

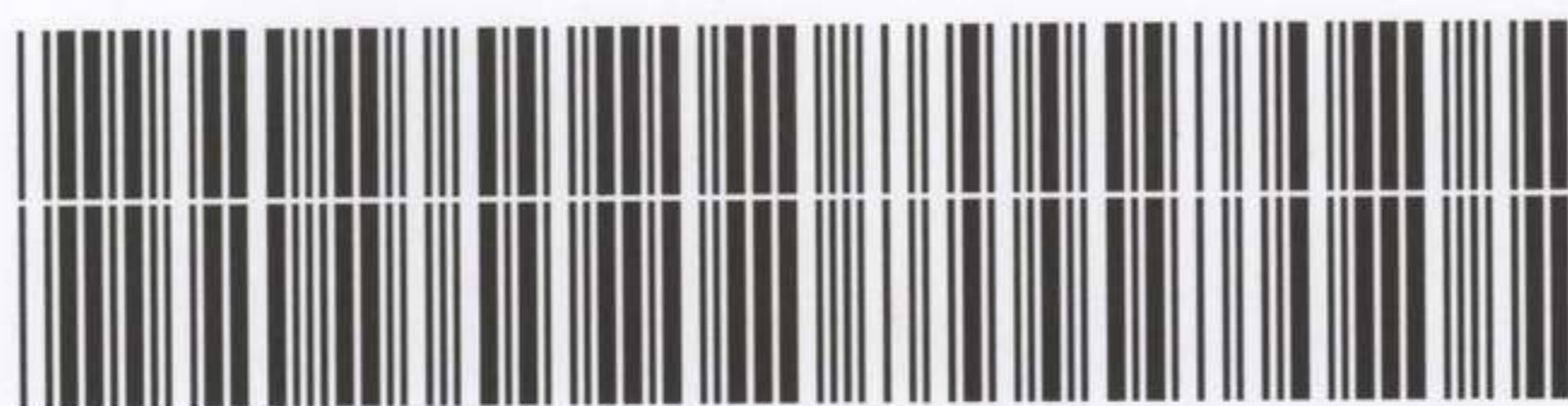
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/14/23

Title: 14th Infantry Brigade

February 1918



AWM4-23/14/23

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

14th Aust. Inf. Brigade

FOR

February 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

A. G. H. [Signature]
Regate Major 14th Inf. Bde

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Signature]
Brig. Gen. Commanding 14th Aust. Inf. Bde

WAR DIARY

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PAGE 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 1st. FRIDAY.</p>		<p>Day quite cold and a heavy mist throughout the day. There is quite a fresh wind tonight so it is probable that the fog will clear by tomorrow though the weather forecast predicts otherwise.</p> <p>Units have quite settled down now, and 'quiet sector' routine is running smoothly. The works policy is yet to be decided upon and it is difficult to draw it up until Division indicate what is considered to be the order of importance of work. From our point of view the provision of another belt of double apron throughout the extent of our front appears to be the most urgent work, and after that the extension of the present accomodation to house our numbers in their allotted and correct positions. Salvage also will demand any surplus labor and there is a good deal to be done in the way of improving and extending present communications and maintenance.</p> <p>The G.O.C. is considering the advisability of reverting from the Defence Scheme drawn up by the 1st. Brigade, to that which was originally used by us. His decision must be guided by an an indication from Division as to whether they will adhere to that of the 1st. Division or not. In the case of the former, we will merely modify the present brigade scheme to meet requirements. The chief point of difference is the lack of adequate protection and defence for ROSE WOOD (See Map, Appendix 1.) owing to the movement of support companies to the counter-attack. This it is possible to adjust, and it will further be necessary to allott definite tasks and action to the reserve battalions who, at the present time, are to a great extent unprovided for.</p> <p>The Brigade Commander visited the two reserve battalions (55th. and 53rd.) during the morning and the Brigade Major the same units during the afternoon. These are tolerably well off for accomodation, though the 53rd. are rather against retaining two platoons at OATEN WOOD. They would like them withdrawn but the situation demands rather that the reserve there should be increased to a company rather than removed altogether. This will be adjusted when the details of the defence scheme are finally arranged, but the nucleus garrison there can hardly be increased until some more accomodation is built. This latter point raises the question of material which appears to be scarce in this area. The C.R.E. is to come out tomorrow probably so we may hear something from him.</p>	<p>App. 1.</p>

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 1st. FRIDAY.		<p>Contd.</p> <p>The A.A. & Q.M.G., and D.A.A.G. of Division visited Brigade Headquarters this afternoon to see if there was anything they could do for us. We are, however getting along tolerably well except for minor details, and the nucleus question is still to the fore. We have been promised room for 200 men at LINDENHOEK and if this is obtained it will relieve the congestion in some of the units. It is a good thing to be over-strength going into the line but the accomodation difficulty always gives a lot of trouble.</p>	
	February 2nd. SATURDAY.		<p>A clear bright day, not so suitable for close reconnaissance as the two previous days, but a far more pleasant one.</p> <p>The G.O.C. during the morning walked over the northern portion of the left sector and visited the 56th Battalion Headquarters. It was not possible to go beyond the RAVINE WOOD RIDGE about DELBSKE FARM as the forward slopes are quite open to enemy fire and observation. The O.C. Field Company (Major H.A.BACHTOLD.D.S.O., M.C.) was also over that sector during the morning, and the G.O.C. discussed with him the question of the location and construction of a more advanced battalion headquarters for the left sector. A site had been chosen and the work begun, but the site is decidedly unsuitable for a battalion headquarters and it has been decided to discontinue work with that object and provide extra underground accomodation for garrisons only.</p> <p>Several visitors came to Brigade Headquarters during the day. These included the Divisional Commander who discussed questions of defence policy with the Brigadier; Major SMITH.D.A.Q.M.G. who visited and inspected the dumps, stores and drying sheds of the area accompanied by the Staff Captain; Brig.-General ANDERSON.C.R.A. 1st. Division who gave some information as to the work of the sound ranging methods which are at present used, and asked for the co-operation of the infantry in helping to examine and test the results of their work; Major S.A.HUNN, G.S.O. 2. Intelligence Australian Corps on a</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 2nd. SATURDAY.</p>		<p>Contd. general visit to see if the Intelligence branch of the brigade was working smoothly or needed help. This reminds us that during last night the 8th Brigade secured two prisoners, who wandered into their lines and who proved to be from the 17th Reserve Division. This established a new identification opposite this Division and information was gained that the 17th. relieved the 8th. Division on the night 30th. 31st. January, coincident with our brigade relief. We are rather piqued that the 8th. Brigade should have been so lucky as to secure them, but it was purely the fortune of war. Now that the identification has been established it is scarcely necessary to arrange any minor operation or raid to obtain further.</p> <p>The A.P.M. 5th Australian Division, and the Divisional Gas Officer also called during the day to discuss various matters concerning their own particular departments.</p>	
	<p>February 3rd. SUNDAY.</p>		<p>Bright and sunny during the day but rather cold. There was a heavy frost last night.</p> <p>The night was uneventful everything being very quiet. The 56th. Battalion sent out two patrols towards THE GIANT and THE TWINS who found definitely that both points were occupied and that work was proceeding at the latter, probably improvement of cover.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander visited the Brigade Sector during the morning and went round the battalions and support line with the Brigade Commander. Things were in good order and he appeared to be satisfied with what he saw as far as work was concerned. He agreed with the Brigadier however, that the second post of the 56th Battalion (Support Line) was wrongly sited and should be further forward. Work has not been in hand very long on this post so it will be discontinued and a new post sited further forward on the ridge. It is also proposed to make one or two alterations in the disposition of Company Headquarters in the Right Battalion Sector (54th.) which</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 3rd. SUNDAY.</p>		<p>Contd. are not as well situated tactically as they might be. The Sector was honored with the presence of several civilian visitors during the day who included in their number, several Americans and Y.M.C.A. representatives, and Members of Parliament. They did not go forward of WYTSCHAETE. The Brigade Major visited the right battalion forward posts during the afternoon. No. 3. post (B.O.17.) is not sited as well forward as it should be from the point of view of command, but is well placed to support the post on its left. It will scarcely be advisable to alter it as too great a salient would be created. We received news today of a gazette of Belgian decorations recently issued. Among those of this brigade who were recipients are:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Captain</td> <td>N.B.LOVETT.M.C.</td> <td>54th Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lieut.</td> <td>O.H.E.SLATER.D.S.O.</td> <td>55th Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 2719.</td> <td>Sergeant</td> <td>W.E.NANCARROW.</td> <td>56th Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3434.</td> <td>Private</td> <td>A.J.SPRATT.</td> <td>53rd Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3860.</td> <td>Sergeant</td> <td>B.MARSHALL.</td> <td>55th Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 4287.</td> <td>Private</td> <td>E.O'CONNOR.</td> <td>54th Battalion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3498.</td> <td>Corporal</td> <td>J.B.D.JOHNSON.</td> <td>14th M.G.Coy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3132.</td> <td>Corporal</td> <td>E.ROSE.</td> <td>14th L.T.M.B.</td> </tr> </table>		Captain	N.B.LOVETT.M.C.	54th Battalion.		Lieut.	O.H.E.SLATER.D.S.O.	55th Battalion.	No. 2719.	Sergeant	W.E.NANCARROW.	56th Battalion.	No. 3434.	Private	A.J.SPRATT.	53rd Battalion.	No. 3860.	Sergeant	B.MARSHALL.	55th Battalion.	No. 4287.	Private	E.O'CONNOR.	54th Battalion.	No. 3498.	Corporal	J.B.D.JOHNSON.	14th M.G.Coy.	No. 3132.	Corporal	E.ROSE.	14th L.T.M.B.	
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	<p>February 4th. MONDAY.</p>		<p>Bright and clear during the morning but clouding over in the afternoon with a light cold wind. The G.S.O.2. Division with the Brigade Major, went round the support line of the whole sector, and the reserve and Corps Lines of the left sector. It was a very interesting trip and points were noticed for future improvement. The 2nd post of the 56th Battalion in undoubtedly wrongly sited and must be constructed further forward.</p>																																	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 4th. MONDAY.		<p>Contd.</p> <p>Information was gained on the ground of several of the reserve line posts which had not been mentioned in the hand over by the previous occupants. Several posts also in the Corps Line (Second Zone) will have to be re-sited as one is already waterlogged, and another has been partly constructed to control the wrong area. This work of re-adjustment is already in hand and the C.R.E. Corps Troops (Lt-Col. NICHOLSON. D.S.O.) was round that line this morning.</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited IRISH HOUSE during the early afternoon and inspected the accommodation at present occupied by two companies of the 55th Battalion. These are tolerably well off and a point to be noted is that a considerable amount of salvage may be collected from that area.</p> <p>The Staff Captain visited the transport lines of several of the Battalions and the M.G. Coy. These are at present at NORFOLK CAMP and are well situated. The transport is in good condition and not suffering any ill effects from the route march from the training area. Transport difficulties are not so apparent in this area as they have been in previous sectors, since we are well supplied with roads and tramways.</p>	
	February 5th. TUESDAY.		<p>A bright clear day and though cloudy at times, the clouds were very high. Visibility was decidedly good. Aeroplanes were very active today and the enemy planes succeeded, for the first time since we came into this sector, in crossing our lines and carrying out a reconnaissance of the back areas.</p> <p>During last night we were hoping to obtain some definite information of an enemy relief in the regimental sector on our right flank. No abnormal movement was heard, but we arranged a special artillery and machine gun program to cover that sector and harass the relieving troops.</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS WYTSCHAETSE SECTOR.	February 5th TUESDAY.		<p>Contd.</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited the left sector during the morning and definitely instructed the O.C. Field Company to take in hand the re-siting and construction of post 2 in the left sector support line. This new post with another supporting post sited further east along OLIVE TRENCH should ensure an excellent defence in our support line. Some of the posts in the right of the reserve line left sector and left of reserve line right sector will also need to be re-sited. It would appear from the siting of some of these posts that the previous occupants had been working on the principle of siting their strong points for surprise rather than command. These are orthodox enemy tactics at present but our defence schemes provide rather for command than otherwise. It is a matter of different principles and ideas of defence, and from our point of view ours is the better. The Bosch's has been found wanting in several instances and ours is yet to be proved in a strong attack.</p> <p>The 56th Battalion carried out an inter-company relief during last night.</p>	
	February 6th. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Light fine rain during the early part of the day which made the ground very muddy and sloppy. The roads however, remain fairly good as they are well drained and in the forward area of the sector the duckwalks are sufficient to cope with the traffic.</p> <p>The G.O.C. visited the 54th and 56th Battalions during the morning to discuss the action we would take in the possibility of our being asked to arrange a demonstration in the near future. This will be to distract attention from the Division on our right (3rd Australian) which, it is believed, is to carry out some species of raid or attack in 4 or 5 days time. No definite decision was come to but Battalion Commanders are considering what action they would prefer.</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 6th	WEDNESDAY.	<p>Contd.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the 54th Battalion in the afternoon to clear up some doubtful points in the Battalion Defence Scheme and to arrange for a fuller statement of their "action in case of attack".</p> <p>Captain C.W. LAY, 59th Battalion (Staff Captain Trainee, 15th Brigade) reported for temporary duty, while the Brigade Major is to attend the three days Senior Officers Course at the Machine Gun School, CAMIERS.</p> <p>During the night there were disturbances of one kind or another on both flanks. We were informed by Division that well to the left the enemy raided and captured several men. Some distance away on the right the S.O.S. was sent up once during the night and our barrage was put down. The cause of the trouble is unknown to us. On our front everything was quiet.</p> <p>The weekly Intelligence summary for period 30th January to 6th February is attached as Appendix 2</p>	Appendix 2.
	February 7th	THURSDAY.	<p>Very wet, light rain falling during the greater part of the day. It does not take very much rain to reduce the country to the condition of a morass.</p> <p>Construction work did not progress so well today but we can manage to keep on salvaging during most weathers. Special efforts are being made in the direction of salvaging of R.E. Stores and particularly duckboards and wiring material. Of the former there are many old German boards in the disused trenches and also a proportion of those of English construction on tracks and in dugouts which have fallen into disuse. The same applies to the wiring material but even the wiring of the old Bosch trenches forms a useful and formidable obstacle in many places and is not to be removed. Of bombs, rifles and ammunition the area is now comparatively clear, but an old enemy dump has been located in WYTSCHAETE containing demolition explosives and all types of bombs and the disposal of it affords a considerable problem.</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 7th. THURSDAY.</p>		<p>Contd.</p> <p>The Brigade Bombing Officer and the Bombing Officers of the Support Battalions went to the Divisional Dump today to try out the egg grenade (British) which is new to us. A report is to be made on it at a later date. Tomorrow the Brigade Bombing Officer is to take a class of the leaders of the bombing sections of each of the support battalions and give them some instruction in the use of this grenade.</p> <p>We have had several parties of civilian visitors in the sector during the last few days. They are brought up as far as the WYTSCHAETE RIDGE and are there given a glimpse of the war.</p> <p>The 54th Battalion carried out an inter-company relief during the evening.</p>	
	<p>February 8th. FRIDAY.</p>		<p>Light rain during the morning, clearing up slightly in the early afternoon.</p> <p>The G.S.O.2. and D.M.G.O. with the Brigade Major visited the barrage and and direct and harassing fire machine gun positions in the sector. The right sector and portion of the left were covered, each of the positions being visited. Several of the guns were not sited to the best advantage and it is probable that in the near future they will be moved to different locations. Further will be said of this matter when the alterations are authorised.</p> <p>The 8th Brigade on our right secured another prisoner this morning. The man was apparently on patrol inside our wire and being sighted, attempted to get away and was caught. This is their fourth prisoner. He was interrogated by our intelligence Officer but would give little or no information.</p> <p>The Chaplain of the 55th Battalion (Chaplain BRUMWELL) reports that during yesterday he supplied 1100 men with cocoa, biscuits and cigarettes from his coffee stall on the main WYTSCHAETE ROAD. This stall is doing excellent work and Chaplain BRUMWELL is deserving of very great credit.</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 9th. SATURDAY.</p>		<p>It was a fairly clear day with a strong westerly wind blowing. The Brigade Major left Headquarters at 9.a.m. to attend a Senior Officers Machine Gun Course at CAMIERS, lasting three days.</p> <p>At 11.a.m. the G.O.C., A.I.F., with Surgeon-General Sir N.R.HOWSE.V.C. visited Brigade Headquarters, and accompanied by the Brigadier made an inspection of the Brigade Sector, visiting the Support Battalions and also the Support Companies of the front line battalions, and they were able to inspect many of the posts in the sector. Battalion and Company Headquarters were visited and the G.O.C., A.I.F., discussed various matters with Battalion and Company Commanders in connection with the work being done, the spirit of the men etc. The defence of the sector was gone into with the Brigade Commander. General BIRDWOOD spoke to many of the men in their posts and along the duckboards and appeared to be very pleased at their cheerfulness, and also the amount of work that was being done.</p> <p>Candidates for Officers Cadet Battalion were paraded to the Brigadier who selected the three required to attend. This month's candidates appear to be a very good batch and the three N.C.O's selected should, after going through the course, make good Officers.</p> <p>An order was received from Division regarding a minor enterprise to be carried out by the 10th A.I. Brigade (the left Brigade of the Division on our right). The 8th. A.I. Brigade are co-operating with a dummy attack in their sector. The 54th and 56th Battalions have been instructed to thin out their lines before zero hour in order to avoid casualties from possible retaliation.</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 10th. SUNDAY.</p>		<p>The Divisional Commander visited Brigade Headquarters and went into several matters with the Brigadier. The A.A. & Q.M.G. accompanied the Divisional Commander and discussed matters regarding accomodation etc, with the Staff Captain. It is being arranged for the Brigade to be allotted accomodation for 250 at LINDENHOEK CAMP, KEMMEL, which will be used as a Nucleus Camp and for parties returning from leave, schools, and also when reinforcements arrive. This accomodation has been badly needed as it is very inconvenient for units not to have a camp in rear where parties can be put up for the night.</p> <p>The O.C. 14th. Field Coy. came over in the morning and discussed matters relating to work in the sector with the Brigadier. He asked that as much R.E. material as possible might be salved and collected into dumps from which the Field Coy. might draw direct, owing to the increased difficulty in getting sufficient supplies of R.E. material. It will now be arranged for an R.E. officer to go over the salvage dumps of the Brigade and take over the material which can be utilised at once.</p> <p>Advice was received that zero hour for the operation referred to yesterday would be 10.p.m. To the minute the guns opened right along the Divisional sector on our right, also in our own Divisional sector especially on the right where the 8th Brigade were carrying out the dummy raid. Numerous flares were seen to go up right along the German line. It could not be definitely ascertained by our O.P. whether there was very much retaliation to our fire, but there appeared to be a few enemy shells bursting in the Divisional sector on our right. Our forward Battalions report that the enemy fired a few minenwerfers between our support and front line shortly after zero hour, also an occasional 4.2. and 5.9. near our support line. Enemy Machine guns fired bursts at short intervals on our front but quietened down after about an hour's time. No information is yet obtainable as to the result of the operation. The night although dark, should be very suitable as a strong wind has been blowing during the last two days, and the ground has dried up considerably.</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 11th. MONDAY.		<p>The day was dull, with a strong west wind still blowing. Information has been received that the raid carried out by the 10th. A.I. Brigade was very successful, 31 prisoners being captured, many Germans killed and much damage done to enemy works and trenches, with few casualties to the raiding party.</p> <p>The Brigadier went round the left Battalion sector and, as the day was fairly misty he was able to get well forward. The Acting Brigade Major and Intelligence Officer also visited the left sector in the afternoon, and called in at right Battalion Headquarters to discuss the work being carried out, with the C.O. A conference is to be held tomorrow at 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10.45.a.m., the Divisional Commander, Brigade Commander, and Unit Commanders of the Brigade will be present, and various questions are to be discussed.</p>	
	February 12th. TUESDAY.		<p>The G.S.O.2. and D.M.G.O. with Acting Brigade Major went along the Brigade Support Strong Posts and chose new sites for Machine guns in accordance with a regrouping and alteration of guns to be carried out, in order to derive a greater effect defensively.</p> <p>The Conference was held at 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10.45.a.m., and the system of defence of this sector, the change in Machine gun positions etc., were discussed in addition to many administrative matters.</p> <p>At 1.30.p.m. the Divisional Commander presented the Shield won by D.Coy., 55th Battalion at Divisional Sports, HENENCOURT WOOD, in June last.</p> <p>A representative parade of 55th Battalion was held at "IRISH HOUSE" where the Shield was presented to the winning Company, who were congratulated by the Divisional Commander on their performance.</p> <p>The Brigade Major returned from Machine Gun School at CAMTERS.</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 13th. WEDNESDAY.</p>		<p>It rained during the night, and there was a slight drizzle right through the day. The ground is becoming very muddy, and slippery. In the morning the Brigade Commander visited the left Battalion in the line.</p> <p>The Intelligence Officer from reserve Brigade of the Division on our left came over to obtain information regarding our system of defence, and our concentration points in the event of an enemy attack on our front, as a reserve Brigade from one Division has to be in readiness to be put in to help a flank Division if necessary.</p> <p>Two American officers, training as Divisional Gas Officers visited our sector in the morning, and our Brigade Gas Officer took them around and showed them the gas proof doors, and the area gas stores as used in this sector. They were not able to remain long, but were able to gather a certain amount of information as to the precautionary measures adopted in the forward areas.</p> <p>The G.S.O.l. rang up in the morning and stated that Division were anxious to get a prisoner from opposite our front, owing to information received from a prisoner captured in raid on 10th instant to the effect that the Division opposite our sector was preparing for an offensive on our front. The Brigadier informed Battalions of this, and special patrols are being sent out to endeavour to come across an enemy patrol.</p>	

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 14th. THURSDAY.</p>		<p>Day misty but no rain. Observation was poor and aerial activity correspondingly small.</p> <p>Units reported that their efforts during last night to catch a prisoner were not successful. The 54th Battalion is preparing a decoy by bombarding a pill-box immediately in front of our wire and in our portion of No-Mans-Land in the hopes that the Boche will investigate that point. Meanwhile, a patrol will slip in between their patrol and its home. This is to be continued for several nights until the Boche patrol eventuates.</p> <p>A rearrangement of the M.G. S.O.S. barrage was made today owing to a decision to employ our artillery group on a barrage line across the whole front. This was arranged in conference with the O's.C. the 14th. and 25th. M.G.Coys., whose Companies are both covering this sector. It is not possible to have a continuous M.G. S.O.S.Barrage across the front, so certain dangerous points only are covered and switches arranged to control the uncovered portions if necessary.</p> <p>The G.O.C., Division visited Brigade Headquarters during the morning to discuss the defence scheme with the Brigadier. A definite decision was arrived at with regard to the nucleus to remain in each post during an overwhelming attack (the "Die-hards" as named by General HOBBS), which amount to about 25 per cent of garrisons and all Lewis Guns. The remainder of the S.P. garrisons in each case will have been thinned out as far as possible on receipt of warning of impending attack, and will then be available for local counter-attack work.</p> <p>The G.S.O.l. called in during the afternoon and again expressed a desire for a "Talkative Boche", i.e. a live prisoner, which we will certainly do our best to obtain - if not by ruse, then by raid.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 15th. FRIDAY.</p>		<p>Misty during early morning, clearing up later and remaining a fine day with good visibility from the ground. Aerial activity was not increased to any great extent, but the heavy guns took advantage of the occasion for registration purposes.</p> <p>The Brigadier visited the left battalion sector during the morning and went round the support and reserve line strong posts. One point of investigation and interest is a partially destroyed battery of enemy 5.9.inch howitzers just east of DELBSKE FARM. It would be a prize of considerable sentimental value if we could recover one of these guns, but as the task would require 50 or 100 men it is not considered profitable. The question of salvage generally is much vexed at the present time and amounts practically to a competition between brigades in the line. We scored a victory today in evicting 1st. Div. Salvage Coy. parties from our preserves. The question does not, of course, take precedence over constructional work in the area, but undoubtedly much valuable work is done. Last period in the line this Brigade salvaged £6,900. worth of material (excluding R.E. which is used locally), and it is expected to beat this record easily on this occasion.</p> <p>The D.M.G.O. visited Brigade today and has promised early and definite information on the subject of the proposed reorganisation of the M.G. defences of the sector. The Field Company Commander also called to arrange ^{for division} definitely the role of his command in the event of an enemy attack.</p> <p>Our patrols last night did not succeed in bagging any prisoners but we hope on. We will probably have to obtain our ends by resorting to a prearranged raid as did the 3rd. Division to the south.</p> <p>The Staff Captain (Capt. A.H.L. GODFREY. M.C.) proceeded on a fortnight U.K. leave today, and Capt. C.W. LAY is carrying out the duties of Staff Captain.</p> <p>The weekly intelligence summary for week ending WEDNESDAY 13th. is attached as Appendix 3.</p>	<p>App. 3.</p>

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<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 16th. SATURDAY.</p>		<p>A comparatively heavy frost last night and the day was cold but bright and clear as a spring day. Visibility from the ground was excellent and to judge by the extraordinary amount of aerial activity, it was very good from the air also. Probably a good deal of photography was carried out as this work has been rather at a standstill for the last week of bad visibility. Aircraft on both sides were very active, though no air fights were reported, and one enemy plane spent about an hour hovering at a low altitude over our line with dozens of our machine guns and rifles firing at him. He was probably taking photos and apparently directing artillery fire also.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander held a conference of Brigadiers at this Headquarters this morning. The chief topic of discussion was the selection of objective and discussion of means and methods, with a view to a raid or minor operation in the Divisional Sector in the near future. It is highly probable that we will be asked to carry out a raid on GREEN FARM on or about the 19th instant, in fact, both that objective and date were suggested by the Brigadier. Raiding is not the most satisfactory way of obtaining prisoners but must be resorted to at times. Other subjects of administration and defence of the area were discussed, but nothing of major importance.</p> <p>The G.S.O.2, D.M.G.O. and Brigade Major spent the day visiting the reserve line of the front zone and siting, throughout its length, machine gun positions for the support and protection of the posts. The country is difficult and the line is not sited according to the latest principles of defence, so the task was exacting and took a great deal of care and time.</p> <p>Front line battalions each intimated that they are going to make another endeavour tonight to secure a prisoner. The 54th Battalion are rather expecting an enemy raid on one of their posts which has, during last night and this evening had a particular amount of attention paid to it by enemy minenwerfers and M.Gs. They have made preparations for his reception in the way of a special artillery retaliation and may get an opportunity to bag some of the raiders if sufficient warning is received.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 17th. SUNDAY.</p>		<p>Another very fine day with good visibility. Aeroplanes were very active on both sides. An enemy plane repeated yesterday's performance in hovering over our line for an hour or more, making an apparently very detailed reconnaissance. Our "Archies" and Machine Guns fired vigorously but with a very unfortunate result. One of our shells (or so it appeared), made a direct hit on one of our planes (an R.E.8.) bringing it down, both occupants being killed. One aviator was a LIEUT. STREETER, 38th Battalion and A.F.C. Both were Australian Officers. A most unfortunate occurrence. Report has it that an enemy plane was brought down over BAILLEUL yesterday and another today.</p> <p>The Brigadier visited the 54th Battalion today to arrange details for the forthcoming raid on GREEN FARM. The Adjutant (Capt. LOVETT, M.C.), and the Intelligence Officer had carried out a reconnaissance during the night and reported that the work could be done by fighting patrol without any complicated formality of arrangement. Further reconnaissance is to be carried out tonight and consequent on the report, the artillery program and wire cutting will be arranged. The actual work will probably be carried out on the night 19th/20th.</p> <p>The A.A. & Q.M.G. visited Brigade Headquarters today to discuss with the Staff Captain details of the arrangement of a full and detailed statement of the A. & Q. Admin. methods and arrangements in the area. This has not been committed to paper, and they propose to draw it up as a further addendum to the Defence Scheme.</p> <p>The day has been very quiet, and though shelling on both sides has certainly increased during the last two days (owing to the improved visibility), it is as yet by no means heavy. The enemy is undoubtedly very active though quiet and it will be interesting to watch developments. Whether his activity will find its climax in a raid or in a general attack is yet to be shown, but we are confident in our own powers in either eventuality. The general tenseness in the air is the outcome of the many warnings we have received coupled with the equal number of prophesies about the Bosch offensive.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 18th. MONDAY.</p>		<p>Another bright clear day, though not quite so clear as yesterday but appreciably warmer. Air activity was not so great but our friend the low flying Bosch visited the front line for a considerable period again.</p> <p>The Brigade Commander conferred with O.C. Artillery Group, and the C.O. 54th Battalion at that Headquarters this morning on the subject of the minor enterprise to be carried out tomorrow night. WHIZ FARM has been chosen as the objective, and the party to do the job will consist of an officer and about 20 others. The operation will take the form more of an informal visit by a fighting patrol than of a raid, and we sincerely hope that we can find somebody at home. The artillery program is very little more than the usual program of strafes, but arranged to meet the requirements of the task in hand. The instructional and warning memo issued on the subject is attached as Appendix. 4</p> <p>It was proposed to relieve the 54th and 56th Battalions by the 55th and 53rd on the night 20th/21st, but instructions were received from Division tonight that the relief must be postponed until the 22nd or later.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the Right Brigade Headquarters to discuss details of a provisional co-operation by their Trench Mortars tomorrow night.</p> <p>The D.M.G.O. was round again today and explained the proposed scheme for the reorganisation of the Support Line Machine Guns. The construction of the new positions is to be proceeded with at once. The work is to be done mainly by M.G. personnel (or so Division propose) which is satisfactory, as men for working parties are scarce these days.</p> <p>We have an extra 50 on tonight burying cable, a task that will take some considerable period to complete. It will also be necessary to relieve the 55th Battalion parties detached before they will be sufficiently strong to occupy and hold the line. This will be done by the 54th Battalion who are to be relieved by them.</p>	<p>App. 4.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February 19th. TUESDAY.</p>		<p>Day fairly clear and sunny but cold. A ground mist obscured visibility during the early part of the evening but it became clearer about 10.p.m. Last night the artillery carried out tonight's shoot in miniature, and the O.C. patrol LIEUT.BATES.D.C.M., 54th Battalion, was out in N.M.L. observing the effect. A few shells fell short, but the artillery will ensure that this does not occur during the actual stunt by a very careful selection of their ammunition. The Heavy Trench Mortars put over 10 shots on to the wire at WHIZ FARM to tear it about. We are not going to have them working tonight but a few of their missiles should remove any wire about the place. The G.O.C., Division visited Brigade Headquarters this afternoon and discussed the projected operation and the question of the relief of the present battalions in the line, Division are taking no active part in the arrangement of the enterprise which is satisfactory from our point of view, since the whole thing is so local and on such a small scale. The question of the postponement of the relief was gone into and it was decided that we might relieve by the two support battalions tomorrow night 20th/21st February. This rushes things rather, but the relief is a simple one and will mean very little bother. The order for the relief was published tonight and is attached as Appendix 5. The question of the change over of the working parties has introduced considerable difficulties. The 53rd Battalion and 55th have supplied most of the personnel for the large permanent parties, a method which does not meet with the approval of Division. They prefer to allot parties equally to all units and to keep them during the whole tour in the line, whereas the scheme upon which we have been working demands their relief at some intermediate period. Both schemes have their advantages, but we are now instructed to conform to the Divisional idea. Lack of men formed our chief trouble as far as the 53rd Battalion was concerned, but this has fortunately been overcome by the opportune arrival of some reinforcements. Division require that no battalion enter the line at a lower strength than 550 all ranks. The Brigadier visited the Left Battalion Sector during the morning and inspected a site suggested by the O.C. Field Company for a new strong post in the Support Line. This matter is to be definitely fixed on the 21st instant. Major S.A.HUNN, M.C., G.S.O.2. Intelligence at Corps, called during the morning on no special business, but anxious to do anything in his power to help us.</p>	<p>App. 5.</p>

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 19th. TUESDAY.		<p>A German aeroplane was driven down by our planes in the Divisional Sector on our left today. It is believed, (and hoped), that it is the rather pushing fellow who has been spending so much time over our front line during the last few days.</p> <p>The much discussed raid took place in accordance with programme. At 9.p.m. the guns opened up and by 9.20.p.m. had ceased again and everything was over, as far as we then knew, with little or no reply from the BOSCH. It was about 9.35.p.m. that the C.O., 54th Battalion rang up to say in code that the raiders had returned and reported everything satisfactory. A little later he confirmed and added that he thought that they had taken seven prisoners, but that the special line had broken and that they had to send a runner for the information. At 9.45.p.m. he rang up to say that the party was all in, one slight wound and that he had the seven prisoners in his own headquarters. Naturally everybody was very pleased. The Bosch were sent for by Division and taken away in cars to Divisional Headquarters for interrogation.</p> <p>The operation appears to have been highly successful and very neatly executed, and the wires hum with congratulatory messages to the Battalion and members of the patrol. The full report on the show will be included in this record. It is expected in during the early morning.</p>	
	February 20th. WEDNESDAY.		<p>The day was decidedly misty and looks rather like a return to the weather of about a week ago. It is comparatively warmer however, and by no means unpleasant.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander and the Brigadier went to the 54th Battalion Headquarters today, and the patrol which carried out last night's enterprise were paraded to be personally congratulated. The Divisional Commander spoke in terms of high praise on their work and on its general effect on the spirit of the battalion and of the Brigade.</p> <p>The report on the raid was received and forwarded to Division this morning. A copy is attached as Appendix 6.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited 55th Battalion and there interviewed all the nominees for the next relief at the Training Battalion and Training Brigade. They appear a likely</p>	<p>App. 6.</p>

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 20th WEDNESDAY		<p>Contd. lot, both Officers and men, and have good records of service and of schools attended. Some can gain by a little brightening up in appearance, but this applies to most people after a three weeks spell in the line. The standard is certainly better than that of twelve months ago - the result undoubtedly of the vigorous campaign which has been conducted against the passing off of "duds" on our Training Units. Battalions now make every endeavour to select worthy N.C.O's and Officers who are qualified in knowledge, experience and powers of instruction, and who are deserving of the comparative rest of a six months spell in England. And that is the only way to increase the efficiency of our Training Bases and so bring material profit to the efficiency of our units in the field.</p> <p>The relief of the 54th and 56th Battalions by the 55th and 53rd Battalions respectively was conducted successfully, being completed by 9.4 p.m. (see Appendix 5)</p> <p>It has been indicated that our spell in the line may be longer than was originally intended and that the increase will probably necessitate another inter-battalion relief.</p>	App. 5
	February 21st THURSDAY		<p>The weather today reverted to that of two days ago, quite clear and bright with good visibility from the ground. From the air it was probably not so good, to judge from the comparatively little aerial activity.</p> <p>The Brigadier visited the left sector today accompanied by the O.C. Field Coy., and definitely located the new strong point mentioned on Tuesday. This should complete the siting in the support line and the completion of all posts should not take more than a week. The result will be a very formidable line of defence. The construction of alternative machine gun positions is also being proceeded with vigorously, and these positions will ultimately form the regular defensive positions for the support and reserve lines. Until they are fully completed, the present not altogether satisfactory machine gun dispositions will be maintained.</p> <p>Lieut.Col. A.M.Ross D.S.O, G.S.O 2 Operations Australian Corps, visited the 54th Battalion and interviewed the leading lights who took part in the raid</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 21st. THURSDAY.		<p>Contd. on the night 19th/20th, with the object of eliciting any information further to the report which might form the substance of lessons and hints for future minor operations of that nature. The subject of formation was touched on and a comparison made between that used by the 3rd. Australian Division in some of their minor raids, and that used by us. These differ in that the former, moved in columns in file, and ours was practically an extended line with pairs of flankers, and a pair connecting to the rear. Both are useful, but ours suited the terrain and was practicable owing to the battered condition of the wire. It was decided however, that future parties should carry wire cutters and that after passing the enemy wire, men should be left to clear a lane back. The raiders carried no equipment, but rifles and fixed bayonets, two clips of cartridges and full magazine, two bombs (Mills No.5.), and S.B.R's. "No flash bombs" were carried as one of the men remarked, meaning that the Mills only were used and no smoke or less known types taken over. The incalculable value of the inclusion of a German speaker in the party was proved by the fact that the enemy surrendered without a murmur when called upon, whereas if the German speaker had not been there, they would have had to have been bombed out of their dugout. The men who took part in the work were all volunteers and a remarkably fine stamp of man, young and keen and quite remarkably modest over their achievement.</p> <p>Weekly intelligence summary is attached as Appendix 7.</p>	App. 7.
	February 22nd. FRIDAY.		<p>Bright clear morning with good visibility, clouding over in the afternoon with a tendency towards rain.</p> <p>The Brigadier spent the morning in the forward area and went well up towards the front line. PIONEER LANE, (our forward communication trench in the right battalion sector) is progressing by degrees. That is to say, the improvement of the existing sap is progressing, and it is passable up to and beyond the forward Company Headquarters in that sector.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the site of a prospective rifle range not far</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 22nd. FRIDAY.		<p>Contd. from Brigade Headquarters. This is quite a good site and could be improved to make quite a useful range. The necessity for musketry training is being greatly emphasised at present from above, and we are finding it rather difficult to fulfil the suggestions. It is practicably a question of Musketry.V. Work since the demand for labor in the area is so great that men are scarce for training. That is the result of a forward slope position, night work and short man hour shifts. It is imperative that the work should be pushed on, but we must manage to arrange to pass our backward men through a musketry course.</p>	
	February 23rd. SATURDAY.		<p>Dull and very close. Quite remarkable weather for this time of the year.</p> <p>The G.O.C, visited forward area to inspect the work at present being done on the proposed machine gun defensive lines. These are in accordance with a new scheme for the protection of our present support and reserve lines, and when the proposed work is entirely completed will take the place of the present dispositions for the defence of the area. He did not manage to see all the new positions, but most of those visited were satisfactorily sited and in position to fulfil their allotted tasks. One only will have to be resited or raised above ground level. The tactical placing of the guns is quite sound and will defend their lines effectively.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the Field Coy, Artillery Group Headquarters and the line battalion headquarters, to discuss current questions as to the work and defence of the area. The O.C., Field Coy, has submitted a suggestion for a new strong point in the support system, which will have to be further investigated. A considerable amount of information was gained from the line battalions as to the condition of our front line wire - though its accuracy is not yet proved. It is an almost foregone conclusion that no unit can command or even locate the wiring carried out by its predecessor, although nominally accurate reports have been made by that predecessor time and again.</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 24th. SUNDAY.		<p>Cloudy and dull all day but not so close as yesterday. Observation was not bad, especially during the late afternoon, and air activity was considerable. There was also rather more action from the "Heavies" on both sides, the Bosch paying a good deal of attention to ONRAET WOOD and GRAND BOIS, and very nearly doing serious damage to the 53rd Battalion Headquarters. The signal office got a direct hit which, though wrecking a comparatively solid pill-box, did not casualty any of its four occupants. Our heavies opened in retaliation rather more quickly than usual since one of their own 6 inch batteries was close to the scene of the strafe.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited the posts and new machine gun positions across the brigade area, visited yesterday by the Brigadier. All the new posts are completed and could be occupied at any time, but there still remains the question of accomodation. This should be sufficiently far advanced two days hence to allow the new positions to be occupied without unnecessary discomfort to the men, and on the occupation of the new positions a new disposition of the two companies (14th. & 25th.), will be taken into use.</p> <p>LIEUT.A.C.WOOLRYCH, 53rd. Battalion, reported to Brigade Headquarters today to take over from LIEUT.J.E.MURRAY, 55th Battalion, the duties of Brigade Intelligence Officer. Lieut. Murray is reporting to Division tomorrow to act temporarily as Division Intelligence Officer during the absence of that officer at Corps.</p>	
	February 25th. MONDAY.		<p>Rather dull and cloudy during the morning and inclined to rain, but cleared up later with the westerley wind. There was not much activity during the day though the heavies spoke now and then in reply to enemy shelling of WYTSCHAETE and ONRAET WOOD.</p> <p>The Divisional Commander came down to Brigade Headquarters today and informed the Brigadier that the 3rd Division on our right, were to carry out another operation and that we were to arrange minor operations to assist. It has fallen to us to carry out a raid and a dummy raid or Chinese Attack. The objective for the raid has not yet been decided, but it will probably be on the left battalion sector front, though the Divisional Commander is inclined to favor the dummy from that flank. The actual points will be decided tomorrow by the Brigadier in conference with the forward Battalion Commanders. The</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 25th. MONDAY.		<p>Contd. Chinese Attack will necessitate the provision of dummy figures to be placed out in N.M.L. and arranged so that they may be pulled up and down.</p> <p>The O.C., 25th. Machine Gun Company (Captain BARKER.D.C.M.) who has just returned to the Company, and who will be acting in future as the Machine Gun Group Commander for the area, called at Brigade Headquarters this morning to discuss the M.G. question with the Brigade Major. The construction of the new positions has been completed and the companies are continuing with the construction of the shelter for the crews.</p> <p>It is hoped that we will be completed before tomorrow night so that we may carry out the reorganisation shortly.</p>	

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REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 26th. TUESDAY.		<p>Bright during the morning but dull during the afternoon and early evening. About 9.p.m. it was bright moonlight, and the lightness had the effect of binding our patrols back to our own wire. They could not move any distance into N.M.L. without being shot at. We have the satisfaction however, of knowing that the German is in the same predicament. The patrolling has of late been remarkably good, and there is no doubt that N.M.L. is our property, though it is so large that the Bosch manages to get a patrol out about halfway sometimes.</p> <p>The Brigade and Divisional Commanders visited the forward battalion Headquarters during the forenoon to go into the question of the raid and dummy. It was decided to carry out a similar stunt against WHIZ FARM to that done by the 54th Battalion, and to direct the dummy against THE TWINS. The event will probably take place on the night 2nd/3rd March at an hour to be laid down by the 3rd Division, who are of course carrying out the important operation of which our little stunts are only side shows. A repetition of our raid on WHIZ FARM should meet with success, as he will scarcely expect it. Against that view is the argument that he will have taken precautions, and the very personal element of nervousness might lead him to be particularly careful at that point. However the type of operation does not allow him much latitude of action, and swiftness on our part is the key to success. The 55th Battalion are very keen to carry on.</p> <p>The G.S.O.l., A.A. & Q.M.G., and the Artillery Group Commander all called at Brigade Headquarters during the afternoon to discuss "Raids", and general policy. Raids and stunts rather fill the field of view at present, and they are a decided improvement on the dismal "German Offensive" talk that has been playing rather a prominent part of late.</p> <p>Enemy artillery was rather active today in about the same region as yesterday, i.e. round ONRAET WOOD. Our heavies engaged him and the duel continued for a while and then both sides ceased.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 27th. WEDNESDAY.		<p>Dull and inclined to rain during the morning, and a biting wind in the afternoon. The ground is very greasy and, in the shelled areas very sloppy. The Brigadier visited the right sector during the morning and went round some of the reserve gun positions recently completed. These are not yet occupied, but the work on the accommodation for the crews is now almost complete. The Machine Gun Group Commander reported to Brigade today to inform us as to the progress of the work. As far as the group is concerned, we could carry on with the redistribution of the companies tonight. It is necessary however to work in with the flanking brigades to ensure co-operation, and the brigade on the right is not yet quite ready with its positions. It is expected however, that we will be able to carry on tomorrow night. The Brigade Major 15th Brigade (on our right) is coming across tomorrow morning to arrange details of the change over.</p> <p>The G.O.C., 8th Brigade, and his Brigade Major called during the afternoon. They were controlling the execution of scheme "C" for the reserve brigade action in case of attack, which scheme allows this Headquarters for the reserve brigade. The work was being done in skeleton to prevent too much extra movement, and appeared to go off very very successfully.</p> <p>The Brigade Major visited a demonstration of the working of the dummy figures that are to be used for the Chinese Attack shortly. It was necessary to make some minor readjustments and alterations to obtain a suitable contrivance which was both serviceable and practical under the prevailing conditions. Thirty figures are to be completed with frames etc. by tomorrow night and placed in the forward post nearest the scene of the proposed attack.</p> <p>We received news during the evening that the enemy are expected to attack on the high ground about CHELUVELT early tomorrow morning. Units have been warned in case the attack should effect us, but the scene is several miles away and it is not likely to be on such a large scale as to be felt very much here.</p> <p>The weekly intelligence summary for period 21st/26th February is attached as Appendix 8.</p>	<p>App. 8.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>

WAR DIARY

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.

VOLUME 24.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

PAGE 26.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.	February 28th. THURSDAY.		<p>Day dull and cold with sleet in the air during the early afternoon. Enemy activity was not above normal. He was dropping a few shells over WYTSCHAETE and towards GRAND BOIS during the morning, and our heavies spoke to him in return.</p> <p>The Corps Commander accompanied by General PEYTON the Military Secretary, went round the area today. This is the third time General BIRDWOOD has been round since we have been in. He called at several Battalion Headquarters and spoke frequently and cheerily to the men as they passed on the tracks. General PEYTON was very interested in the remains of the enemy defences and the pill-boxes which were apparently new to him.</p> <p>The Brigade Major 15th Brigade did not come over today, and it was not possible to arrange for the change over of machine guns for tonight. This may now be done at any time as the companies on the right should just about complete their work tonight.</p> <p>The Officers Commanding 53rd and 55th Battalions (in the line) and the Brigade Major attended a lecture at LOCRE on counter battery work. This was given by the S.O., Corps Heavy Artillery and was extremely interesting and proportionately instructive. He gave a detailed account of their methods of locating and dealing with enemy batteries, and explained several points which we, in our ignorance had previously imagined had been overlooked. For instance a case was quoted of a big enemy gun seen firing on the 25th, and it was thought that no heavy F.O.O. had seen it. We discovered however, that the gun was known, its position accurately fixed, and detailed information as to its time of firing and its target, were in the counter battery office. This is mostly done by sound ranging and flash spotting, two methods which, though of infinite value to our gunners, are unknown to the lay man.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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.

VOLUME 24.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

PAGE 27.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February.</p>		<p>The whole of the month of February has been spent in the line and has passed as pleasantly as it possibly could have done under those circumstances. The weather has been good, the sector is well organised and fairly clean, and the period has been quiet. The major part of the activity has been on our side. We have had very few casualties (1 officer and 21 others wounded), and our wastage over all has only amounted to 5 officers, 213 others. This is good for a brigade for a winter month in the line and it is mainly owing to the comparative mildness of the weather. From the supplies point of view also the tour has been satisfactory as rations are good and comparatively plentiful, and we have experienced little or no difficulty in transporting them throughout the sector.</p> <p>The greater part of our energies this month have of course been spent on work on the improvement of the defences of the sector, and on salvage of material. The constructional work has resulted in a well wired picquet line, a much stronger support system brought into line with the Division on our left, and which, though not yet quite complete, is almost so, and is completely wired; a reserve line in just as advanced condition as the support line; a complete new system of machine gun defence, which though not yet occupied, is ready for occupation at any time; and the extension of the accommodation in the area to house comfortably our strength. Many more minor tasks have been completed, including the construction of a new forward sap on the left flank from DELBSKE FARM to S.P.6.O.11. in the support line; the almost completed cable bury from Reserve to Support Company in the right sector; the improvement and maintenance and new construction on the duckboard tracks in the area, and many similar jobs of work. A great deal of salvage has been collected, but the official figures have not as yet been issued, and will be quoted in the Diary for next month. The shortage of labor occasioned by the extent of the area, and its forward position, has rather limited us, but the amount of work that has been done in all directions is eminently satisfactory.</p> <p>As far as our operations are concerned we have nothing at all at which to cavil. Our reliefs have been completely successful, our patrols efficient and thorough, and our one minor operation an unqualified success - executed according to</p>	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

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.

VOLUME 24. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

PAGE 28.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>REGENTS DUGOUTS. WYTSCHAETE SECTOR.</p>	<p>February.</p>		<p>Contd. program, no casualties, and prisoners 33% of the party carrying out the raid. It would be difficult to find a more successful raid of its kind. Of training there has been very little generally speaking. That is to say, training as we view it in the back areas. To be quite correct, nothing could be more profitable than a quiet spell in the line, from the point of view of the education of all ranks, unless it be a battle which of course, has its disadvantages. The morale and efficiency of the Brigade have never been better, and the keenness of the men to have an opportunity of partaking in the more active operations is indicative of the very high standard which the morale and efficiency have reached. Returns showing strength and casualties for the month are attached as Appendix 9. A map of the area is attached to the original copy (only) as the amount of work current does not allow of three copies being produced. Others will be made during the course of the next month for attachment to the other two copies. Appendix 1.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Major, BRIGADE MAJOR, 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Brig.-General, Commanding 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.</p>	<p>App. 9. App. 1.</p>

260

18,000-12/17-8723.

APPENDIX

30

WAR DIARY

OF

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

FOR

FEBRUARY

1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Sketch showing Brigade Area (attached original copy only).
2.	✓ Weekly Summary 30th January to 6th February.
3.	✓ Weekly Intelligence Summary from 7th to 13th February.
4.	✓ Instructions for Minor Operation by 54th Battalion on night 19th/20th February.
5.	✓ Brigade Order 125.
6.	✓ Report on raid 19th February.
7.	✓ Weekly Intelligence Summary 14th to 20th February.
8.	✓ Weekly Intelligence Summary 21st to 27th February.
9.	✓ Returns for month.
10.	✓ Lt L.T.M.B report for month.

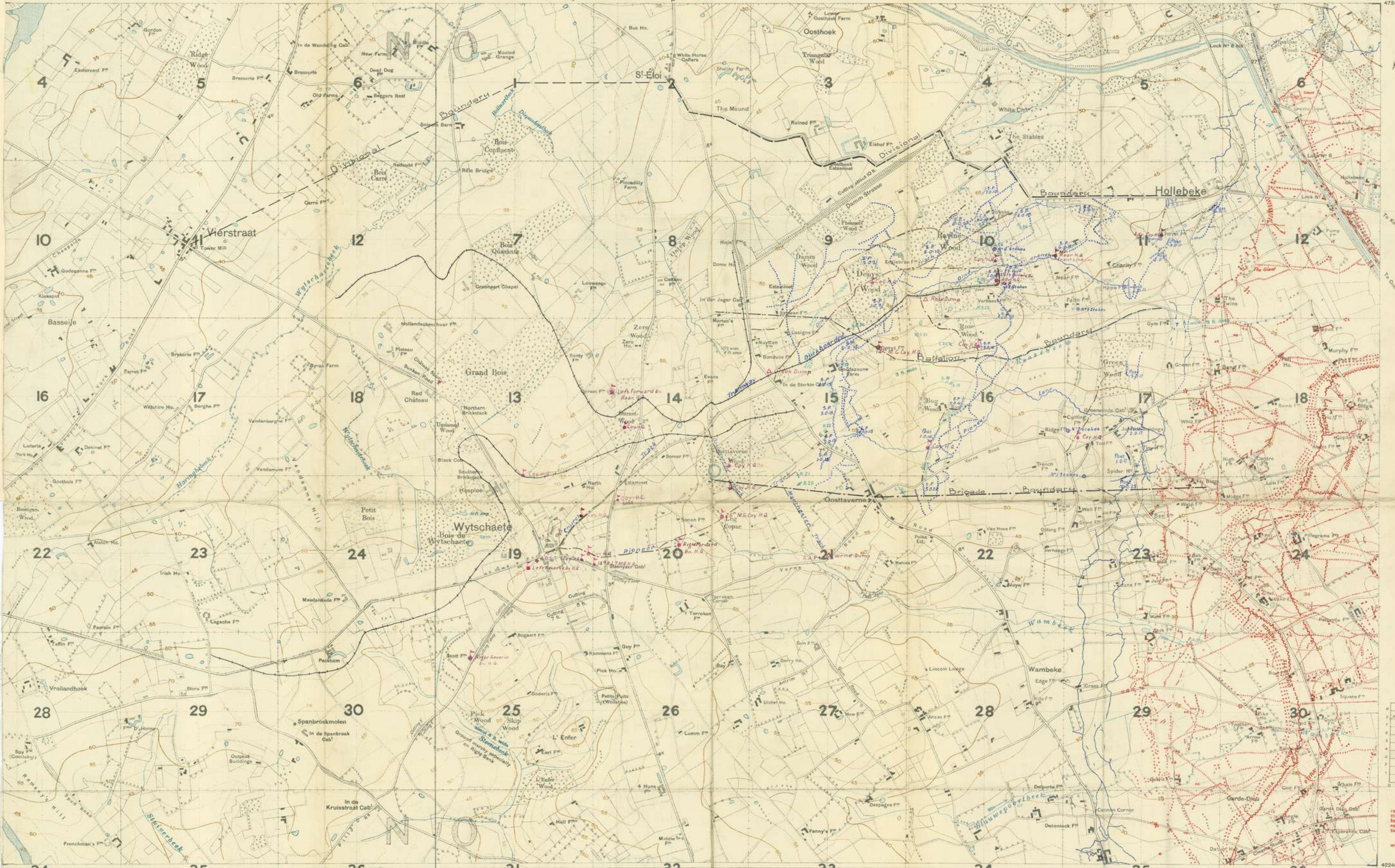
Original

A. G. H. Major

WYTSCHAETE

Note: Vickers Machine Guns shown thus →

EDITION 7. B TRENCHES CORRECTED TO 1-11-17.



REFERENCE

- Any trench apparently organized for fire
- Enemy Trenches (Important ones are shown by thick line. Old or disused by dotted line)
- British Trenches
- Wire Entanglement or Other Obstacle
- Enemy's Tracks
- Buried Pipeline or Cable
- Airline
- Supply Dumps
- Ammunition
- Earthworks
- Dug-outs
- Huts
- Works reinforced by concrete
- Gun Emplacements
- Machine Gun
- Trench Mortar
- A.A. Gun
- Organized Shell Holes
- Hedge, Fence or Ditch
- Ditch with Permanent Water
- Conspicuous Points (Position of point is trigonometrically fixed)
- Houses
- Railways
- Permanent
- Light
- Temporary
- Normal Gauge, Double
- Single
- Trench Tramways
- Metre Gauge Railway

NOTE—The fact that an obstacle is not represented on this map does not necessarily mean that it does not exist. It is often impossible to distinguish obstacles of a quality other than that of a trench. It may be assumed that there are obstacles in front of all fire trenches (shown by thick line).

ALL HEIGHTS IN METRES

Scale 1:10,000



INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS

28 N.W.	28 N.E.
27 W.	27 E.
29 W.	29 E.

On bearing with the grid is to the right always was 6

Grid then a different deviation. To its deviation bearing and m the point, the deviation. Grid N grid be deviate from 1 ending if necessary

On 11 vial... 12... should be rep...

To 6 point v... the as... ten, the... of a pair... used to... sides at... parts, an... be obser...

- (1) Use...
- (2) Use...
- (3) Use...

Example:
Two fig...
Four fig...
Five fig...

Where num... they are... been inser... referenc... trench ju... They should... without the fu...

GLOSSARY.

Abbaye	Abbey.	Basin de radoub	Dry dock.	Coton	Workmen's dwellings.	Four à coke	Coke oven.	Nacelle	Ferry.	Remblai	Embankment.
Abbaye	Watering-place.	Bateau phare	Light-ship.	Cour des marchandises	Goods yard.	Ganterie	Glove factory.	Orme	Elm.	Remblai (des machines)	Engine-shed.
Abbaye	Customs-shelter.	Bleacherie	Laundry.	Cour des armes	Arms yard.	Gare	Station.	Orphelinat	Orphanage.	Réservoir, Rés.	Reservoir.
Abbaye	Steel works.	B.M. (borne milliaire)	Mile stone.	Couvent	Convent.	Gare	Warren.	Ormaie	Orchard.	Route cavalière	Bridle road.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	B ¹ (borne kilométrique)	Kilometre-stone.	Craquelé	Crackling.	Garnison	Garrison.	Ouvrage	Water works.	Rubannerie	Ribbon factory.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boulonnerie	Boiler factory.	Croix	Cross.	Gascogne	Gascogne.	Ouvrages hydrauliques	Water works.	Ruines	Ruin.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Darse	Inner dock.	Glacier	Ice factory.	Papeterie	Paper-mill.	Sablère	Sand-pit.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Déroulé	Unrolled.	Glacière	Ice factory.	Parc	Park, yard.	Sablons, Sablon	Sand-pit.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Parc à charbon	Coal yard.	Sapin	Fir tree.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Déroulé	Unrolled.	Grue	Crane.	Parc à pétrole	Oil yard.	Sauis	Willow tree.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Passage à niveau P.N.	Level crossing.	Saumure	Salt-works.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Passe-pied	Foot-bridge.	Saunders	Saw-mill.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Passe-pied	Foot-bridge.	Sauvage	Woods.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Passe-pied	Foot-bridge.	Sauvage	Woods.
Abbaye	Alley, narrow road.	Boute	Bottle.	Détruit	Destroyed.	Grue	Crane.	Passe-pied	Foot-bridge.	Sauvage	Woods.

WAR DIARY
 14TH AUS. INF. BRIGADE
 VOLUME 24
 APPENDIX 1

Original

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 1.

APPENDIX 2

Period 6.a.m. 30/1/18 to 6.a.m. 6/2/18.

1. GENERAL. The front has been exceptionally quiet during the period. Very little of the enemy has been seen during the day and no patrol encounters have taken place at night. The enemy is apparently holding a pill-box post line through THE GIANT 0.12.c.2.7. THE TWINS 0.11.d.9.2. pill-boxes at 0.18.a.20.95. BANG FARM 0.17.b.9.3. WHIZ FARM 0.17.d.6.9. and FLY BUILDINGS 0.17.d.4.0. He takes shelter in these during the day time and pushes out M.Gs. to shell hole emplacements at night.
2. OPERATIONS. Relief. The 14th.A.I.Brigade relieved the 1st.A.I.Brigade in the line on night 30/31st January.
3. PATROLS. (1). Each Battalion has patrolled No Mans Land nightly. THE TWINS and THE GIANT were reconnoitred, the wire in front of the latter being very strong. Working parties were heard at THE TWINS and WHIZ FARM and on two occasions enemy parties were heard moving in the distance. No actual encounter took place.
(2). No enemy patrols approached our lines or were met with in No Mans Land.
4. MACHINE GUNS. (1). Our M.Gs. carried out night harassing fire on enemy tracks and posts. On the night 4/5th February increased fire was carried out on enemy tracks on account of an expected relief.
(2). Enemy M.Gs were active in A.A. work during the day and on our tracks at night. VERNE ROAD and PIONEER LANE in 0.16. and 0.17. were regularly swept.
5. TRENCH MORTARS. (1). Our L.T.Ms were active by night firing from forward positions on to enemy M.G.positions and posts. In several cases active M.Gs were silenced by their fire.
Medium and Heavy T.Ms fired in conjunction with artillery on THE GIANT, THE TWINS, WHIZ FARM and FLY BUILDINGS.
(2). Enemy Minenwerfers were not consistently active. 3 Minenwerfers were in evidence, 1 firing from THE TWINS on to the left Battalion outpost line, 1 at BANG FARM and 1 at FLY BUILDINGS firing on to the right Battalion outpost line. No damage was done to the posts on either front.
6. ARTILLERY. (1). Our artillery has carried out regular shoots day and night. The daily programme included Lock 5, Lock 4, THE GIANT, THE TWINS, POLL HOUSE, 0.18.a. PUMP FARM 0.12.b., SPUD, MURPHY, and PAT FARMS 0.18.b. and area 0.18.d.
The heavies fired on KORTEWILDE and HOUTHEM.
(2). Enemy artillery activity has been very slight. The only areas shelled with any consistency were THE WOOD in 0.11.a. and PIONEER LANE in 0.16.
7. CASUALTIES. 1 Wounded.

Brig.-General,
Commanding 14th.AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

W. H. Brown.
Volume 24
Appendix 2
Original

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 2.Period 6.p.m. 6/2/18. to 6.p.m. 13/2/18.

1. GENERAL. The enemy attitude during the week has been quite normally passive in all respects. He still holds the front line posts running through THE GIANT O.12.c. THE TWINS O.11.d. BANG FARM O.17.b. WHIZ FARM O.17.d. and FLY BUILDINGS O.17.d. Practically no movement is seen in these in the daytime but working parties and M.Gs are located there by night.
2. OPERATIONS. No enemy raids were attempted.
3. PATROLS. (a). Our patrols reconnoitred N.M.L. nightly and maintained liaison with flanks. Owing to the darkness and the muddy condition of the ground very little information was obtained. Sounds of working parties were heard at WHIZ FARM O.17.d. Post at O.12.a.33.05, THE GIANT, and THE TWINS. 2 suspected M.G. positions were examined and found to be unoccupied.
(b). 2 enemy patrols approached our wire in O.17.c. and were fired on by Lewis Guns. No casualties however were found.
4. MACHINE GUNS. (1). Our M.Gs carried out a programme of night harassing fire on enemy tracks and posts.
(2). Enemy M.Gs have been restricted to indirect sweeping fire on our tracks, especially in O.16. & 17.
5. TRENCH MORTARS. (1). Our L.T.Ms have fired nightly on the abovementioned enemy posts, and were successful on occasions by silencing M.Gs. The M.T.Ms and H.T.Ms have carried out destructive shoots on the same enemy posts. Many pill-boxes have been hit and a great deal of damage must have been caused.
6. ARTILLERY. (1). Our Artillery has been normally active. The 18 pdrs carried out regular shoots on the front line and forward posts, and the heavies shelled the canal, HOUTHEN, KORTEWILDE, TENBRIELEN, COMINES and WERVICQ. Night firing in short bursts has also been carried on, intensified on night 11/12th in expectation of an enemy relief.
(2). The enemy shelling has been light and intermittent, the favourite areas being O.10.b. and O.11.a., the ridge behind GREEN WOOD in O.17.a. & c., Support Line in O.16. and the Communication Trench in O.16. & 17.
Consequent on our bombardment on night 10/11th on our right a light barrage was put down on area O.16.
7. CASUALTIES. 2 Other ranks wounded.

R. G. Lewis
Brig.-General,
Commanding 14th AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

Original
24th. 24.
24th. 5.
Mr. Henry

4

S E C R E T .

- 54th Battalion.
- 53rd Battalion.)
- 55th Battalion.)
- 56th Battalion.)
- 14th M.G.Coy.)
- 14th L.T.M.B.)
- 8th Inf. Brigade.)
- 12th Inf. Brigade.)
- 5th Australian Division.)
- HOLLEBEKE GROUP Artillery.)

For information.



1. A minor enterprise will be carried out by the 54th Battalion on the night 19th/20th February, against WHIZ FARM at O.17.d.7.8. with the object of obtaining identification and prisoners.
2. The enterprise will be carried out by a party of 1 Officer and about 20 other ranks, with the co-operation of the HOLLEBEKE GROUP ARTILLERY.
3. The party will assemble in a lie out position about O.17.d.3.7. by Zero. At Zero the artillery will open on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM and THE TWINS, for two minutes. During this time the infantry will work towards WHIZ FARM as far as possible. At Zero PLUS 2 min the guns will lift from WHIZ FARM and the party will close in and investigate the strong point. The O.C. Party will arrange his own signal for withdrawal. Fire will be maintained on the other strong points mentioned above until the party has returned.
4. The 8th Infantry Brigade has arranged to silence any enemy action from WASP FARM, by trench mortar fire.
5. Details of the artillery action are forwarded separately to 54th Battalion.
6. Zero hour will be notified later.

Major,
BRIGADE MAJOR,
14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

18th February, 1918.

Alan Nevill
Volume 24
Apr. 11
Original

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO 125.

Reference Sheet 28. 1/40000.

Headquarters,

19th. Feb. 1918.

(1). The 55th and 53rd Battalions will relieve the 54th and 56th Battalions respectively in the 14th. Brigade sector on the night 20th/21st. February.

Relieved Battalions will take over the camps vacated by their relief.

(2). Details of relief, advanced parties guides etc. will be arranged direct between commanders concerned.

No portion of a front line strong point garrison will vacate its post before the arrival of the whole of its relief, and the formal handover.

(3). Receipts will be exchanged for all maps, documents and stores and a copy forwarded to this office within 48 hours of completion of the relief.

(4). Details of the relief of detached working parties will be issued separately.

(5). Completion of the relief will be wired to Brigade by the code word CHART.

Brigade Headquarters will remain at REGENT ST. DUGOUTS.

(6). ACKNOWLEDGE.

R. P. H. H. H.
Major,
BRIGADE MAJOR,
14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

Issued through SIGNALS at

File.	Copy No.
War Diary.	1.
53rd Battalion.	2.4. ✓
54th Battalion.	5.
55th Battalion.	6.
56th Battalion.	7.
14th M.G. Coy.	8.
14th L.T.M.B.	9.
25th M.G. Coy.	10.
14th Field Coy. A.E.	11.
28th Co. A.A.S.C.	12.
14th Field Amb.	13.
A.D.M.S.	14.
No. 3. Sig. Section.	15.
Staff Captain.	16.
5th Aust. Division.	17.
HOLLEBEKE Group Art.	18.
8th Inf. Brigade.	19.
12th Inf. Brigade.	20.
	21.

*Now Being
Not 21.
App. 5
Original*

REPORT ON MINOR ENTERPRISE CARRIED OUT BY THE 54th BATTALION A.I.F.
ON THE NIGHT OF 19th FEBRUARY, 1918.

REFERENCE MAP - HOUTHEM - 1/10,000.

1. On the 16th February instructions were received from the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade ordering a minor enterprise to be carried out by the 54th Battalion on GREEN FARM (O.17.b.4.4).
On the evening of the 17th inst, a reconnoitring patrol, consisting of the Battalion Intelligence Officer (Lieut.H.E.G.STAPLES.M.M.), the officer commanding the party (Lieut.A.G.BATES.D.C.M.) and 6.O/Ranks of the party penetrated GREEN FARM and found that it was not occupied by the enemy. Identifications being imperative another objective had to be chosen. This was decided at a conference held at the 54th Battalion Headquarters at 10.am 18th instant. The conference was attended by the G.O.C. 14th.A.I.Brigade, the Officer Commanding HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group and 54th Battalion Headquarters Staff. WHIZ FARM was chosen as an objective, and all arrangements were made relative to the enterprise.

2. ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS.

- (a) WHIZ FARM, the objective named, being a series of enemy strong points extending over a frontage of about 100 yards, the actual point of entry for the party was left to the discretion of the Officer Commanding. A personal reconnaissance on the part of the Commander on the night 18/19th February determined that the trenches or shelters shown immediately south of WHIZ FARM (as per aerial photograph) would be the main objective.
- (b) It was decided that the number of the party would be 1 officer and 20. O/Ranks.
- (c) It was arranged that the party would leave S.P.2.0.17. at 8.15.p.m. and be assembled in a line of old trenches (O.17.d.15.90. to O.17.d.30.60) by 8.45.p.m. At ZERO the party was to move forward under the protection of the artillery barrage and at ZERO plus two minutes to rush the objective, the artillery barrage having lefted to targets further in rear. The HOLLEBEKE Artillery Group arranged at ZERO, to open fire on WHIZ FARM, FLY BUILDINGS, HIGH FARM, BANG FARM and THE TWINS. At ZERO plus two minutes the barrage was to lift from WHIZ FARM and be distributed on targets further in rear. Meanwhile the Heavy Bombardment and Counter Battery Groups were to deal with enemy defences and guns.

3. REPORT ON OPERATIONS.

- (a) Everything went as per programme until the assembly point was reached. A light mist by this time having enveloped the front the O.C.Party decided to get as far forward as possible under cover of this mist before ZERO. This resulted in the party being 20 yards from the enemy wire at ZERO.
At ZERO (9.p.m.) the artillery barrage opened and the party pushed through the enemy's first line of entanglements.
At ZERO plus 2 minutes the second line of entanglements was passed and the party rushed the first system of posts and dug-outs.
- (b) No enemy was met with in the first two dug-outs. Bombs were thrown into these and sentries posted at the entrances. A third and large dug-out was then rushed and the O.C.Party arrived just as a Boche came to the entrance. Lieut. Bates was fired on and missed by this man, whom he shot. The garrison showed signs of resisting until Pte.White of Battalion Headquarters Intelligence Section, a German speaker, called on them in German to surrender; this they did, leaving their arms, in accordance with Pte.White's instructions in the dug-out.
The object of the enterprise being attained, Lieut. Bates decided to withdraw with his prisoners, who numbered seven. 1 of the party was detailed to each prisoner, and the remainder of the party covered their retirement until the guard wire was reached, when the whole party made all haste to PIONEER LANE. The guard wire was reached on the return journey at ZERO plus ten minutes.

Major Henry Noel
 Capt. G. Squire

2.

- (c) ARTILLERY ACTION. This was admirably timed and carried out, and was so accurate that Lieut. Bates reports that his party were operating directly under the shrapnel bursts and within 40 yards of the H.E. bursts. The shooting was remarkably accurate. The success of the Scheme was due, in a large measure, to the artillery support - Field Heavy and Counter Battery.
- (d) ENEMY ACTION. No enemy action commenced until ZERO plus five minutes, when the four posts (S.P.2.0.17. particularly) were heavily bombarded with minenwerfer, 77s, and 4.2's. Machine Guns also opened up over the whole front, but fired high and affected the rear area rather than the forward posts. No casualties were suffered by the party.

4. INFORMATION OBTAINED.

The enemy held the front line on similar lines to the system adopted by us. The prisoners, who belong to the 162nd Regiment (17th Division) only having been in this sector 2 days, do not know where the main defensive position is. The WHIZ FARM garrison consists of 4 or 5 dug-outs or concrete shelters, each containing from 3 to 7 men. The locality is strongly wired with 2 bands of wire. This is, however, in constant need of repair, as a result of our 9.45.H.T.M. activity.

5. RESULT OF RAID.

The result of the enterprise was to capture 7 of the enemy and inflict a number of casualties. Two of the enemy were known to have been killed and 1 officer severely wounded; it is possible that the casualties sustained by the enemy were even heavier than this.

The success of the enterprise was due to:-

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

19/2/18.

(Sgd) D.M. McCONAGHY Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 54th Battalion, A. I. F.

X X X X X X X

NOTE:-

At 11.25.p.m. a burst of fire was put over on WHIZ FARM by the HOLLEBEKE Group in order to catch any working party employed in repairing the damage.

(Sgd). J.H. PECK. Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,
5th Australian Division .

21/2/18.

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

APPENDIX 7

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 3.

Period 6.p.m. 13/2/18. to 6.p.m. 20/2/18.

1. GENERAL. The enemy still holds the outpost line as detailed in last summary. A certain liveliness has been evident during the period, manifested in increased M.G., M.W. and aerial activity. The M.G. and M.W. fire has been directed chiefly against the right battalion front line posts, and both weapons have been used simultaneously. Circumstances seem to tend towards a projected minor operation in this area.
2. OPERATIONS. (a). A raid was carried out on night 19th/20th on enemy posts in WHIZ FARM O.17.d.7.9. The party consisted of 1 Officer and 20. O.R. of 54th Battalion. The object was to secure identifications and prisoners. An artillery bombardment was put down on THE TWINS, BANG FARM, WHIZ FARM, HIGH FARM, and FLY BUILDINGS, and 2 minutes after zero lifted from WHIZ FARM allowing the raiding party which was lying outside the wire to rush in on the posts. The enemy at first showed signs of resistance but upon being called on in German to surrender they came out. 7 prisoners were brought back and 1 badly wounded Officer left behind. Several bodies of Germans killed by the bombardment were seen. There were no casualties on our side. Prisoners belonged to 10th Coy. 162nd. I.R. 17th Reserve Division.
- (b). There were no enemy raids.
3. PATROLS. (a). Our patrols reconnoitred N.M.L. nightly. THE GIANT, THE TWINS, GREEN FARM, WHIZ FARM and FLY BUILDINGS were reconnoitred. GREEN FARM was found to be unoccupied, but signs of occupation were heard in each of the others. Enemy patrols were seen on two occasions by our patrols but both at some distance from our wire.
4. MACHINE GUNS. (a). Our M.Gs. carried out night harassing fire on enemy tracks and posts. About 3000 rounds were fired nightly. A great number of rounds were expended in A.A. fire.
- (b). Enemy M.Gs were active on the right battalion front but quiet on the left. M.Gs were located at THE GIANT, THE TWINS, GREEN FARM, WHIZ FARM, BANG FARM and FLY BUILDINGS. Fire from the majority of these posts was directed against the right battalion front. A great deal of A.A.M.G. fire was carried out by the enemy.
5. TRENCH MORTARS. (a). Our L.T.Ms. fired nightly on enemy posts and in retaliation for M.G. and M.W. fire. They were successful on occasions in silencing these weapons. The H.T.Ms. carried out daily shoots and did some good shooting on enemy pill-boxes.
- (b). Enemy M.Ws. were very active at night against our right battalion front. They were located at GREEN FARM, THE TWINS, and BANG FARM and appeared also to be firing from positions in O.18.d.
6. ARTILLERY. (a). Our artillery was normally active and enemy forward and back areas were shelled by day and night with field and heavy guns. Artillery co-operation in the raid of 19/20th is reported as being excellent both in accuracy of shooting and in timing.
- (b). Enemy artillery activity has been quite normal. The most consistently shelled area was O.16. and the C.T. leading to the front line through that area. Apparently in retaliation for our successful operation of the 19/20th, the areas O.14. and O.20. were rather heavily shelled this morning for the first time.
7. AERIAL ACTIVITY. (a). Our planes were very active on days of good visibility. They patrolled enemy front line and back areas by day, and bombed them by night. 1 enemy plane was driven down during the period and 1 of our planes crashed after being hit by one of our own shells.
- (b). The enemy planes on occasions were very bold, several of them flying very low over our lines on artillery and reconnaissance work in spite of heavy ground fire.
8. CASUALTIES.
- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Died of wounds. | - | 1 | O.R. |
| Wounded. | - | 1 | Officer, 5 O.R. |
| Gassed. | - | 1 | O.R. |

W. G. H. M. M. M.
 Brig.-General,
 Commanding 14th. AUST. INF. BRIGADE.

W. G. H. M. M. M.
 Nov 20
 Oct 7
 Original

14th. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 4.Period 6.p.m. 20/2/18. to 6.p.m. 27/2/18.

1. GENERAL. The outpost line of Pill-boxes held by the enemy remains the same as detailed in the summary last week. Since our successful raid on WHIZ FARM on night of 19th/20th, the enemy has shown increased vigilance and seems to be unusually alert in watching movements of our patrols, and keeping them under constant M.G. fire. It is definitely known that he still garrisons WHIZ FARM, as patrols have reported having seen men issuing from that pill-box at night, and also having been fired on by a M.G. from there; and smoke was seen coming from WHIZ FARM on the 26th instant. It would appear from his attitude that he anticipates the possibility of our attempting another raid on one of his pill-boxes. This could be surmised from the fact that wiring parties have been heard nightly along his front.

There has been an increase in his M.G. fire at night during this period.

Our front line posts report very accurate shooting on their Strong Posts.

Practically no movement is seen by day near his front posts.

2. OPERATIONS. (a) Relief. On the night of 20th/21st. instant the 55th Battalion relieved the 54th Battalion, front line right. 53rd Battalion relieved the 56th Battalion, front line left.

(b) There were no enemy raids.

3. PATROLS. (a) Our patrols reconnoitred N.M.L. nightly but the bright nights have made their movements visible to the enemy.

THE GIANT, THE TWINS, GREEN FARM, WHIZ FARM, and FLY BUILDINGS have been reconnoitred. Working parties were heard at THE TWINS, THE GIANT and WHIZ FARM.

(b) On two occasions enemy patrols have been seen but no encounters took place. On the first occasion the patrol consisted of 7 men who were making towards our S.P.3.0.27. On the second occasion the patrol was composed of 11 men, but on seeing our patrol they split into 3 parties and returned to BANG FARM.

4. MACHINE GUNS. (a). Our M.Gs. have carried out the usual programme of night harassing fire on enemy tracks and posts.

On the night of 24th/25th inst. on account of expected relief 35000 rounds were expended.

(b). Enemy Machine Guns have been very active during the night sweeping N.M.L. with bursts of fire.

5. TRENCH MORTARS. (a). On several occasions our patrols have been able to get our L.T.Ms. on to enemy working parties at night with good results.

Medium and Heavy T.Ms. have carried out shoots on THE GIANT, THE TWINS, WHIZ FARM and FLY BUILDINGS.

(b). Enemy minenwerfers have not been consistently active. A good many Pineapples have been fired during this period.

6. ARTILLERY. (a). Our artillery has been active, carrying out regular shoots day and night on forward and back areas. Effective counter battery work has also been done.

Our Heavies have consistently shelled KORTEWILDE, HOUTHEM, COMINES and WERVICQ.

(b). Enemy artillery activity has increased during the last week.

On two occasions he has carried out extensive shoots near ONRAET WOOD searching for our battery positions near there.

Wan Swan
Nov. 24
A. J. J. J.
C. J. J. J.

8

2.

7. AERIAL ACTIVITY. (a). On account of the good visibility our planes have been very active. They have frequently crossed enemy's lines and on one night carried out a raid on WERVICQ.

(b). Enemy planes have been active but have not succeeded very often in crossing our lines.

8. CASUALTIES. 8. O.R. wounded.

R. G. Thurst Major
Brig.-General,
Commanding 14th. AUSL. INF. BRIGADE.

14th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

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WEEKLY FIGHTING STRENGTH 2-2-18.

UNIT	1		2		3		4		A		B		PARTICULARS OF COLUMN 4.		
	PREVIOUS WEEK		INCREASE DURING WEEK		TOTAL OF 1 and 2		DECREASE during week.		FIGHTING STRENGTH.		UNTRAINED AND DETAILS OF PART TRAINED		Officers	O/Ranks.	
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors			
53rd Bn.	42	935	2	10	44	945	2	14	42	931	-	-	9	294	14th T.B.1 Indian A 1 Evac sick 10 14th T.B.14
54th Bn.	42	916	2	11	44	927	1	27	43	900	-	-	6	222	14th T.B.1 14th T.B. 4 D.T.C. 2
55th Bn.	50	1005	-	15	50	1020	1	7	49	1013	-	-	17	236	Hosp Bng 1 Evac sick 7 Evac sick 14
56th Bn.	42	997	2	13	44	1010	1	19	43	991	-	-	13	219	14th T.B. 4 Evac sick Cadet Bn 1 Evac sick 14
14th M.G.C	13	185	-	2	13	187	-	6	13	181	-	-	2	23	Evac Sick 5 Transfd 1
TOTAL.	189	4038	6	51	195	4089	5	73	190	4016	-	-	47	994	5 73

Increase of Officers.

53rd Bn. Lieut S.C. Robertson from 14th Tng Bn.
 : ; Lieut R. Anslow : Supernumerary.
 54th : Lieut J.G. Steber :
 : ; Lieut K.N. Wark. : 14th Tng Bn.
 56th Bn. Capt N.R. Plomley : Hosp (wounded)
 : ; Lieut E Bullock. : Seconded.

Decrease of Officers.

53rd Bn. Lieut R.A. McInness to 14th Tng Bn.
 : ; Capt J.T. Lang Commission Indian Army.
 54th Bn. Lieut J.A.S. Mitchell. to 14th Tng Bn.
 55th Bn. Lieut L.N. Stafford to Hospital.
 56th Bn. Lieut A.A. Heath. Evac sick from Div area.

APPENDIX

9

14th Australian Inf Brigade

Attachment to Weekly Fighting Strength 2-2-18

Details of column B.

	53 rd		54 th		55 th		56 th		14 th M.G.C.	
	off	O/R ^s	off	O/R ^s	off	O/R ^s	off	O/R ^s	off	O/R ^s
Sick		34		23		12		7		
Courses + Schools	6	18	2	15	5	15	3	14		5
Divisional duties		3		4		1		20		
Brigade duties		37		41	1	27	1	13		1
Working parties		98		-	1	68	1	29		
Leave	3	77		79	5	85	5	72	1	16
Temp duty L.T.M.B.		8		9		5		9		
On command		19	3	51	5	23	3	55	1	1
TOTAL	9	294	5	222	17	236	13	219	2	23

WEEKLY FIGHTING STRENGTH 7-2-18.

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UNIT	PREVIOUS WEEK		INCREASE DURING WEEK		TOTAL FROM DECREASE 1 and 2		DECREASE DURING WEEK		FIGHTING STRENGTH		UNTRAINED AND PART TND.		DETAILS OF A		PARTICULARS OF COLUMN 4.		
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors.	
																Evac sick	28
53rd Bn.	42	931	-	1	42	932	-	28	42	904	-	-	7	304	-		
54th Bn.	43	900	-	-	43	900	-	15	43	885	-	-	7	251		Evac sick	14
																Evac wounded	1
55th Bn.	49	1013	-	1	49	1014	-	16	49	998	-	-	17	378		Evac sick	11
																14th Tng Bn	4
																Transfd base	1
56th Bn.	43	991	-	-	43	991	-	10	43	981	-	-	12	197		Evac sick	10
14th M.G. Coy.	13	181	-	-	13	181	-	2	13	179	-	-	3	24		Evac Sick.	2
TOTAL.	190	4016	-	2	190	4018	-	71	190	3947	-	-	46	1154	-		71

Details of Column B.

	53rd Bn		54th Bn		55th Bn		56th Bn.		14th M.G.C.	
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors.
LEAVE	2	29	-	19	1	17	5	6	7	12
Sick.	4	19	3	19	4	14	2	14	2	17
Courses and Schools.	1	37	1	41	1	25	1	13	-	1
Brigade duties.	-	93	-	-	3	175	1	27	-	-
Working parties away from Unit.	-	7	-	6	-	4	-	9	-	-
Temp duty with L.T.M.B.	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rest Camps.	-	23	3	46	2	9	1	15	-	1
On Command.	-	4	-	24	2	21	2	49	-	-
Divisional duties.										
TOTALS.	7	304	7	251	17	378	12	197	3	24

APPENDIX 9

WEEKLY FIGHTING STRENGTH 16-2-18.

560

Unit	1		2		3		4		A		B		Particulars of Column 4		
	Previous week		Increase during week		Totals from 1 and 2		Decrease during week		FIGHTING STRENGTH		Untrained and pt trained.		Details of A.		
	Off	Ors.	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Officers O/ Ranks.
53rd Bn.	42	904	1	2	43	906	-	19	43	887	-	-	8	313	Evac Sick 18 Transferred 1
54th Bn.	43	885	3	-	46	885	-	24	46	861	-	-	6	241	Evac Sick. 22 Wounded. 1 Acc wounded 1
55th Bn.	49	998	4	1	53	999	1	4	52	995	-	-	17	370	Seconded Sick Evac 3 14th T.B. 1 Leave Aust. 1
56th Bn.	43	981	-	1	43	982	1	13	42	969	-	-	12	208	Sick evac 13
14th M.G. Coy.	13	179	-	3	13	182	-	7	13	175	-	-	1	25	Evac 5th A.G.P. 2 Leave Aust. 1
Total.	190	3947	8	7	198	3954	2	67	196	3887	-	-	44	1157	2 67

Increase of Officers.

53rd Bn. Lieut W.V. Bevan from 14th Tng Bn.
 54th Bn. Capt S.A. Benson from Seconded.
 ; ; Capt A.P. Vine Hall from 14th Tng Bn.
 ; ; Lieut J.N. Pollock from seconded.
 55th Bn. Capt J.J. Marshall from Supernumerary
 ; ; Captain S.A. Pinkstone from Australia.
 ; ; F.J. Cotterell M.C. from Wounded.
 ; ; Lieut R. Ellsmore. : Supernumerary.

Decrease of Officers.

55th Bn. Capt W.N. Giblett M.C. seconded to
 56th Bn. 14th Tng Bn.
 56th Bn. Lieut J. Rew Seconded to 14th Tng Bn.

DETAILS OF COLUMN B.

	53rd Bn.		54th Bn.		55th Bn.		56th Bn.		14th M.G.C.	
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors.
Sick.	1	33	-	5	1	19	-	8	-	1
Courses and Schools.	4	19	4	18	4	16	4	14	1	5
Divisional Duties.	-	4	-	24	2	20	2	13	-	-
Brigade duties.	-	38	1	40	1	25	1	14	-	1
Working parties away from Unit.	-	93	-	-	3	177	1	26	-	-
Leave.	3	98	-	85	5	100	4	73	-	17
Temp duties L.T.M. Batteries.	-	7	-	7	-	4	-	-	-	-
Rest Camps.	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
On Command.	-	21	1	47	1	29	-	60	-	1
Total.	8	313	6	241	17	370	12	208	1	25

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WEEKLY FIGHTING STRENGTH. 25-2-18.

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Unit	Previous week		Increase during week.		Totals from 1 and 2		Decrease during week		FIGHTING STRENGTH. and Pt td.		Untrained and Pt td.		Details of A.		Particulars of Column 4.	
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Officers	O/Ranks.
53rd Bn.	43	887	-	60	43	947	1	3	42	944	-	-	10	244	Evac wd	1
															Evac sick.	2
															Evac Sick	8
54th Bn.	46	861	1	54	47	915	-	15	47	900	-	-	10	248	Evac wounded.	5
															14th T.B.	1
															Commd to prison	1
55th Bn.	52	995	-	25	52	1020	-	11	52	1009	-	-	18	289	Evac sick & wd.	9
															Transferred.	1
															Commd to prison	1
56th Bn.	42	969	-	62	42	1031	-	8	42	1023	-	-	11	291	Evac sick.	8
															Transferred.	1
															Evac sick & wd.	5
14th M.G. Coy.	13	175	-	6	13	181	-	8	13	173	-	-	2	28	Illegal absentee	1
															Sick from U.K.	1
Total.	196	3887	1	207	197	4094	1	45	196	4049	-	-	51	1100		45

Increase of Officers.

54th Bn. Capt R.G.Downing from Hospital (Sick).

Decrease of Officers.

53rd Bn. Lieut S.C.Robertson evac wounded.

DETAILS OF COLUMN B.

	53rd Bn		54th Bn		55th Bn		56th Bn.		14th M.G.C.	
	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors	Off	Ors.
Sick.	1	33	1	12	-	22	-	12	-	4
Courses and Schools.	5	13	4	14	6	14	3	13	1	3
Brigade duties.	-	37	1	40	1	42	1	14	-	-
Divisional duties.	-	3	-	26	2	19	1	30	-	-
Working parties away from Unit.	-	45	-	-	3	75	-	97	-	-
Leave	4	76	2	72	5	104	5	84	1	16
Temp duties with L.T.M.B.	-	9	-	10	-	7	-	-	-	-
Rest Camps.	-	-	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pn Command.	-	28	1	57	1	6	1	41	-	1
TOTAL.	10	244	10	248	18	289	11	291	2	28

APPENDIX 45

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14th. A.L.T.M.B.

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WAR DIARY.

FEBRUARY 1918.

Upon taking over this sector at end of January we found 4 guns mounted and the remaining 4 neutral. Of the 4 guns mounted only 2 were in such a position that they could fire on the enemy. This was considered unsatisfactory both from an offensive and defensive point of view.

The work of the month therefore has been directed towards strengthening and improving our arrangements for the defence of the line, at the same time carrying on a programme of night harassing fire at irregular intervals with the object of reducing the activity of enemy machine guns, and hampering wiring parties and inflicting casualties. We now have 4 mortars in front system all so placed that they can fire on enemy posts and wire. A number of alternative emplacements have also been made. 4 Mortars have been emplaced in support line for use in case of enemy penetration of front system. Two pill-boxes have been cleared and are now occupied by the crews for these guns.

On night of February 19th we co-operated with 54th Battalion raid, shelling FLY BUILDINGS for 20 minutes and searching from East to West - 160 rounds were fired.

A policy of close liaison with O/C Line and patrols has been observed with the result that we have been able to disperse enemy working parties upon more than one occasion. An average of 60 rounds per night has been fired during the month.

Casualties for the month have been two only viz:-

2730.Pte.T.C.RILEY. (M.G.Bullet right foot).

3260.Pte.A.V.SWANSON.(evacuated sick).

(Sgd).K.H.BROCK, Capt.
O.C.,14th.L.T.M.B.

*Wilson Beatty
Nov. 24
App. 10
Original*