

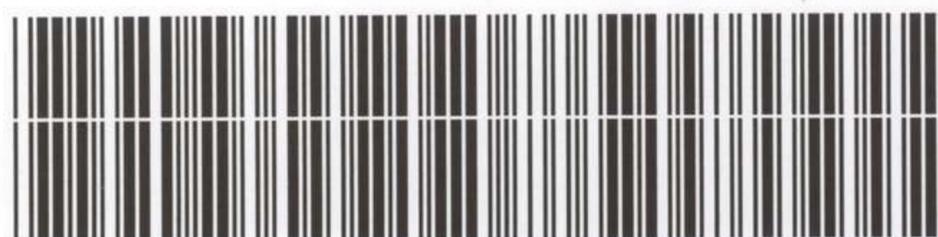
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/72/11

Title: 55th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/72/11

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
(France) BUIRE	1917 Jan'y	1 st	Battalion remains in billets at BUIRE, undergoing training. Men are being exercised in company drill, whilst all specialists such as runners, bombers, signallers etc are receiving individual training. Battalion Strength 26 Officers 918 Other ranks.	
do	Jan'y	2 nd	Time for parades spent in inspection of boots & web equipment and refitting of same in view of approaching 2 days route march. Battalion Strength 26 Officers 918 Other ranks.	
do	Jan'y	3 rd	Training continues as previously. Preparations made for move of Battalion to the "T" Area, commencing tomorrow. Battalion Strength 26 Officers 919 Other ranks.	
do FRANVILLERS	Jan'y	4 th	Battalion moved from BUIRE to FRANVILLERS by road in accordance with instructions in Operation Order No 20, attached. On arrival at FRANVILLERS billets were occupied for the night. Battalion Strength 26 Officers 911 Other ranks.	O.O. 20.
do FLESSELLES	Jan'y	5 th	Battalion route marched from FRANVILLERS to FLESSELLES in accordance with instructions in Operation Order No 20, and reached FLESSELLES at 3 PM, where billets were occupied. Battalion HQ established at Billet 12 (corner of RUE de VILLERS-BOCAGE and RUE D'AMIENS, a company billets were situated close by. Battalion Strength 26 Officers 911 Other ranks.	do

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(2) WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.



Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place (Name)	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLESSELLES	Jan	6 th	<p>Day devoted to cleaning up & fitting of web equipment, also inspection of kit New Year Honours include award of the D.S.O. to Lieut Colonel McNamara (C.O.) and the Military Cross to Capt P.W. Woods (Adjt). Battalion strength 26 Officers 908 other ranks</p>	
do	Jan	7 th	<p>Today being Sunday a combined Brigade Church Parade was held at 10.30 am Men were free for the remainder of the day. Battalion strength 27 Officers 910 other ranks</p>	
do	Jan	8 th	<p>Training recommenced today, company drill being exercised. Lecture for Officers held at night. Battalion strength 25 Officers 913 other ranks</p>	
do	Jan	9 th	<p>Same routine, more advanced exercises in company drill being the work carried out. Battalion strength 25 Officers 910 other ranks</p>	
do	Jan	10 th	<p>Lieut Colonel McNamara took over temporary command of 14th A.I. Bde during absence on leave of Brigadier. In consequence Capt P.W. Woods assumed temporary command of this Battalion. "C" & "D" Companies moved today to FRANKVILLERS in accordance with instructions in Operation Order No 21 attached Battalion strength 25 Officers 905 other ranks.</p>	<p>OO. 21</p>

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLESELLES	1917 January 11 th		C & D Companies moved from FRANVILLERS to FRICOURT. Remainder of Battalion continued training at FLESELLES. Battalion strength 15 Officers 905 other ranks.	O.D. 21
do	January 12 th		C & D Companies moved from FRICOURT to QUARRY SIDING and are attached to CRE. Unit for fatigue work. Remainder of Battalion continue training at FLESELLES, (Battalion drill & route marching). Specialist training also carried out. Battalion strength 15 Officers 907 other ranks.	O.D. 21
do	January 13 th		A Brigade Field Exercise carried out during the morning. This Battalion being on the defence. Lt Col R. M. Conroy. (Cond) Officer evacuated to Hospital today. Preliminary arrangements made for moving of Battalion to the forward area by rail tomorrow. Transport Section left at 11:30 pm today & moved to BUIRE in two stages as shown in Operation Order 22 attached. Battalion strength 14 Officers 920 other ranks.	O.D. 22
BUIRE	January 14 th		That portion of the Battalion at FLESELLES moved by train to BUIRE where billets were occupied by 4 p.m. Instructions in Operation Order 22 attached. 4 fatigue parties of 1 Officer + 75 other ranks sent to H. Army T. M. School. Battalion strength 14 Officers 919 other ranks.	

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(4)

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C, 2118.



Place (Name)	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BVIRE	1917 January	15 th	Battalion remained in billets at BVIRE for the day, making preparation to move forward tomorrow. All surplus stores etc were sent to dump at ALBERT until Battalion returns. "C" company still working at QUARRY SIDING. "D" company moved to DERNANCOURT on night of 14 th and joins up with the Battalion tomorrow. Battalion strength 24 OH 918 ORAs.	
do FRICOURT	January	16 th	Battalion marched from BVIRE to FRICOURT and huts were occupied at Bde camp. Move complete by 2 p.m. Instructions for move contained (OO 23) in Operation Order 23 attached. 10 Officers + 50 other ranks proceeded to MEUVILLE for fatigue. Battalion strength 23 Officers 931 other ranks.	(OO 23)
do	January	17 th	Men rested for the day at FRICOURT. Weather became colder and ground is now covered with snow. Battalion strength 23 Officers 931 other ranks.	
do MONTAUBAN	January	18 th	As ordered by OO 23. Battalion moved from FRICOURT to MONTAUBAN CAMP leaving former place at 12.30 p.m. Huts were occupied in Adelaide Camp by 3 p.m. Battalion strength 23 Officers 931 other ranks.	(OO 23)
do	January	19 th	"C" company still remains at QUARRY SIDING on fatigue work. The remainder of the Battalion is furnishing daily fatigue parties for CRE & Large Light Rlys. These fatigues are permanent and are to last for 7 or 8 days. Battalion strength 23 Officers 931 other ranks.	

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place Name	1917			
MONTAUBAN	Jan 20 th		Fatigues supplied as usual from MONTAUBAN CAMP. Heavy frost has now frozen the snow & ground and although much colder, the weather is more healthy for the men. This is noticeable by the decrease in sick evacuations. Battalion strength 22 Officers 921 other ranks	
do	Jan 21 st		The same routine in force. Fatigue parties continue to work for CRE and Auzac Light Railways. Weather still remains cold & frosty.	Battalion strength 22 Officers 921 ORKs
do	Jan 22 nd			do 22 Officers 917 ORKs
do	Jan 23 rd			do 24 Officers 936 ORKs
do	Jan 24 th			do 24 Officers 927 ORKs
do	Jan 25 th			do 24 Officers 922 ORKs
do	Jan 26 th		"C" Company relieved of duty at QUARRY SIDING and rejoined the Battalion at MONTAUBAN. The usual fatigues were taken over by 29 th Battalion today and this Battalion prepared to move forward to take over the front line. Battalion strength 25 Officers 916 other ranks	
do	Jan 27 th		Battalion moved from MONTAUBAN at 2.30pm and proceeded to TROVES WOOD CAMP, in accordance with Operation Order 24 attached. Transport & Q.M.s Hqs established in 'E' Camp BERNAFAY	(O. 24)
			Battalion strength 28 Officers 913 ORKs	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.



(Erase heading not required.)

Place <i>Name</i>	Date <i>1917</i>	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRONES WOOD	January	28 th	Battalion rested at TROVES WOOD for the day. Sandbags, bombs & ammunition issued preparatory to going forward to the line. Instructions for move in Operation Order 25 attached. Moved forward at 4 p.m.	OO 25
INTER-MEDIATE LINE	January	29 th	Battalion is now holding INTERMEDIATE LINE with Headquarters in COW TRENCH - between FLERS and LESBOUEFS. D Company supplies fatigue parties for work on GINCHY defences and is quartered at Depot Camp BERNAFAY.	
do	January	30 th	The frosty cold weather has made a great difference in the life in the line. The mud & water, previously encountered, has now frozen hard. Sick evacuations for the past two days from the line amount to 1 man only. Men's health is good.	
do	January	31 st	The usual arrangements for supply of hot foods are again in force. The use of whale oil for prevention of Trench Feet has been discontinued & the French method introduced. No cases of this trouble have occurred during time in the line on this occasion.	
			Battalion moved forward after dusk and relieved the 53 rd Bn in the front line trenches.	
			Battalion Strength 28 Officers 913 Other ranks.	
			Battalion Strength 28 Officers 914 Other ranks.	
			Battalion Strength 28 Officers 914 Other ranks.	
			Battalion Strength 28 Officers 915 Other ranks. Casualties 6 Other Rks Wounded.	

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SECRET.

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

OPERATION ORDER No 20.

by

Lieut-Colonel D.M. McCONAGHY, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

(Reference Maps: Amiens 17)
Lens 10)

IN THE FIELD, 3rd January 1916.

INTENTION.

1. The 55th Battalion will move from its present billets in "R" Area and move in two stages to "T" Area, as shown in Table of Moves hereunder, on 4th and 5th instant.

TABLE OF MOVES.

2. 4th January 1916. Battalion will parade on road in front of billets at 8 a.m. and will march via BUIRE-LAVIEVILLE Road to the ALBERT-AMIENS Road, thence via the latter road to the village of FRANVILLERS. Billets will be occupied on arrival at this village.
5th January 1916. Battalion will parade in front of billets at FRANVILLERS at 8 a.m., and march via BEHENCOURT, MOLLIENS, and VILLERS-BOCAGE to FLESSELLES, where billets will be occupied.

ORDER OF MOVE.

3. Battalion will parade and move in the following order:-
Signallers and "A" Company.
"B" Company.
"C" Company.
"D" Company, part of L.Gunners, and A.M.C.

Transport Section, and remainder of Lewis Gunners will parade at Transport Lines at 8 a.m. and will follow the Battalion. Pioneers will move with the Transport.

Distances: The following distances will be maintained on the march:-

100 yards between Companies.

200 yards between Battalions.

200 yards between Transport of units.)

) During Brigade March.

Note. On 5th inst the Transport Section, & Lewis Gun Section will move out ahead of the Battalion, leaving at 7.55 a.m. and will join Brigade Column at point where road turns south 300 yards NORTH of "F" in FRANVILLERS at 8.50 a.m.

TRANSPORT OF BAGGAGE & COOKERS.

4. All baggage to be loaded and Field Cookers to be ready for removal from Company billets at 7.45 a.m. on each day. Transport Officer will arrange for the necessary limbers to be left at the billets for loading in sufficient time.

TRANSPORT OF BLANKETS.

5. 4th January. Men to retain 1 blanket only. The remainder to be rolled in bundles of 20 and delivered at R.Q.M.'s Store not later than 7.30 a.m. These blankets will be conveyed by Motor lorry through to FLESSELLES.
5th January. The blankets in possession of all men will be rolled in bundles of 20 and delivered to R.Q.M.'s Store at FRANVILLERS not later than 7.30 a.m. These will also be conveyed to FLESSELLES by Motor Lorry.

RATIONS & MEALS.

6. Unexpended portion of days rations to be carried by all ranks on both days.

Midday Meal. 4.1.17. On arrival at FRANVILLERS.

5.1.17. En route. "D" Company's Cooker will move at the rear of the column instead of proceeding ahead with Transport, and will prepare tea for the midday meal for the whole Battalion. R.Q.M. to arrange to issue to "D" Company sufficient tea, milk, and sugar to make same.

ADVANCE PARTIES.

7. (a) Lieut H. MILLER and 1 N.C.O. per Company will report to B.O.R. at 7.45 a.m. on 4th inst. and will proceed by Motor Lorry to FLESSELLES. This party will report to the Staff Captain, 14th Inf Bde, at FLESSELLES at 3 p.m. on 4th inst., and will inspect all billets they are to take over, and will report result of inspection to Staff Captain.
(b) A second Advance Party consisting of Lieut A.H. VOGAN & 1 N.C.O. per Company will report to B.O.R. at 7.30 a.m. on

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4th inst., and will proceed to FRANVILLERS and report to Staff Captain, 14th Inf Bde, at 10 a.m., to take over billets.

On both days the billeting N.C.O.'s will, in addition to guiding their own companies to the respective billets, point out billets for ~~stax~~ details as shown hereunder:

- N.C.O. from "A" Coy.... Signallers.
- do do "B" Coy.... B.O.R. and Band.
- do do "C" Coy.... Transport, Q.M., and Pioneers.
- do do "D" Coy.... Lewis Gunners and A.M.C.

REAR PARTY. 8. Lieut A.W.PANTON will remain behind at BUIRE to hand over billets to incoming units. He will carry out an inspection of the billets with the Town Major and a representative of the incoming Brigade. He will report back to the Battalion on completion.

BILLETS & CERTIFICATES. 9. Billets must be left clean and sanitary. They should be cleaned as much as possible to-day as time will be limited to-morrow. The usual certificates re billets to be sent to B.O.R. before leaving BUIRE and FRANVILLERS respectively.

PARADE STATES 10. Daily Parade States for 4th and 5th inst. to be rendered to B.O.R. not later than 7 a.m. Marching Out States to be handed to R.S.M. at B.O.R. at 7.45 a.m. on each day. Marching In States to be sent to B.O.R. not later than 15 minutes after companies are billeted each day.

MAILS. 11. The Battalion Post Office will be closed for the receipt of mail for despatch at 12 noon to-day until 9 a.m. on 6th inst.

Issued at 12.30 p.m. to:

- 1. War Diary.
- 2. File.
- 3. "A" Company.
- 4. "B" Company.
- 5. "C" Company.
- 6. "D" Company.
- 7. Lewis Gunners.
- 8. Sigs.
- 9. Q.M. & Transport.

Capt & Adj. t.

OPERATION ORDER No 21.

by

Captain P.W.WOODS, M.C., T/Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.IN THE FIELD, 9th January 1917.

- INTENTION. 1. Two Companies of 55th Battalion, namely "C" and "D" Companies, will move in three stages from FLESSELLES to QUARRY SIDING, as shown in attached table of moves, on 10th, 11th and 12th inst.
- ORDER OF MOVE. 2. 10th January 1917. "C" and "D" Companies will parade in order shown on Rue de Villers-Bocage at 9 a.m., ready to move at that time.
11th and 12th January. Companies will parade at time and place to be notified by the officer in charge of the move.
Transport: The following transport will move with these two companies:
2 limbered G.S. Wagons.
2 Travelling Kitchens.
1 Water Cart.
- COMMAND. 3. Captain E.W. STUTCHBURY M.C. will be in charge of the move.
- ADVANCE PARTIES. 4. Lieut A.W. BANTON and 1 N.C.O. from "C" Coy will proceed in advance of the Companies on each day to arrange billeting. They should leave FLESSELLES at 8 a.m. to-morrow. They will report to the following Officers at the different halting places for orders re quarters:
FRANVILLERS Town Major.
FRICOURT BDE CAMP.. Commandant S1 Area.
QUARRY SIDING..... C.R.E. Circuit.
- BLANKETS. 5. Blankets will be conveyed by Motor Lorry and will be delivered at B.O.R. before 8 a.m. rolled in bundles of 20.
- RATIONS. 6. Rations for consumption on the 10th were issued to-day. Those for the 11th will be issued to-morrow morning. The S.S.O. 4th Aust. Division will deliver rations for 12th inst at FRICOURT CAMP on the evening of 11th. Thereafter, commencing on 12th inst, rations will be drawn from MONTAUBAN RAILHEAD.
- BOX RESPIRATORS. 7. Box respirators for these two companies will be drawn by the Q.M.S. in charge from the Brigade Dump at BUIRE. R.Q.M. to supply the necessary authority.
- Q.M.'s DEPT. 8. C.Q.M.S. Smith, "D" Company, will be the Q.M.S. in charge. The R.Q.M. will detail one of his storemen to accompany the party.
- STATES & RETURNS. 9. Daily Parade state to be rendered to B.O.R. before companies leave to-morrow, together with the Weekly Field State. An exact marching-out ~~xxx~~ state to be furnished also.
Until such time as Battalion Headquarters moves from FLESSELLES, "C" and "D" Companies will wire any evacuations of sick, or men taken on strength, to B.O.R. Telegraphic communication will be available at the nearest Brigade or Divisional Headquarters.

O.O.21.

BILLETS. 10. Billets vacated must be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Certificates to B.O.R. before leaving FLESSELLES and thereafter to the officer in charge of the move.

11. TABLE OF MOVES.

Date.	From	To	Route.
10.1.17	FLESSELLES	FRANVILLERS	via Villers-Bocage, Molliens, Behencourt. Not to pass xxx Molliens before 11 a.m.
11.1.17	FRANVILLERS	FRICOURT BDE CAMP.	via Buire and Meaulte.
12.1.17	FRICOURT BDE CAMP.	Coloured Labor Camp, QUARRY SIDING.	via Rose Cottage, Mametz Camp.

ROUTINE Quarry Sdg. 12. "C" and "D" Companies will relieve 2 companies of the 60th Battalion now at Colored Labor Camp, QUARRY SDC. Details of handing over to be mutually arranged between Senior Company Commanders concerned. It must be distinctly understood that no break in the continuity of the work or reduction in the strength of the exchanging companies is permitted.

Issued to:

- 1 War Diary.
- 2 File
- 3 "A" Company
- 4 "B" Company
- 5 "C" Company
- 6 "D" Company
- 7 Quartermaster.

A. H. Tegen
2/Lieut.,
For Adj. 55th Bn, AIF.

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

OPERATIONAL ORDER No 22.

by

Captain P.W.WOODS, M.C., T/Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.IN THE FIELD, 13th January 1917.INTENTION.

1. The 55th Battalion now at FLESSELLES will move from its present billets and proceed to BUIRE as shown in Table of Moves hereunder on 13th and 14th January 1917.

TABLE OF MOVES.

2. Transport and Lewis Gun Carts.

From	To	Date	Place and time of starting.
FLESSELLES	RAINNEVILLE. via Villers-Becage.	13.1.17	Junction of VILLERS-BOCAGE --FLESSELLES Road with MONTONVILLE-LERS Road., at 2 p.m
RAINNEVILLE	BUIRE Via Quirrieu and Heilly.	14.1.17	Where RAINNEVILLE-QUIRRIEU Road crosses CONTAY-AMIENS Road., at 11 a.m.

Remainder of Battalion (except "C" and "D" Coys, previously moved).

From	To	Date	Place and time of starting.
FLESSELLES	EDGEHILL (Buire)	14.1.17	By train leaving Flesselles at 11.30 a.m. Time of entraining-- 10.30 a.m. Arrive at Buire 1.30 p.m

TRANSPORT MOVE.

3. The Transport will move as shown above leaving billets at FLESSELLES at 1.30 p.m. 13.1.17. Timbers to be loaded and ready to be removed from Company Billets at 1 p.m. Travelling Kitchens. The travelling kitchens will remain at FLESSELLES till 5.30 p.m. 13.1.17, in order to provide hot meal for men. The cookers of the Brigade will assemble on VILLERS-BOCAGE ROAD, clear of FLESSELLES at 5.30 p.m. and move to RAINNEVILLE and join up remainder of Transport. 54th Battalion Transport Sergeant will be in charge.

BATTALION MOVE.

4. Battalion will parade in Rue de Villers-Bocage, ready to move off at 10 a.m. on 14.1.17, in the following order:-
Hqrs Signallers. & Hqrs details.
"A" Company.
"B" Company.
Lewis Gunners.
A.M.C.
Brigade details (These will join up at 3 p.m. 13.1.17)
Head of column at junction of cross roads at B.O.R.

ENTRAINING & DETRAINING.

5. The entraining and detraining must be done in an orderly manner, and care must be taken not to congest the traffic on the roads in the vicinity of the stations. 2/Lieut N.L.WILSON will report to the Brigade Major at FLESSELLES Station at 10 a.m. on 14th inst., to arrange entraining.

ADVANCE PARTY.

6. 2/Lieut R.H.WILKIN will proceed to BUIRE to-day, leaving at 2 p.m. to arrange billets. The same billets as previously occupied will again be used. He will report to Lieut ADAMS, attached 14th Bde HQrs, at the Town Major's Office BUIRE at 8 a.m. on 14.1.17 and will inspect the billets taken over at BUIRE and report on cleanliness of same to B.O.R. Transport Officer to provide horse, with sufficient fodder in nose bag.

RATIONS & MEALS.

7. All ranks to carry unexpired portion of days rations on 14th inst. Those leaving on 13th to carry 48 hours rations. To provide tea on morning of 14th inst each company will have the use of a Seyer's stove. "A" Company to send to Sergeants' Mess for same to-day; and "B" Company send to R.Q.M. store.

OFFICERS' BAGGAGE.

8. All heavy officers' baggage to be sent with transport to-day. A motor lorry will call at R.Q.M.'s store at 7 a.m. on 14th inst to pick up Officers' Sleeping valises etc. Same to be sent there by 6.45 a.m.

BILLETS & CERTIFICATES.

9. All billets must be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Certificates to that effect to be sent to B.O.R. before Companies move off.

STATES.

10. Daily Parade State for 14.1.17 to be rendered by 7 a.m. Marching out state to R.S.M. at 9.45 a.m. on 14th inst. Marching In States required 15 minutes after arrival in new billets.

MAILS.

11. The Battalion Post Office will be closed from 11 a.m. to-day till 9 a.m. 15th inst.

A. H. Tegan

2/Lieut & A/Adjt.

Issued at 11 a.m. TO:-

- 1 War Diary
- 2 File
- 3 "A" Company
- 4 "B" Company
- 5 "C" Company
- 6 "D" Company
- 7 Lewis Gunners
- 8 Sigs and A.M.C.
- 9 Q.M.

OPERATION ORDER No 23.

by

Captain P.W. WOODS, M.C., T/Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

IN THE FIELD, 15th January 1917

INTENTION. 1. That part of the 55th Battalion now at BUIRE will move from its present billets and proceed by route-march to FRICOURT on 16th inst, and thence to MONTAUBAN on 18th inst., as shown on Table of Moves hereunder.

<u>TABLE OF MOVES.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Route.</u>
		BUIRE	FRICOURT	16.1.17	via Ville & Mealte.
		FRICOURT	ADELAIDE CAMP. MONTAUBAN.	18.1.17	via Mametz.

ORDER OF MOVE. 3. 16.1.17 Battalion will parade on road in front of billets at 8 a.m., ready to move at that time, in the following order:-
 HQrs Signallers & Details.
 "A" Company.
 "B" Company. (includes "C" & "D" Coy details).
 Lewis Gunners.
 A.M.C.
 The march on this day will be a Brigade March and the following distances are to be maintained:
 200 yards between Battalions.
 100 yards between Companies.
 200 yards between Transport of units.
 The transport section will move in the rear of the column and be under command of Brigade Transport Officer (Lieut Shannan).

18.1.17 Battalion will move independently from remainder of Brigade from Fricourt to Montauban. Time of move will be notified later.

RATIONS. 4. All ranks to carry the unexpended portion of the day's rations with them.

DUMPS. 5. Blankets : Each man will retain one blanket only. The second blanket will be rolled in bundles of 20 and delivered at R.Q.M.'s store before 7.45 a.m. to-morrow for conveyance to the Brigade Dump at Fricourt. Battalion Dump. A Battalion dump is being established at Albert, and will be under the charge of a guard from this Battalion. This dump will be in a house and articles left there will be safe and dry. The following will be dumped there and must be delivered at Company Orderly Rooms by 7.45 a.m. to be picked up by limbers:
 Officers' surplus baggage not required whilst in the line.
 Technical Stores, spare.
 Company Stores and Orderly Room Boxes not reqd whilst in the line.

It is imperative that only articles actually required are taken forward, as transport is extremely difficult at this season.

ADVANCE PARTY. 6. 2/Lieut N.L. WILSON will proceed to Fricourt to-morrow with Brigade Advance Party. He will report to B.O.R.

at 8.15 a.m. Transport Officer to send a horse to B.O.R. at same time.

BILLETS. & CERTIFICATES.

7. All billets must be left in a clean and sanitary condition. Certificates to be rendered before companies leave.
2/Lieut R.H.WILKIN will inspect the billets before leaving BUIRE and will obtain a certificate from the Town Major as to their cleanliness.

STATES & RETURNS.

8. Daily Parade states for 16.1.17 are required by 7 a.m. Marching out states to R.S.M. at 7.50 a.m., 16.1.17. Marching In States to B.O.R. 15 minutes after arrival at Fricourt and Montauban respectively.

Issued at 8.45 p.m. to:

1. War Diary
2. File.
3. "A" Company
- 4 "B" Company
- 5 Lewis Gunners.
- 6 Sigs and A.M.C.
- 7 Q.M.

A. H. Bryan
2/Lieut & A/Adjt.

55th BATTALION, A.I.F.

OPERATION ORDER No 24.

by

MAJOR P.W.WOODS, M.C., T/Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

Headquarters,
26.1.17.

Reference Map 57C. S.W. Edition 5A.

INTENTION. 1. The 55th Battalion will move from MONTAUBAN to the INTERMEDIATE LINE, in two stages as shown in Table of Moves hereunder, on 27th and 28th inst.

TABLE OF MOVES.

Date	From	To	Bn	Relieve d.
27.1.17	MONTAUBAN	TRONES WOOD		53rd Battalion.
28.1.17	TRONES WOOD.	INTERMEDIATE LINE.		53rd Battalion.

ORDER OF MOVE.

3. 27.1.17 Companies and detachments will move independently as shown below at 5 minutes interval. All units must move in file.

HQrs Sigs, Lewis Gunners, HQrs Details.

"A" Company.

"B" Company and A.M.C.

"C" Company.

"D" Company.

Time of starting. 2.45 p.m. All ranks should however be in readiness to move if called upon after midday.

ADVANCE PARTIES.

4. (a) Lieut WALTER will proceed to TRONES WOOD to-morrow leaving MONTAUBAN mounted at 9 a.m. Transport Officer to send horse to B.O.R. at that time. He will ascertain location of camps and accommodation available and will then return to the Battalion.
- (b) Lieut WALTER and 1 N.C.O. per company, and 1 N.C.O. from Lewis Gunners, will leave MONTAUBAN at 1.30 p.m. to-morrow to arrange allotment of huts at TRONES WOOD, and guide the Battalion in. This party assembles at B.O.R. at 1.30 p.m.
- (c) 2/Lieut H E. SLATER and 1 N.C.O. from HQrs Sigs will report to B.O.R. at 9 a.m. to-morrow to proceed to intermediate line.

REAR PARTY.

5. Lieut A.R. CARDNER will remain at MONTAUBAN when the Battalion leaves to hand over huts to the Camp Warden. R.S.M. to arrange for any necessary fatigue party to be left with this officer. After obtaining certificate from Camp Warden, Lieut CARDNER will follow on to TRONES WOOD.
- The usual certificates re cleanliness of huts and lines will be rendered by Company Commanders before leaving.

TRANSPORT MOVE.

6. The Battalion Transport will move under arrangements made by Transport Officer. Companies will only be allowed one half of a Limbered G.S. Wagon for stores and baggage, and same must be loaded at the Transport Lines by 2 p.m. Any stores or baggage that cannot be accommodated in these Company Limbers will be delivered at R.Q.M.'s Store between 1.45 p.m. and 2.0 p.m.
- Officers' Baggage: Any officer who has not yet complied with the order re disposal of all surplus baggage will arrange to have same delivered at R.Q.M. Transport Lines by 9 a.m. to-morrow and same will be sent to Battalion Store at ALBERT.

A.H. Hogan

2/Lieut P.W. Woods

OPERATION ORDER No 25.

by

MAJOR P.W.WOODS, M.C., T/Commanding 55th Battalion, A.I.F.

Headquarters,
28.1.17.INTENTION.

1. As notified in Operation Order No 24, the Battalion will move to-day from TRONES WOOD CAMP to the INTERMEDIATE LINE, relieving the 53rd Battalion, A.I.F. in that line.

ORDER OF MOVE.

2. Time of starting 4.0 p.m. Waterlot Farm must not be passed by first party before 4.30 p.m. (Signallers & Lewis Gunners.)

"A" Company.) To move in the order shown at
 "B" Company.) 10 minute intervals.
 "C" Company.)
 "D" Company.)

B All detachments will move in file.

STRENGTH OF PARTIES.

3. "A", "C", and "D" Companies will each take ^{full strength} 100 N.C.O's and men only. "B" Company will remain at BERNAFAY CAMP. Men nominated for Brigade Mining Company will remain behind at BERNAFAY, and will join up with the Mining Company on 29th inst. Men warned to proceed on leave will also remain at BERNAFAY.

RELIEFS.

4. Completion of all reliefs will be reported to Battalion Headquarters by wire. Code word "COMFORT". All trench stores, gum-boots, maps, etc will be carefully checked and listed, and receipts given. A copy of receipt will be obtained and sent to Battalion Headquarters immediately.

EQUIPMENT.

5. All ranks will go forward from TRONES WOOD in battle order, carrying 1 blanket, 1 waterproof sheet, 1 great-coat, and 1 waterproof cape. The following will also be carried by all N.C.O's and men:

2 sandbags.
 120 rounds of S.A.A.
 2 bombs.

These latter articles will be drawn from the R.S.M. this morning.

STATES & RETURNS.

6. Whilst the Battalion is in the front line area, the B.O.R. will be located at BERNAFAY "E" CAMP. The usual parade states will be rendered daily by Company details. Casualty returns for units in the line are to be sent daily to Battalion Headquarters in the line. Same are to give particulars of Killed, wounded, and missing, and sick evacuated. Attention is again drawn to the orders that evacuations of men with trench feet to be shown separately, and cause of casualties to be specified, (Artillery fire, rifle fire, bomb wound, etc). When a man is reported missing a full report must be given of the circumstances.

BLANKETS & OFFICERS' KITS.

7. All surplus blankets, and officers' kits will be stored at the R.Q.M's Store at BERNAFAY. Same to be delivered at R.Q.M's store this afternoon. Transport Officer to arrange necessary transport for officers' kits and company stores from TRONES WOOD to BERNAFAY "E". Blankets to be rolled in bundles of 20 and to be plainly labelled.

O.O.25

28/1/17

- COMMAND. 8. Capt J.J.MARSHALL will take over command of "D" Company. ~~While in the front line.~~ Capt E.W.STUTCHBURY M.C. will remain at BERNAFAY "E" in charge of details.
- ADVANCE PARTIES 9. 2/Lieut H.E.SLATER and 1 N.C.O. from "A", "B", and "C" companies, and 1 from Lewis Gunners will proceed to INTERMEDIATE LINE at 1.30 p.m. to-day, to take over and check trench stores. Attention is directed to para 4 of this order. Party assembles outside HQrs Officers' Hut at 1.25 p.m.
- FATIGUES 10. "D" Company will supply fatigue party of 2 officers and 130 other ranks, to report to 14th Field Company Engrs on road near 8th Bde Soup Kitchen at 4 p.m. to-day. On completion of work they will return to BERNAFAY "E".
- MARCHING OUT STATES. 11. Marching out ~~states~~ states to be rendered to Battalion HQrs at TRONES WOOD before companies move. Attached personnel such as Stretcher Bearers, etc to be shown separate.

A.H. Vigan

Issued at 12 noon to:

- 1 War Diary
- 2 File
- 3 "A" Company
- 4 "B" Company
- 5 "C" Company
- 6 "D" Company
- 7 Lewis Gunners
- 8 Sigs and A.M.C.
- 9 Q.M.
- 10 Transport Officer.

2/Lieut & A/Adjt.