reduced to absolute minimum.
7. Mobilization and Specialist stores, S.A.A. and Lewis Guns - 28 magazines per gun - to be carried on transport. On arrival in forward area each man will be issued with extra bandolier S.A.A. and 8 bombs. Rifle Grenadiers will carry 6 Rifle Grenades.
8. Q.M. will notify location of store and transport lines immediately on arrival in new area. Cookers will remain at transport lines. Rations will be taken forward to Battalion from Q.M. store. Q.M. and Transport Officer to make necessary arrangements.

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

Issued to :- Copy No. :-

"A" Coy.	1.
"D" Coy.	2.
C.M.&T.O.	3.

Copies to:-

C.O.	4.
14th A.I.Bde.	5.
War Diary.	6, 7, 8, 9.
File.	9.

*Rahit*  
Lieut. A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.

*[Signature]*



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APPENDIX 4

18

Ref. 62D.S&amp;W.

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION

OPERATION ORDER NO. 30

7/8/18

Co-ordination of Battle Instructions Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive  
by 14th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

GENERAL IDEAINTENTION.

The Australian Corps is to attack from VILLERS  
BRETTONNEUX - CHULNES railway exclusive to the river SOMME.

The 5th Australian Division will attack and  
consolidate the line from Q.30.c. to W.16.a. and exploit  
the old G.H.Q. Line from R.25.c. to W.25.b.

The 8th Aust. Inf. Bgde. will be on the left and  
the 15th Aust. Inf. Bgde. on the right of the Divisional front.  
14th Aust. Inf. Bgde. will be in Reserve.

ZERO hour will be plus 15 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS

On "Z" day ZERO plus 15 minutes the Brigade will  
assemble on the Road running North and South through  
O.13.a. and b.

The 56th Battalion will be on the right and the  
55th on the left, and the 54th Bn. in support of the  
56th Bn. and the 53rd. in support of the 55th Bn.

Following the 56th Bn. the 54th Bn. will move to  
the start line - BANANA SWITCH. The move will be in  
column of route in order - H.Q., A.B.C & D Coys.

Rate of movement one mile per hour, arriving on  
the Start Point about ZERO plus 4 hours.

Location of Brigade H.Q. will be ----- O.24.c.

" " Battalion H.Q. " " ----- O.30.a. 80.65

For dispositions see attached sketch "A".

"Z" day and ZERO hour will be notified verbally  
to Coy. Commanders.

The Battalion is at the disposal of the G.O.C.  
Brigade and from Start Point may be required to :-

- (a) Reconnoitre and occupy WARFUSEE-ABLANCOURT area.
- (b) Reconnoitre and consolidate BAYONVILLERS area.
- (c) ~~Reconnoitre~~ Counter attack at any point or to a flank

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONSEQUIPMENT.

Extra to Battle Instructions the following will  
be carried on the man:-

A second water bottle filled.

An extra Iron Ration.

A bandolier, 60 rounds S.A.A.

Two No. 36 Grenades.

One tin disc for aeroplane contact signalling.

One aeroplane contact flare.

Two sandbags.

Water proof sheets and blankets will be carried rolled.

TRANSPORT  
ARRANGEMENTS

Each company will have two pack mules attached  
carrying S.A.A.

The Signalling and Medical Officers will each  
have a pack mule carrying their respective equipment.

Bn. H.Q. will have two pack mules carrying S.A.A.  
and 2 pack mules carrying Light T.M. ammunition and bombs

Pack animals complete will be handed over by T.O.  
at an hour to be notified later.

Remainder of Bn. transport with full echelon will  
move to O.13.c. in rear of present H.Q. at an hour to be  
notified and to await further instructions.



Transport will be held in readiness to move at  $\pm$  20 minutes notice.

A hot cooked meal will be served at ZERO minus one hour. Field Kitchens and Water Carts will be held in readiness to move forward at about ZERO plus 12 hours to sunken road at 0.23.c. One man from Transport will move with Battalion H.Q. as liaison with Battalion transport.

CONSERVATION  
OF WATER AND  
IRON RATIONS

Owing to the probable difficulty of moving transport forward Rations and Water carried on the men should be used very sparingly.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
PRECAUTIONS

The usual precautions will be taken against attack by enemy aircraft whilst in route and whilst waiting in Reserve trenches.

At least two guns per Company will be mounted for A.A. purposes. The usual tendency on the part of men to move about in an endeavour to view the operations should be suppressed particularly when in occupation of Trench Systems.

SIGNALLING  
TO AIRCRAFT

Signalling to aircraft is done only by troops occupying most advanced positions.

WIRE CUTTERS

Four wire cutters will be carried by each Company for passage of entanglements.

Further orders will be issued in the form of Battle Instructions.

Issued to.

Copy No.

"A" Coy.  
"B" "  
"C" "  
"D" "  
Q.M.&T.O.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.

*W. Harrison* Lieut.  
for Major  
T/Commanding 54th Battalion

Copies to

14th A.I.Bgde  
War Diary  
File

6.  
7/8/9  
10

*W. Harrison*



C O D E S.

Divisional H.Q. LEGI.  
 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. RUFA.  
 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. RUJO.  
 53rd Battalion. GOSE.  
 54th Battalion. GOME.  
 55th Battalion. GOWE.  
 56th Battalion. GORE.  
 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. RUZO.  
 14th Aust. Field Ambulance. JAZU.

Companies. CALL.  
 "A" Coy. AXLE. Red.  
 "B" " BRAKE. Bed.  
 "C" " CART. Ced.  
 "D" " DAWN. Ded.

POPHAM PANEL.

54th Battalion. OX.  
 55rd Battalion. OW.  
 55th Battalion. OY.  
 56th Battalion. OZ.  
 "S.O.S" Green, Green, Green.  
 "Success" White, White, White.  
 6th Canadian Bde.) RURO.  
 27th Battalion. ) GORU.



SECRET.AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. *App 6*

Copy No.....

FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 33.

In reference to Battle Order No. 32 para. 6. action of  
2nd Aust. Division in centre sector.

The 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. has now been allotted as Reserve  
to the 2nd Aust. Division.

The 54th Battalion remains in Support to 56th Bn. and  
must be in readiness to move at short notice.

Issued on 9/8/18 at 5.50 p.m.

Copy No. 1 "A" pass to "B"  
2 "D" pass to "C"  
3 File.  
4, 5 & 6 War Diary.

for *Thamson*  
Lieut. & A/Adjt.  
T/Commanding 54th Battalion A.I.F.



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FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO.31. 13/8/18.

Ref Map. 1/40000, Parts of 62D, 62C, 66E, 66D.

1. The 54th Battalion will move from present location to E.10. and 11 in the vicinity of CAIX today 13th August.
2. (a) Order of march.- B.H.Q.  
"A" Coy.  
"B" "  
"C" "  
"D" "  
Transport.  
(b) The Bn. will be fallen in on Coy. Grounds and be ready to move at 10.45 a.m, Bn. will move to pass Bde. Starting Point - cross roads O.24.a. - in rear of 55th Bn.  
(c) Route will be notified later.
3. Lieut.K.N.Wark and 4 Other Ranks will act as guides and proceed to rendezvous to be notified later where they will meet Bn. and guide them to bivouacs.
4. Distances will be maintained in accordance with Fourth Army Standing Orders.
5. Bn. will move complete. Lewis guns, bombs, S.O.S. signals and sandbags will be carried in limbers. On arrival at bivouacs these will be issued together with extra 50 rounds S.A.A.
6. Q.M. to arrange hot meal on arrival at bivouacs.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued to :- Copy No :-

A Coy.	1.
B "	2.
C "	3.
D "	4.
Q.M.&T.O.	5.
<u>Copies to.</u>	
C.O.	6.
14th A.I.Bde.	7.
War Diary.	8.9.&10.
File.	11.

*Wark*  
Lieut.A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.



Ref. Map. 262  
62D, 62C,  
66E, 66D.

## FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

\*\*\*\*\*

OPERATION ORDER NO. 32.

14/8/18.

1. The 54th Aust. Inf. Battalion will move from present location to a forward assembly position in F.10. and 11 on night 14th/15th inst.
2. (a) Order of march will be same as for 13th inst. the 54th Bn. taking position in column in rear of 55th Bn.  
(b) Brigade Starting Point Station E.12.c.0.0.  
(c) Battalion " " E.11.c.90.60. approx.  
Times of passing starting point will be notified later.  
(d) Companies will march at 100 yards distance.  
Battalions " 200 "  
(e) In the event of all troops not being in position by daylight it will be necessary for the remainder to take cover and infiltrate to their positions.
3. Route - from present position via Luce Valley to cross roads F.13.d.3.4. - thence cross roads F.16.a.3.5. to new bivouacs.
4. Movement in new positions must be reduced to absolute minimum as the area is open to enemy observation.
5. S.A.A., bombs and sandbags will be issued before moving from present position. Lewis Guns, picks and shovels will be taken forward in limbers. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 20 and stacked near Q.M. store, 1 hour before moving off.
6. Q.M. will arrange for hot tea to be served before moving off.
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued to :-

Copy No.

"A" Coy.	1.
"B" Coy.	2.
"C" Coy.	3.
"D" Coy.	4.
Q.M.&T.O.	5.
Copies to :-	
C.O.	6.
14th A.I.Bde.	7.
War Diary.	8 to 10.
File	11.

*Rahmit*  
Lieut. & A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.



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## FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION.

APPENDIX 1

\*\*\*\*\*

Ref Map.

1/40000 (HARBONNIERES) OPERATION ORDER NO. 33.

14/8/18.

1. At a time and date to be notified later the 14th Aust. Inf. Bde. will carry out an attack on the enemy positions and between boundaries and with objectives as already shown to Coy. Cmdrs. The distribution for the attack will be :-

1st Objective.	Line right.	56th Battalion.
"BROWN LINE"	Line left.	55th Battalion.
2nd Objective.	Line right.	54th Battalion.
"GREEN LINE"	Line left.	53rd Battalion.

The 15th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be operating on Bde. left, a Canadian Bde. on Bde. right and 8th Aust. Inf. Bde. will be held in Divisional Reserve.

The attack will be assisted by tanks and each Bn. will have one M.G. Section and a section of Artillery (2 guns) attached.

2. The method of attack will be :-  
Two Battalions on an approximate frontage of 750 yards per Bn. each to capture, mop up and consolidate each objective and the intervening ground, the GREEN LINE battalions leap-frogging at the first objective. On arrival at second objective battalions will push forward and exploit enemy country to a distance of about one mile.

3. On day of attack battalions attacking first objective will form up on starting line running from Sq. A.14.c.5.0.-A.8.b.4.0.-A.2.b.9.0., the battalions attacking second objective forming up 200 yards behind and parallel with starting line. Tapes will be laid by Engineer Coys. at these places.

4. Further orders will be issued in the form of Battle Instructions. Particulars of barrage and intentions with regard to smoke screens will be issued with 54th Battalion Battle Instructions.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Extra to Battle Instructions the following will be carried on the man :-

Second water bottle filled.  
An extra iron Ration.  
Extra bandolier - 50 rounds S.A.A.  
2 No. 36 Grenades.  
1 tin disc for Aeroplane Contact Signalling.  
1 Aeroplane Contact Flare.  
2 sandbags.

Four wire cutters per Coy. will be carried for passage of entanglements.

2. Rations and water carried on the man should be used very sparingly owing to the probable difficulty of moving transport forward.

3. A hot cooked meal will be served at ZERO minus 2 hours. Transport will be held in readiness to move forward at 30 minutes notice.

"A" Coy.	1.	C.B.	6.	
"B" "	2.	14th A.I. Bde.	7.	
"C" "	3.	War Diary.	8/10.	Lieut. & A/Adjtl
"D" "	4.	File.	11.	54th Battalion A.I.F.
Q.M. & T.O.	5-			



## 54th BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 34.

15/8/18.

1. The 54th A.I. Battalion will move from present location to position to be selected in Q.20.b. on night 15th/16th August.

2. (a) Order of March will be :-

B.H.Q.  
"A" Coy.  
"B" "  
"C" "  
"D" "

Portion of Transport detailed below, and Coy. Cookers will march with and behind Companies.

(b) Battalion starting point will be notified later.

(c) Time of starting passing starting point 9.30 p.m.

(d) Companies will march at 100 yards distance.

3. Lieut. K.N. Wark will proceed forward to reconnoitre route.

4. Companies will move with Box Respirator at the Alert Position Q.20.b. is reported to be heavily bombed and gassed and every precaution will be taken to prevent casualties.

5. Usual A.A. precautions will be taken on arrival in at new position.

6. Sandbags & Lewis Guns, extra bandolier S.A.A., extra 2 bombs per man, /B.O.R. records, and blankets, rolled in bundles of 20 per bundle, will be stacked at transport lines not later than 8 p.m. to be placed on limbers.

7. Transport Officer will arrange for 4 Coy. Cookers, 2 Water Carts, 2 Lewis Gun Limbers, Mess Cart and extra necessary transport to cart blankets etc, to proceed with column. Remainder of transport will proceed to position in P.17. and P.23. tomorrow 16th inst. Exact location of transport lines to be notified to B.H.Q. when selected.

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

Issued to.	Copy No.
A Coy.	1.
B "	2.
C "	3.
D "	4.
Q.M.&T.O.	5.
Copies to :-	
C.O.	6.
14th A.I.Bde.	7.
War Diary.	8/9/10
File.	11.

*Rasnik*

Lieut. & A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.



SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Copy No...9...

Ref. Map

54th BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 35.

1/40000 HARBONNIERES.

16/8/18.

1. The 54th Battalion will relieve the 6th Dorsets (Lt.Col.) Wheldon) in battalion right reserve sector Q.30.d. - Q.36.b. - R.25.c. - R.31.a. - R.20.a & c. - R.26.a.&b., tonight 16th/17th August.
2. A Coy. relieves D Coy. 6th Dorsets.  

B Coy.	"	B Coy.	"
C Coy.	"	C Coy.	"
D Coy.	"	A Coy.	"
3. Reconnaissances will be carried out in accordance with instructions issued verbally at noon today.
4. Details of relief will be arranged between Coy. Cmdrs. concerned, who will make provision for guides and advance parties to proceed forward and take over.
5. Blankets and waterproof sheets, extra bandolier S.A.A., and 2 bombs per man will be carried on the man. Lewis guns will be placed in limbers for transport.
6. (a) Coys. will be ready to move at 8.45 p.m.  
 (b) Starting point - corner of wood Q.20.b.40.80.  
 (c) Actual time Coys. to pass starting point will be notified later.  
 (d) Platoons will move in fours at 50 yards distance.  
 (e) Transport will move independantly.
7. Trench stores, trench shelters, defence schemes, maps, aerial photographs and all information relating to sectors will be taken over and receipts forwarded to Bn. H.Q. Certificates that all trenches, dug-outs and trench shelter positions have been taken over in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition will be forwarded to Bn. H.Q. Receipts and certificates will be forwarded within 6 hours of relief.
8. Q.M. will make arrangements with regard/ to rations. Coy. Cookers, water carts, mess cart, A.M.C. cart and Lewis gun limbers will move forward to position to be occupied. Location of transport lines will be advised B.H.Q. within 12 hours of relief.



operation order No. 35 contd.

(2)

9. Completion of relief will be wired B.H.Q. by code "Your 63 received"
10. Bn. H.Q. will close at present location and open at R.31.a.1.6. at 10 p.m.
11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

Issued to :- Copy No :-

A	Coy.	1
B	"	2
C	"	3
D	"	4
Q.M.&T.O.		5

Lieut.&A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.

Copies to :-

C.O.	6
14th A.I.Bde.	7
War diary.	8.9.10
File.	11



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FIFTY FOURTH BATTALION PROVISIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME. 29/8/18.

APPENDIX 2

28

Ref. Map 1/40000 HARBONNIERES.

1. DISPOSITIONS.

The 14th Brigade is holding the Line Right of Divisional Sector, with 2 battalions in Front Line System and 2 in Reserve.

The 54th Battalion is the Right Reserve Battalion and supports the Right Line Battalion (56th Bn.)

The 53rd Battalion is on our <sup>left</sup> right supporting the Left Line Battalion (55th Bn.)

The Battalion is on our right supporting the Left Line Battalion of the Brigade on our right.

The 54th Battalion is astride the main AMIENS-FOUCACOURT road along the PROYART-FRAMERVILLE road.

An aggressive policy of offensive-defensive is to be adopted with a view to further advance. The enemy is believed to be preparing to withdraw beyond the Somme and the closest observation and touch is being maintained by our advanced units. It is unlikely that the enemy may attack but he may be encouraged to do so in lines advantageous to our general forward movement. PROYART may therefore be regarded as the site of a probable enemy pocket on which we may be required to develop a counter attack. That area of the BROWN line defences just forward of the PROYART road in squares 26-27 and at present occupied by the Reserve Coy. of the Right Line Battalion plus machine guns would have to be held at all costs and this battalion must be ready to move to this task at 10 minutes notice.

2. LOCATIONS.

14th Bde. H.Q.	.....	Q.30.c.50.50.
53rd Battalion	.....	R.19.c.45.25.
54th Battalion	.....	Q.30.d.60.40.
55th Battalion	.....	R.19.d.10.55.
56th Battalion	.....	R.26.c.20.50.
Right Line Coy. H.Q.	56th Bn.	R.34.a.80.50.
Left " "	" "	R.28.c.00.60.
Right Support Coy H.Q.	.....	
Left " "	" "	R.26.d.50.70.
"A" Coy. 54th Bn.	(Left forward)	R.26.b.30.20.
"B" Coy. "	(Left support)	Q.30.d.80.80.
"C" Coy. "	(Right Support)	Q.36.b.70.50.
"D" Coy. "	(Right forward)	R.32.b.30.90.

3. ACTION IN CASE

OF ATTACK. be required to :-

- Support the Right Line Battalion or units on its flanks.
- Counter attack forward or to a flank in co-operation with another unit or independently.
- Defend the BROWN line (under construction along the PROYART-FRAMERVILLE road approximately.

In the event of forward movement being ordered the following would be the normal procedure :-

Front Coys. would move to positions to be indicated.  
Rear Coys. would move to positions vacated by forward Companies.

Battalion H.Q. would move to H.Q. vacated by Left Forward Company---R.26.b.30.20.

4. RECONNAISSANCE.

Movement and reconnaissance forward of the BROWN line by daylight is not to be encouraged but much can be done with Field Glasses and Compass to get the locations forward. Reconnaissance can then be completed by night. Officers reconnoitring by day should wear private's uniform with badges of rank covered. Maps should be examined only under cover and carried in pockets when moving under enemy observation.



5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephone to Brigade H.Q., all Companies and  
to forward and flank battalions, through Brigade.  
Visual to <sup>forward</sup> Companies.

6. SUPPLY.

Stores, rations and water are conveyed direct  
to companies at night by Battalion Transport.

Cooking is done on open fires under shelters  
in company trench sectors.

Water is drawn by water carts at Q.30.c.4.7.  
Rear battalion and Transport Lines and Q.M. Store are  
located at Q.20.a.8.2. (Lena Wood)

7. WORKS POLICY.

The development of the area is progressing in  
the following order of importance :-

- (a) Digging and wiring BROWN line defences.
- (b) Construction of Gas Proof Shelters.
- (c) Construction and improvement of accommodation.
- (d) Wiring of old trench system through squares  
R.25.&.31.
- (e) Construction of dug-outs at R.26.d. and  
Q.30.d.
- (f) Salvage, burials and clearance of area.

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

Issued to :- Copy No :-

"A" Coy.	1.
"B" "	2.
"C" "	3.
"D" "	4.
Q.M.&.T.O.	5.

*W. Harrison*  
Lieut.&.A/Adjt.  
54th Battalion A.I.F.

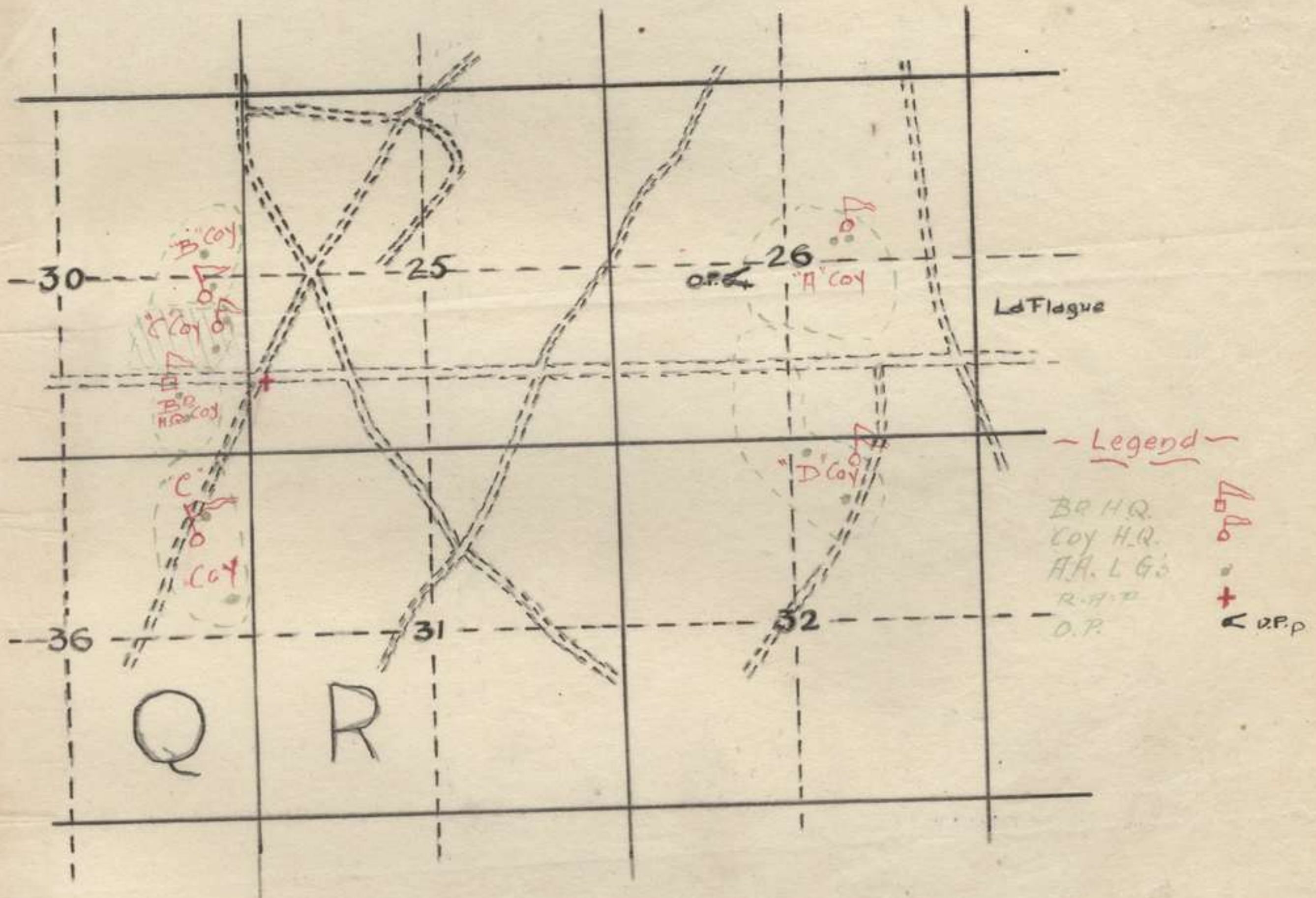
Copies to :-

C.O.	6.
14th A.I.Bde.	7.
56th Battalion.	8.
War Diary. 9.10.	11.
File.	12.

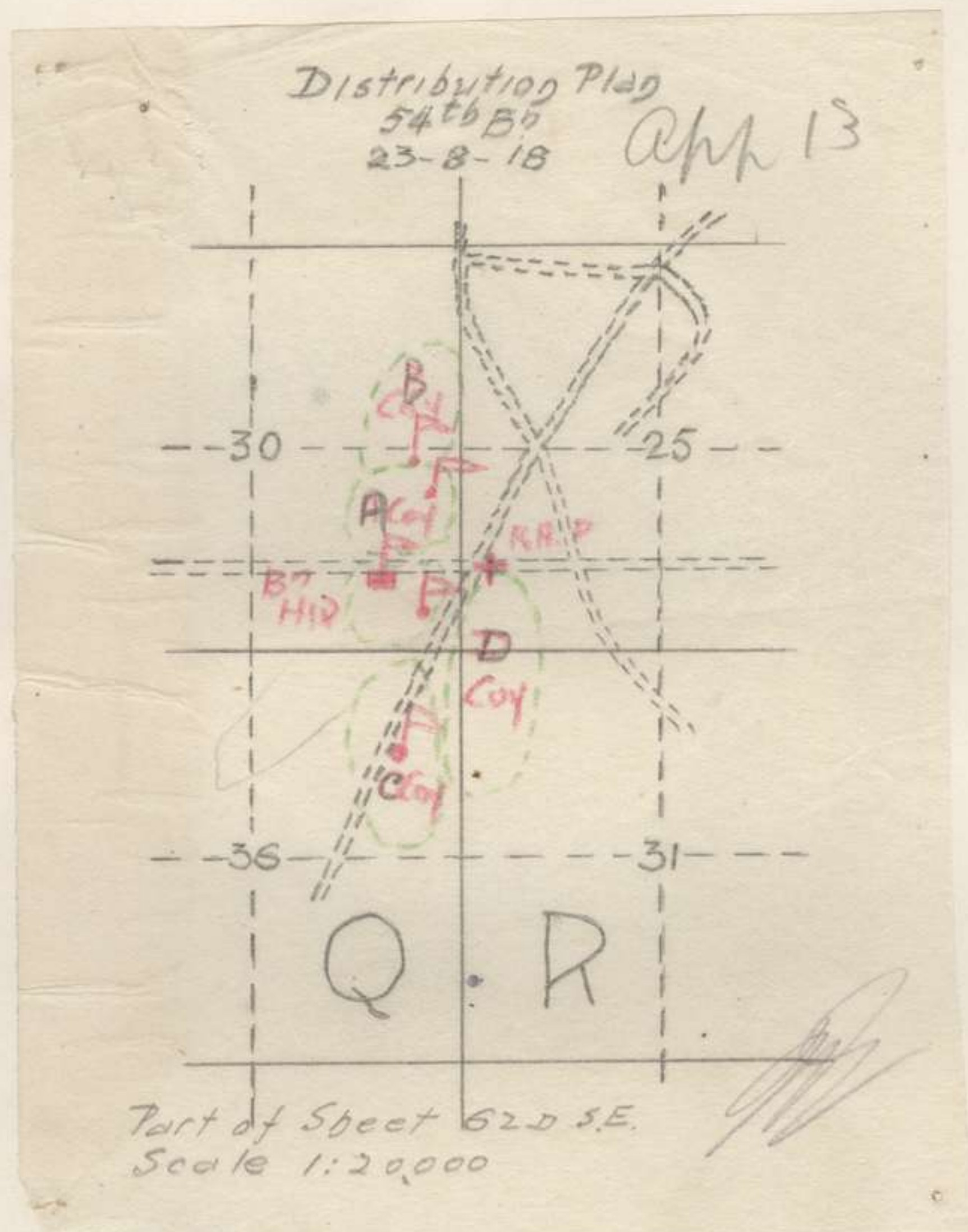


Distribution Plan  
54<sup>th</sup> Bn  
210-8-18

app 13









S E C R E T.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Copy No.....32

Ref. Map

62D, S.E.

1/20000.

54th BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 35.

21/8/18.

APPENDIX 4

1. (a) The 54th, Battalion will be relieved by the 6th, Battalion in Right reserve, during night 21st/22nd, August.
- (b) The 8th, Battalion will also <sup>occupy</sup> ~~be relieved~~ portion of the trench system at present occupied by the 54th, Battalion.
2. ( Details of Company reliefs will be arranged between Company Commanders concerned.
3. The usual Handing Over Statements, together with certificates that all trenches, Trench shelter positions and dugouts have been sprayed with a 5% solution of creosol and handed over in a clean and sanitary condition; will be forwarded to the Battalion H.Q. within 6 hours of completion of relief.
4. On relief, Companies will move independently to a point to be notified later, where they will meet Company guides who will guide them into positions to be occupied in vicinity of Q. 13. c. 4.4. Route will be selected during the day. Companies will move in small parties and every precaution must be taken to avoid casualties.
5. Lieut. K.N. Wark and one guide from each Company and Headquarters will proceed to Rear Brigade H.Q. Q. 13. c. 4.4. at 9 am. 21st. inst, for instructions regarding area to be occupied.
6. Lewis Guns, blankets rolled in bundles of 20 per, bundle, and cooks gear will be carried on limbers. Blankets will be carried on limbers. Blankets and all cooks gear will be dumped at B.H.Q. as early as possible, and Lewis Guns on completion of Company relief. A. & D. Companies will carry Lewis Guns as far back as Battalion H.Q. where they will be picked up by limber. Extra bandolier S.A.A. Sandbags, and bombs issued will be dumped and handed over to relief. Ground flares will be carried. Transport officer will arrange for one limber to proceed to A Company H.Q. to collect A & D boys spare gear.
7. Q.M. will arrange for hot meal to be served on arrival in new area.
8. Completion of relief will be notified B.H.Q. by wire "Your G2 received".
9. 54th. Battalion H.Q. will close at present location on completion of relief and open at a location to be notified later at same time.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*Thompson*  
Lt. & A/Adjt.  
54th. Bn. A.I.F

Issued to :-

A. Coy.	Copy	No. 1
B. Coy.	Copy	No. 2
C. Coy	..	No. 3
D. ..	..	No. 4
QM & TO	..	.. 5

Copies to:-

C.O.	6
6th. Bn.	7
14th. AI Bde	8
War Diary	9 10 11
File	12



Intelligence Report to 8 am. 17/8/18 :-

- 1/2 Nil.
- 3 Enemy shelled areas R20 & R26 intermittently during the night with 77's about 150 in all . Occasional shells fell in vicinity of Q30 d. & R25 c.
- 4/5 Nil.
- 6 (a) Hostile bombing 'planes active during early night chiefly along main East - West Road.
- 7/9 Nil.
- 10 (d) Night was ~~eleuday~~ clear but slightly cloudy early morning .
- (e) Battalions relieved 6th. Dorset Regiment without incident in Support Battalion area.
- 11 Battalion H.Q. Q 30 d 50-25.

Intelligence Report to 6 am. 18/8/18:-

- 1/2 Nil.
- 3 (a) Enemy shelled dump in R25 & R26 consistently with 5.9's during the day , but in late afternoon shelling decreased . Scattered shelling during period over Battalion area with 77's mainly in vicinity of Main Road through R25 & R26 , Q 30 d & Framerville - Proyart Road , Proyart shelled with 5.9's during the period .
- 4/5 Nil.
- 6 Enemy aircraft was inactive.
- 7/8/9 Nil.
- 10 (d) Visibility during the day was poor owing to haze and dust Night cloudy and dark , but sky cleared about 3am.
- 11 ~~Nil.~~ Company in vicinity of Proyart now located in R 32 a. Sketch to follow .



Intelligence Report to 6am. 19/8/18

APPENDIX 5 34

1/2 Nil.

5 Enemy shelling on PROYART with 5.9's was continuous during period, Dump in R26 & Refinery were shelled with shells of about 8" calibre. R26 a was shelled during the night with 5.9's at half hour intervals. A few 77's were also fired on the area during period, (scattered),

4/5 Nil.

6 Enemy aircraft was inactive during the day until late afternoon when three F.A. crossed our lines and brought down an observation balloon. Bombing machines were active during the night but in rear areas mainly.

7. Smoke seen from small fire near R16 d 3-5

(c) A few men seen moving in R22 a 3pm. also a waggon moving through same place at 4 pm.

8/9 Nil.

10 (b) Enemy balloon on TB 72 from R26 c 7.9

(d) Visibility was fair during the day.

11 Nil.

Intelligence Report to 6 am. 20/8/18

1/2 Nil.

5 Enemy artillery was fairly active on area during period, fire with field guns increasing. Q30 c was shelled throughout the day with 8" H.E. about 70 shells in all. Shelling on PROYART decreased. Mill in R26 d shelled at intervals during the day with 77's & 5.9's. Dump in R26 was shelled with 77's & 5.9's during the morning but fire decreased during afternoon until 5 pm. when it was again heavily shelled. 6 pm, E-W Road shelled with 4.2's, 40 searching fire. At 10.10 am. a barrage was put down with 77's for 20 minutes between PROYART & FRAMERVILLE apparently on S.O.S. lines. Q30 d shelled intermittently during the night with 77's about 50 rounds, A few gas shells at 2.30 am, in R 27.

4/5 Nil.

6 Enemy planes attempted to cross our lines at various times during the morning but were driven off by A.A fire.

7/8/9 Nil.

10 (d) Visibility was only fair during the day owing to the haze Night dark and cloudy.

11 One Company moved from North of E - W Road to South of it as per new distribution sketch forwarded.

Intelligence Report to 6 am. 21/8/18.

1/2 Nil.

3 Hostile artillery was normally active during the day period the Dump in R26 receiving most attention. This was set on fire at 9.30 am. and burnt throughout the day. PROYART. Small Station in R20 d, & LA FLAGUE, Mill received usual attention. Shelling during the night showed decrease over usual shelling

4/5 Nil.

6 Hostile aircraft were normally active during the day Bombing planes active in rear areas during the night

7/9 Nil.

10 Visibility was fair during the day. Fog came over at 2 am. and settled down thickly about 3 am.,

11 Nil.

(signed) K.N.Wark Lieut.

Intelligence Officer



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54th. Battalion Operation Order No. 36

APPENDIX 16

Ref. Map 62D. S.E. 1/20000

22/8/18

1. (a) The 54th. Battalion will move to area in old Trench System previously occupied by B & C Companies in Q30b & d and Q36b, on night 22/23 August. A & B Companies will be on the Northern and C & D on the Southern side of the road, HQ. in the same position as before.
- (b) A & D Companies will move at 1 am. B & C at 1.30 am. HQ. at 1.45 am.
2. Lieut. K.N.Wark and 1 guide per company will proceed forward to reconnoitre areas to be occupied. Guides will meet Companies at rendezvous Q30c 50-40 to guide them into position.
3. Lewis guns and Magazines will be carried on the man. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 20 per bundle and dumped at B.H.Q. Extra bandolier S&A.A will be carried on limbers and issued immediately on arrival in new area. Trench shelters and spare gear will be dumped at B.H.Q. under a guard. Q.M. will arrange to return trench shelters to Rear Brigade H.Q. on morning 23rd. instant.
4. Cooking arrangements and supply of rations will be the same as when previously occupying this trench system. Q.M. will arrange accordingly.
5. Pack mules will be sent forward to a place to be notified later where they will remain pending further instructions.
6. Companies will notify B.H.Q. by runner on completion of move.
7. B.H.Q. will close at present location at 2.30 am. and open at Q30d 50-50, at the same time.
8. ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued to:-

A. Company	Copy No.	1
B. ..	..	2
C. ..	..	3
D. ..	..	4
QM. & TO.	..	5
C.O.	..	6
14th. A.I. Bge	..	7
War Diary	..	8.9.10
File	..	11

(signed) R.A. Smith

Lt. &amp; A/Adjt

Copy to:-

54th, Battalion A.I.F.



Each issue of Orders will be issued consecutively throughout the year. A fresh series to be commenced with the first issue in each year.

Army Form O. 1810  
All Arms.

M.Y.

Unit 54th. BATTALION A.I.F. (Details in U.K.)

DAILY ORDERS. PART II. No. 58

5/8/18.

N.B.—The Sub. No. of Order and Subject are to be shown in cols. 1 and 2, thus:—1.—Courts Martial.

London England. Date

Station

Regimental No., Rank and Name.	Sqdn., Batty. or Co.	Particulars of Casualties, etc., and Date.
<u>ON COMMAND</u> 2039E <u>LIEUT. J.F. SOMERVILLE</u>		On command at Sig. School Dunstable 4/7/18. (14th. Tng. Bn. Codford.) L.5503.
<u>ROUTE OVERSEAS</u> 2040E <u>346 Pte. Warren A.</u>		Proc. O/Seas to France ex 14th. Tng. Bn. Codford via Folkestone to reinforce 53rd. Battn. 29/7/18. L.6286.
<u>PUNISHMENT</u> 1E <u>1704 Pte. Myers C.E.</u>		OFFENCE Sandhill 17/7/18. A.W.L. from M/N 16/7/18. to 2 p.m. 18/7/18. AWARD 6 days F.P.No.2 by MAJOR O. FUHRMAN 19/7/18. TOTAL FORFEITURE 8 days pay. (P.B.No.34835/9.) L.6285.
2E <u>1907 Pte. Davies L.</u>		OFFENCE Codford 10/7/18. A.W.L. from M/N 9/7/18. until 8-45 p.m. 10/7/18. AWARD 1 days F.P.No.2 by MAJOR P. ECKERSLEY 13/7/18. TOTAL FORFEITURE 2 days pay. (P.B.No.175624/37.) L.6228.
3E <u>BURIAL</u> <u>1922 Pte. Hertslet J.L.</u>		Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension Rouen. D.G.R.R. L.S. 5.1063.
4E <u>ON COMMAND</u> <u>2158 Sgt. Ketchen W.C."M.M."</u>		On command 5th. Div. Sig. School (14th. Tng. Bn.) for course of instruction ex O/Seas Tng. Bde. 27/7/18. L.G.6124.
5E <u>PUNISHMENT</u> <u>2539 Pte. Callaghan W.L.J.</u>		OFFENCE Sutton Veny 10/7/18. A.W.L. from M/N 9/7/18. until 9 p.m. 11/7/18. AWARD forfeits 3 days pay by LT. COL. R.H. BRARDSMORE 13/7/18. TOTAL FORFEITURE 5 days pay. (P.B.No.54474/26/27.) L.6153.
6E <u>ON COMMAND</u> <u>2695 Pte. Molton W.</u>		On command 5th. Div. Sig. School (14th. Tng. Bn.) for course of instruction ex O/Seas Tng. Bde. 27/7/18 L.G.6124.
7E <u>TRANSFER</u> <u>2888 Pte. Dawes A.V.</u>		Tfd. as Rfts. to M.G.C. Dtls. M.G. Tng. Dep. Parkhouse 21/6/18. ex No.3 Com. Dep. Hurdcott. (Auth. G.R. A.I.F. 26203/a.) L.E.5116.
8E <u>REVERSION</u> <u>2952 EDP Cpl. Phillips W.A.</u>		Reverts to Pte. 25/7/18. Tidworth List 81. dated 31/7/18.
9E <u>ON COMMAND</u> <u>2986 Pte. Stait O.E.</u>		On command 5th. Div. Sig. School (14th. Tng. Bn.) for course of Inst. ex O/S. Tng. Bde. 27/7/18. L.G.6124.