

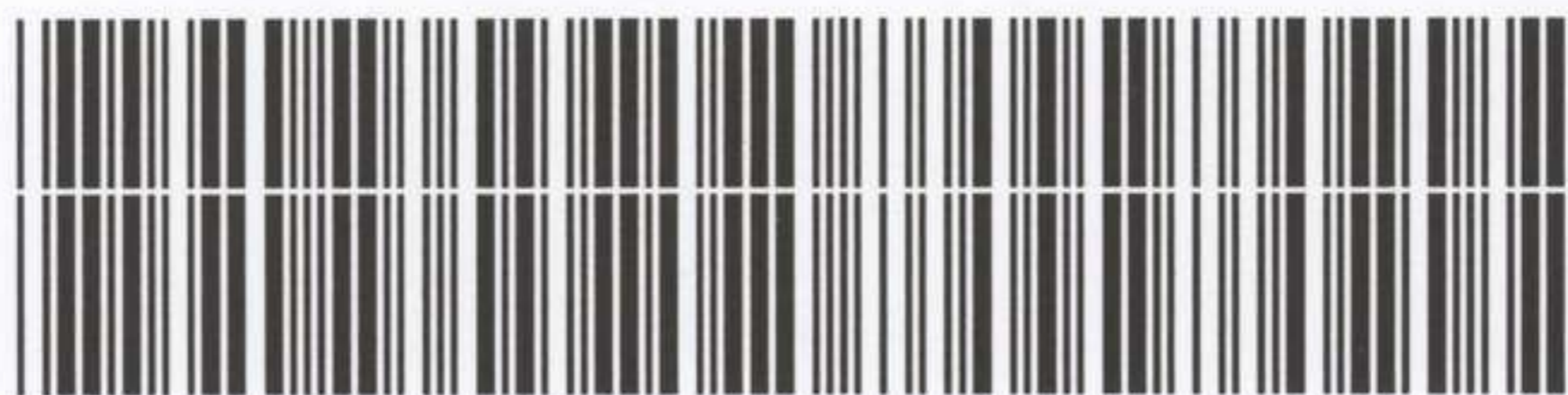
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/20/25

**Title:** 3rd Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/20/25



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
THILLOY front line	Mar. 1.	1917	<p>Day was fine &amp; clear. Enemy shelled vicinity of our posts and in LE BARQUE, LIGNY-THILLOY and THILLOY; intermittently during the day. Hostile aircraft was fairly active and flew low over our positions. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bu. relieved our outposts on N. of THILLOY and our front was transferred to a line of our posts 1000 yards in front of LE BARQUE and LIGNY-THILLOY. B. Coy in front line. C. Coy occupied a newly dug trench in rear of front line. At 1300 Reg. Aid Post was blown out - no casualties. At 0530 the enemy put a heavy barrage on various points in our sector particularly in RYE TR. and completely battered it in. A heavy fog came down about this time.</p> <p>LIEUTS H. J. F. WATSON, B. C. BERRY, returned from W<sup>est</sup> T. Hosp                  LIEUT. S. F. P. WHITE from Tiron, Major BAIZIEUX                  W<sup>est</sup> T. F. W. MORTON from wounded.</p> <p>Strength</p>	<p>ATB</p>
do		2	<p>Heavy fog enabled strong patrols of the enemy to approach our outposts without being seen. One party of 80 strong got in behind, bombed a dugout and</p>	<p>ATB</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hillcoy Front line	1917 March 2		<p>took several prisoners - our posts saw them and opened up fire on them - 16 enemy killed - 6 wounded &amp; 5 taken prisoners. Our casualties 4 OR killed &amp; 6 wounded. Our men who had been taken prisoners escaped in fight - At 1730 it was discovered that our isolated post in TRIP TR. was deserted. This had probably been surprised &amp; garrison of 12 OR &amp; 1 L.M.G. taken prisoners. Precautions were taken to strengthen garrison of posts &amp; to establish more. Wire was also put out. A forward Bn. HQ. was established 500 yards in front of YARRA BANK. At 2100 the enemy shelled vicinity of Bn. HQ. with lachrymatory shells - no damage - No signs of the enemy during the night.</p> <p>Strength - 28 off 877 OR.</p>	
do.	Nov. 9.		<p>Day was fairly quiet. Shelling was almost below normal. A reconnaissance of the forward area was made, and 90 deep dug outs were located. A trip wire was laid from RED CUT to BARRAGE Road about 30 yds in front of posts.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>



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LIGNY - THILLOY front line	1917 March	3	<p>Patrols were pushed out to ensure that the enemy was not patrolling near our lines - also on the flanks.</p> <p>C. Coy. relieved B Coy. B Coy. to left Support - D. Coy. to right support - The line is now very strongly held. Lt J. I. RUDKIN evacuated sick.</p> <p>Strength - 27 off - 855 OR.</p>	
do	Mar	4.	<p>Day fine and visibility very good. all movement in the open restricted - Shelling on both sides normal - Hun aeroplanes were active in vicinity of LE BARQUE. Word received that Bu. would be relieved by 18<sup>th</sup> A.I.F. Bu. on night of 7 inst.</p> <p>Snow fell about midnight and continued during the night. No casualties.</p> <p>Strength - a large amount of salvage ret<sup>d</sup> to Railhead.</p> <p>26 off - 853 OR.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Thuloy front line	1917 Mar 5.		Snow lying on ground - visibility bad. Artillery was quiet on both sides. Nos. 8, 9, 10 posts were relieved by 23rd Bn. and D Coy. relieved C. on post 1-7. Aircraft was normal. A large quantity of German grenades and salvage was sent to Railhead. 26 off. 848 OR. 2 OR. killed. 2 wounded.	A. J. D.
do	6		Day was clear and visibility excellent. Artillery was active on both sides - all areas received a fair amount of shelling with TPs, 4, 2, 5, 9. Aircraft was active - One of our planes forced to land in our area. 26 off. 853 OR. Front line and supports were relieved by 18th Bn A. Coy by 20th Bn - relief complete at 2330 - Bn on relief marched to SITE 4. BAZENTIN - Total casualties in the line 10 off. 10 dead, 10 off. 20 evacuated - 7 OR. killed - 2 OR. died of wounds 19 OR. wounded - 17 OR. + 1 mg. missing —	A. J. D.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARJETZ CAMP.	Mar 7.	1917	<p>Bn. moved to MARJETZ Camp. near MARJETZ WOOD at 1000. - Coys. paraded for foot inspection. Rifle &amp; ammunition inspection - Haircutting &amp; General clean ups.</p> <p>26 off. 855 - <sup>3</sup>thent. I. W. L. ORRISTON from leave to d.</p>	A.B.
			<p>8. Coys paraded from 0830 - 1130 for route march. Rifle Exercises. Inspection of gas appliances.</p> <p>Strength 27 off. 853 O.R.</p> <p>all officers attended lecture at FRICOURT by Col. FOOTT C.M.G. on "Administration" at 1700.</p>	A.B.
			<p>9. Bn. paraded at 0900 - 1100 Route March. Bomb throwing 1400 - 1600. M Gun. Rifle Grenade. &amp; Gas helmet drill.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>thent E. MCCARTHY from Dion. Salvage Coy.</p> <p>27 off. 852 O.R.</p>	A.B.
			<p>10. Same parades as for 9<sup>th</sup> inst.</p> <p>27 off. 850 O.R.</p>	A.B.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATMETZ CAMP.	Mar	11.	1917 Church service at 1000. remainder of day free. Boxing matches in afternoon. Day clear & fine. LIEUT. L. W. S. LOVEDAY. M.C. to 1st Bde. H.Q. 28 off. 845 OR.	[Signature]
do		12.	Training 0900 - 1100. Rifle Grenade throwing. Route march. Lewis MG firing. 1400 - 1600. Bomb throwing Bayonet fighting. LIEUT. H. D. ROBB to Intelligence School. H. J. F. WATSON. Gas School. 26 off. 919 OR.	[Signature]
do		13	Training 0900 - 1000 - Route march. 1000 - 1100 - Demonstration by one platoon to the Bn. in attacking a strong point which had held up an attack. The use of smoke bomb, Rifle grenades - Lewis guns & rifle was effectively demonstrated. 1400 - 1600. Platoon formations in the attack. 26 off. 923 OR.	[Signature]



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MANMETZ CAMP.	14	1914	<p>Paraded 0900-1000 - Musketry practice - rapid loading</p> <p>1000-1100 - Small arms firing - Grenade firing &amp; practice in attacking by platoons</p> <p>1100-1200 - Bayonet fighting -</p> <p>1400-1600 - Platoons in attack</p> <p>27 off 9 AM.</p>	A.P.
do	15		<p>Orders received for move to DERNANCOURT on 16<sup>th</sup> inst</p> <p>0800-0830 - Parade of NCOs for Rifle exercises.</p> <p>Morning &amp; afternoon parades. Small arms firing - Grenade firing - Bayonet fighting &amp; practice in making strong points.</p> <p>Cops. on return to camp brought in Salvage material. LIEUT. H.J.F. WATSON from Gas School.</p> <p>LT. F.W. TAYLOR from Intelligence School.</p> <p>28 off 9 AM.</p>	A.P.
do	16		<p>Parade moved in accordance with attached order to DERNANCOURT. Arrived at 1245 and went into billets - 28 - 930 AM.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERHAM COURT.	Mar 17.	1917	<p>Syllabus of training commenced as attached. Bu. paraded at 0900 to 1200 - 1400 to 1600. and carried out close order Drills &amp; boys in attack with platoons Organisation complete.</p> <p>boys also went to Corps Baths at VIVIER MILL and received change of clothing.</p> <p>Day was fine &amp; clear.</p> <p>28 off 920 OR.</p> <p><del>MAJOR A. BURRETT</del> to School ALDERSHOT. cancelled.</p> <p>LIEUT. C. J. CLIFTON to leave to U.K.</p>	<p>ATB</p>
do	do	18	<p>Church parade 0930 -</p>	<p>ATB</p>
do	do	19	<p>Bu. paraded 0900 - 0930. Close order Drill</p> <p>0930 - 1030. Training of Specialists.</p> <p>1030 - 1200. Normal formation of attack by platoons</p> <p>1400 - 1600 - boy in attack.</p> <p>Lecture at night on Messages &amp; Reports.</p>	<p>ATB</p>



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Place	Date	Hour 1917	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DERYAN COURT.	Mar	19	Orders received that Brigade would move to BRESLE on 21 <sup>st</sup> Inst. An. paraded same hours as usual and carried out training of Specialists - live grenade throwing and Range practices also platoons in attack & Coy close order drill. 29 off. 925 OR.	A.F.B.
		20	An. paraded as for 19 <sup>th</sup> inst & carried out same programme of training with Coy. in attack in addition. 29 off. 927 OR.	A.F.B.
		21.	Same programme as for 20 <sup>th</sup> . . . practiced in assaulting one & two objectives by boys. 30 OR. 929.	A.F.B.
		22.	An. moved in accordance with attached move order to <del>DER</del> RIBEMONT and went into billets. CAPT. A. McDERMID & F.C. KEMP from 4 <sup>th</sup> Army School. 30 Off. 934 OR.	A.F.B.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIBEMONT	Mar 23	1917	Bn. routine & parades as for DERNANCOURT - Specialist training & Coy in attack one & two objectives Bn. concert at night. 32 off. 966 OR.	A.F. 1
		24.	Bn. parades as usual. Morning boys in attack - afternoon Bn. in attack single objectives 32 off 966 OR	A.F. 2
		25.	Church parade at 1000. remainder of day was free for men. Lt. A.G. CORMACK joined from Apts. 33 off 967.	A.F. 3
		26.	Bn. paraded as usual. Bn. in attack 2 objectives. Rain spoilt afternoon's programme. 32 off. 947.	A.F. 4
		27.	Bn. practiced advanced guards under Bde arrangement - in morning - afternoon specialist training 32 off 946.	A.F. 5
		28.	Outpost scheme practiced - afternoon artillery formation. 31 off. 944 OR.	A.F. 6



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIBEMONT	May	1917 29	<p>Bn. carried out scheme as per attached Operation Order. Rain somewhat hampered operation. Bn. returned to camp at 1330. Remainder of day given to Coy. Comms.</p> <p>31 off. 943 OR.</p>	<p>ATJ</p>
		30	<p>Specialist training in morning - including range firing - Afternoon fitting gas helmets and Bn. close order drill. 60 men inoculated.</p> <p>31 off. 944 OR.</p>	<p>ATJ</p>
		31	<p>One Coy. on Bde. fatigued. Remainder on artillery formation practices &amp; outposts in morning. Coy. in attack in afternoon. Secret memo that Bde. would move into forward area on 3rd inst. recd.</p> <p>31 off. 953 OR.</p>	<p>ATJ</p>

L. Moore.  
Lieut Col.  
Comdg. Bn. A.I.F.



*File*

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*War Diary*

12

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 12.  
 by  
 Lieut. Colonel D.T. MOORE, D.S.O.  
 Commanding, 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.  
 5th. March, 1917.

REFERENCE MAP ALBERT 1:40.000

- (1). The 3rd. Battalion will be relieved by the 18th. Battalion on night 6th./7th. inst.
- (2). Posts 8, 9, 10 will be taken over by 23rd. Battalion tonight 5th./6th. inst.
- (3). On relief Companies will move independently to S 8. B26.
- (4). Relieving Companies will be guided to QUARRY under Battalion arrangements, with an interval of 30 minutes, between Companies. Company Commanders to meet incoming Companies at QUARRY with necessary guides.  
 "A" Company will send four guides to YARRA BANK Headquarters to meet relieving Companies at 1800 6th. inst.
- (5). TRENCH STORES, MAPS etc., will be handed over and receipts taken.  
 PICKS and SHOVELS etc., should as far as possible be collected in suitable dumps.  
 Empty Mills' Bomb boxes will be sent up tonight. Companies to collect bombs now carried by men and pack same in boxes.  
 All S.A.A. over 120 rounds per man to be collected and stacked in waterproof covers and handed over.  
 PRIMUS STOVES, & TOMMY COOKERS will NOT be handed over but will be carried out by Companies.  
 Regimental Stores, Wire Cutters, Gloves, Very Pistols etc., will also be carried out.
- (6). ADVANCED PARTIES- Lieut. BAYLEY will take over new camp at S.8.B26. and post 15 guides at CROSS ROADS S.3. B5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 Three of these guides to remain till 0500 to collect stragglers.  
 Three guides will be posted at DUCK WALKS at SOUTH EAST edge of HIGH WOOD S.10.A.88., for same purpose.
- (7). On 6th. Lieut. MACMASTER and 5 Other Ranks will take over camp at X.23.D. and will meet Battalion marching in on 7th. inst.
- (8). Battalion will march out of camp S.8.B.26. to X.23.D. at 0930 on 7th. inst.
- (9). Q.M. will arrange one blanket per man to be at S.8.B.26 and hot meal be ready for issue at 1000 on 6th. inst.  
 Water carts to be filled.
- (10). Hot tea will if possible be made at YARRA BANK and sent to Companies early on night of 6th. inst.
- (11). All stores except one blanket per man now at site 5 to be moved to X.23.D tomorrow 6th. inst. and handed to Lieut. MACMASTER.

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

(Signed) D.T. MOORE, Lieut. Colonel.  
 Commanding,  
 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.



*War Diary*

483

## BATTALION OPERATION ORDER NO. 13.

by  
 Lieut. Colonel D.F. MOORE, D.S.O.  
 Commanding, 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.  
 15th. March, 1917.

REFERENCE MAP

ALBERT 1:40,000

- (1). MOVE. The 3rd. Battalion will move to DERNANCOURT by route to-morrow 16th. inst.
- (2). STARTING POINT. Road Junction near CRUCIFIX, 800 yards S.W. of camp.
- (3). TIME. Head of leading Company to pass starting point at 1000
- "B" Company.  
 Headquarters.  
 "C" Company.  
 "D" Company.  
 "A" Company.
- (4). REAR PARTY. 2/Lieut. McCARTHY and 20 Other Ranks will form the Rear Party. This Officer to inspect and leave camp in clean state before moving off.
- (5). The following distances will be maintained EAST of FRICOURT-
- Between Platoons 50 yards.  
 Between Companies 100 yards.  
 Between every six vehicles 50 yards.
- At first halt after passing FRICOURT, Companies will close and maintain 200 yards between Companies. TRANSPORT will also close and march in one body.
- (6). ROUTE. MAMETZ - FRICOURT - MEAULTE - DERNANCOURT.

*R. A. Jones*

15th. March, 1917.

Lieut. & Adjutant.  
 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.



1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, TRAINING PROGRAMME for WEEK 19th.-24th. MARCH, 1917.

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Date.	Morning.	Afternoon.	Evening.	Remarks.
19th.	Company drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour Company normal formation for attack. Specialist training under Company Officers.	Company in attack, one objective including forming up in rear, the move forward through communication trenches and the assembly. Criticism of work by Company Commanders.	Battalion lecture for Officers. "Reports and Messages".	
20th.	Route March, 8 miles.	Company in attack, two objectives Criticism of work by Company Commanders.	Battalion Lecture for Officers. "Outposts, including protective duties after an action."	
21st.	Specialist Training under Company Officers. Musketry and range practices, Company drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.	Company on outposts including protective duties after an action. Criticism of work by Company Commanders. Brigade Tactical exercise for Senior Officers. 2	Battalion Lecture for Officers "Action against rear guards, semi open warfare, including disposition of posts around villages".	2 On ground selected for a Battalion attack.
22nd.	Action against Rear Guards, semi open warfare, including disposition of posts round villages. Particular attention to be given to intercommunication and action in case of attack by enemy. Company drill $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.	Musketry and range practices. Specialist Training under Company Officers. Battalion reconnaissance (Officers) of ground selected for Battalion attack.	Battalion Lecture for Officers "Consolidation".	
23rd.	Company moving under shell fire. Company in attack, 2 objectives including consolidation. Criticism of work by Company Commander.	Battalion drill, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Battalion normal formation for attack. Battalion in attack, one objective. Criticism of work by Battalion Commander.	Battalion lecture for Officers "Detailed explanation and normal formation of the attack as set forth in S.S.144"	



## 1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, TRAINING PROGRAMME for WEEK 19th.-24th. MARCH, 1917.

Date.	Morning.	Afternoon.	Evening.	Remarks.
Saturday 24th.	Company Training, recapitulation Battalion drill 3 hour.	Battalion in attack, two objectives. Criticism of work by Battalion Commander.	Battalion Lecture for Officers "Recapitulation of Week's Training with Battalion Commander's criticism thereof.	



## OPERATION ORDER No.14

*War Diary*

by  
 Lieut. Colonel D.F. SCOPE, D.S.O., Commanding 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.  
 21st. March 1917.

Reference Map

ALBERT 1:40000

- 1) The 3rd. Battalion will move by Route March to RIBEMONT on 22nd. inst. and go into billets there.
- 2) The Battalion will parade in FULL marching order and Steel Helmets at ~~1700~~ <sup>1300</sup> on Battalion Parade Ground.
- 3) TRANSPORT will pass starting Point at RAILWAY ARCH at 1315.
- 4) Lieut. LESLIE and one Section of "D" Company will see all billets cleared and hand over to TOWN MAJOR. Receipts in duplicate to be obtained.
- 5) Blankets to be rolled in bundles of ten and stacked in Company Dump by 0800. Officers' valises to be on same dump by 0800.
- 6) Breakfast meal at 1145.
- 7) Two C. Wagons will report at 0830 and will march with 1st. Line Transport. Two Motor wagons will report at same time and will move independently.

DISTRIBUTION :- Extra Copies to -  
 c.10 to Lieut. LESLIE.  
 c.11 to Town Major, BERNANCOURT.

*R. R. Aynew*

Lieut. & Adjutant,  
 3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.

21st. March, 1917.



War Diary  
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3rd. BATTALION ORDER NO.1

by  
Lieut. Colonel D.T. MOORE, D.S.O.  
Commanding, 3rd. Battalion ~~ZOOZZZ~~ A.I.F.  
28th. March 1917.

TRAINING

1. Reference Map ALBERT 1:40.000.
2. INFORMATION our own forces. Our force has established itself on line AVELUY- SENLIS- WARLOY. 1st and 2nd. Battalions are assumed to be occupying the outpost line E.8.C.00.95- E.8.B.75.75, thence along road to railway, thence along track (not shown on map) to ALBERT- DERNAN COURT ROAD.  
1st. Battalion with 1 section M.G. Company occupy right section.  
4th. Battalion occupy Left Section.  
The 99th. Division are on RIGHT and 2nd. Australian Division are on LEFT of Brigade front.
3. INTENTION. The 1st. Australian Brigade will advance SOUTHWARDS, push back the enemy and establish outposts on the line of the River ANCRE by the evening of 29th. inst.
4. FRONTAGE. The 3rd. Battalion will occupy country bounded on RIGHT by line through E.8.A.0.6 to E.25.D.9.2. and on LEFT by line through QUARRY W.27.c.27.-E.3c 05.55 - E.20.B.45.  
The inter-company boundary will be E.8 central to Road junction at E.14.c.8.3. to Railway 100 yards WEST of House at E.20.B.8.4.
5. A and B Companies will form the VANGUARD and will move through OUTPOST line at 1030 on 29th. inst.  
C and D Companies will form the MAINGUARD and will move in Artillery formation.
6. MOVE. Head of A Company to pass Headquarters starting point RIBEMONT Church-  

A	Company	at 0806.
B	"	50 yards distance will be maintained between Companies.
C	"	100 yards distance will be maintained between Units.
D	"	
7. SUPPLIES. Refilling point us on road at Square W.15.B.3.5.
8. TRANSPORT. The Transport will be parked near road at E.8.A.3.7. One limber S.A.A. to Brigade Reserve at E.2.c.3.3.
9. AID POST will be established at a place to be notified later.
10. REPORTS to E.8.B.0.5.

*R. R. Moore*

Lieut. & Adjutant  
3rd. Battalion, A.I.F.

28th. March 1917.

Distribution of Copies.

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| No. 4 " B        | No. 9 Medical "                 |
| No. 5 " C "      | No. 10 1st. Aust. Inf. Brigade. |