

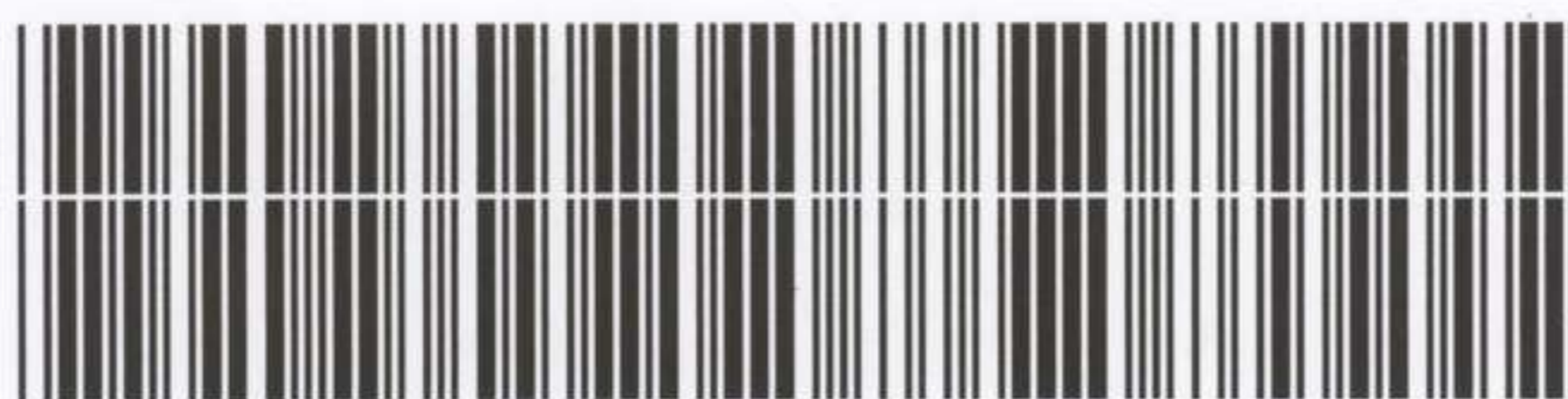
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/12

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/73/12

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
BUIRE.	Jan. 1.		<p>Weather throughout the day was fine. According to the express wish of General Birdwood no parades were held during the day, the men being granted a holiday. Inspection of Billets was held during the morning at which all Billets were found clean and sanitary. In the afternoon a football match was played against the Royal Engineers, resulting in a win for the R.E. - 15 to 5. Three other ranks were evacuated to hospital - 13 other ranks rejoined ex sick and wounded.</p>	
	2.		<p>Weather was again fine throughout the day - slight showers, however, fell during the night. Training was carried out during the day in accordance with syllabus of training laid down for second week. The early morning parade was devoted to physical drill - 7 a.m., to 7.30 a.m., foot inspection and massaging with whale oil. During the remainder of the morning Companies were engaged in close and extended order work.</p>	
		10 a.m. 2.45 p.m.		<p>Inspection of Billets was held by C.O. C.O., attended a conference of Commanding Officers at Brigade Headquarters for the purpose of having a general discussion on the conditions which had been experienced by the Brigade during its previous tour of duty in the trenches, also with a view to obtaining fresh ideas and suggestions for meeting any of the previous difficulties. The main difficulty to all concerned appeared to be the establishing of a permanent Base for Battalion Details as it had been found that without a permanent Base, the health of the men, also the general management of the Bn., was interfered with. The Brigadier decided to ask the Divisional Commander to allow the Brigade to have allotted to it, a permanent Camp at which the Battalion Details could always remain.</p> <p>The afternoon was devoted to Company Route Marches.</p>
	11 p.m.		<p>Brigade Operation Order was received to the effect that the Battalion would move to Laheusseye on the 4th inst., and to St. Vast on the following day. Thirteen reinforcements joined the Battalion. Two other ranks rejoined ex 4th Army Signal School.</p>	
	3.		<p>The day was fine throughout. The syllabus of training was slightly altered during the morning owing to the inspection of the Battalion in full marching order, by the D.A.D.O.S., of the Division. The inspection was very satisfactory and the D.A.D.O.S., expressed the opinion that the equipment throughout the Battalion was the best he had seen in the Brigade.</p>	

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BUIRE	Jan. 3	12 noon	<p>A good deal of difficulty has been experienced in getting the requisite number of boots from Ordnance, but this, however, was remedied during the day, to a certain extent, as after the inspection D.A.D.O.S. promised to supply 100 pairs of boots during the afternoon. These were duly received.</p> <p>C.O. inspected Billets.</p>	
		4 p.m.	<p>C.O. again inspected Billets accompanied by the Adjutant to ensure that all Billets were clean and sanitary before the move on the following day.</p>	
		5 p.m.	<p>Operation Order as per attached was issued concerning the move to La Housseye. Captain Smythe, 2/Lieut. Rew and 3 other ranks left to attend 4th Army School.</p>	
	4		<p>12 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and 2 other ranks rejoined ex sick.</p>	
		4.30 p.m.	<p>Rain fell continuously during the march of the Battalion to La Housseye. The afternoon however turned out fine.</p>	
		4.30 p.m.	<p>The usual certificate regarding cleanliness of billets vacated was rendered to Brigade Headquarters.</p>	
		4.30 p.m.	<p>The Battalion excluding Transport moved off as per Operation Order and reached La Housseye at 11.30 a.m. The Battalion then went into Billets for the night.</p>	
		4.30 p.m.	<p>Operation Order as per copy attached was issued regarding the move to St Vast on the following day.</p>	
	5	8.30 a.m.	<p>91 other ranks left to attend Musketry School at Pont Remy.</p>	
		8.30 a.m.	<p>Weather throughout the day was fine.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>The Battalion moved off for St Vast as per Operation Order issued the previous day.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>The Battalion Transport moved off, and arrived at St Vast at 2.15 p.m.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>The Battalion arrived at St Vast at about 3.30 p.m.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>The roads traversed were in fairly good condition throughout.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>12 men whose feet were blistered were transported from La Housseye to St Vast by Motor Ambulance.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>The march of the Battalion was very satisfactory indeed, as it was the first time for a considerable period that the Battalion had carried out such a long route march in full marching order. With the exception of about six men, who during the march, owing to sore feet, had to take their own time the march discipline of Companies was very good.</p>	
		9 a.m.	<p>On arrival at St Vast several of the Billets were found to be in anything but a sanitary condition, but this no doubt was due to the fact that on previous occasions only one Battalion had been billeted in the Village, whereas now two Battalions are billeted, with</p>	

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ST VAST	Jan.			
	15		the result that Billets which had not been used previously, had now to be occupied. 2/Lieut. Hicks and 3 other ranks rejoined ex Lewis Gun School. 3 other ranks rejoined ex sick, and two ex leave	
	6		Rain fell during the early morning, but the day turned out fine. In accordance with instructions from Brigade the day was devoted to cleaning of equipment, billets, etc. The second blanket was today drawn from Ordnance, and was issued during the evening. In the morning C.O. inspected Billets and in the afternoon reported to Brigade Headquarters for orders. Lieuts. O'Halleran, Pitt and Nicoll and 8 other ranks departed on leave to the United Kingdom. 10 other ranks rejoined ex sick and wounded. 7 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick.	
	7		The day was fine, but very cold. C.O. left for Flesselles to act as President on F.G.C.M. and returned to Headquarters at 2 p.m.	
	10.30 a.m.		Church Parade was held, after which no further parade was held during the day. Major Andersen returned ex 5th Divisional Base Details. Lieut. Shannon and 2 other ranks rejoined ex leave. 19 other ranks rejoined ex sick and wounded. 8 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital.	
8		Occasional showers fell during the day, the weather remaining cold.		
9 a.m.		C.O. left to attend Conference of Commanding Officers at Brigade Headquarters, concerning the move back to the forward area, and returned at 2 p.m. Training was carried out in accordance with syllabus of training, also all specialists in the Battalion were instructed in their special subjects. The afternoon was devoted to a route march by Companies, in full marching order. 4 other ranks rejoined ex leave. 6 other ranks left for for Brigade School and two for instruction in pigeon duties. Colonel Bruche from Divisional Headquarters called at Battalion Headquarters during the day in connection with the Billets.		
9		Weather was again cold and moderately fine. Training was carried out during the morning, and in addition an Instructor from the 4th Army School gave a full day's instruction in physical and bayonet drill to 4 Officers and 21 Senior N.C.O.'s.		

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ST VAST	Jan. 9		Lieut. R.J. Peere joined the Battalion from 14th Machine Gun Coy. and was attached to "B" Coy. The day was devoted to a route march by Companies in full marching order. 3 other ranks left for duty with Anzac Light Railways. 2 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and 2 rejoined ex hospital.	
		10	The day was fine though cold. The morning was devoted to making preparations for the practice attacks to be carried out in conjunction with the 14th Machine Gun Company and a contact plane on the following day. C.O. inspected the Billets.	
		II a.m.	In the afternoon Company parades and training of all Specialists were carried out. The instructor from the 4th Army School took the same class of Officers and N.C.O.'s as on the the preceding day for physical drill and bayonet exercises. 40 men were given a Musketry test. 14 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick and 2 rejoined ex sick.	
		II	The day was dull and cold with occasional showers. The morning was devoted to an attack by the Battalion on two lines of trenches. The aeroplane arrived half an hour late and departed before the attack could be launched. Training of all Specialists was carried out during the afternoon and Companies were engaged in close and extended order work. The Lewis Gunners carried out a grouping test during the afternoon.	
		3 p.m.	G.O.C. Division called and made an inspection of the Billets. Lieut. G.A. Williamson rejoined ex sick. 91 other ranks rejoined ex Musketry School at Pont Remy. 6 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital.	
		12	3 other ranks left to attend Lewis Gun School at Le Tourquet. Rain fell during the greater part of the day and the weather remained cold. The specialist training was continued throughout the day and the Lewis Gunners were again put through a grouping test. During the morning Companies carried out massage of feet, Bayonet drill and close and extended order work. The afternoon was devoted to a Battalion route march to Vaux. 3 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick. 8 other ranks rejoined ex school and 3 ex leave.	
		7.30 p.m.	Instructions were received from Brigade to the effect that the C.O. was to temporarily take command of the 14th Infantry Brigade from 9 a.m. the following day.	
		13	The day was cold and dull.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST VAST	Jan. 13	7.30 a.m.	Brigade Operation Order was received to the effect that the Battalieu Transport would move to Raineville during the afternoon and that the Battalieu would entrain at Flesselles at 10 a.m. on the following day for Buire.	
		8.30 a.m.	C.O. left for Brigade Headquarters to assume command of the Brigade. Major J.S.S. Anderson M.C. then temporarily took over command of the Battalieu. During the morning, training of all Specialists was carried out. Companies were engaged in in massage of feet, physical drill, ags drill and bayonet exercises.	
		12.30 p.m.	Major Anderson issued Operation Order as per copy attached to the effect that the Transport would move off at 2 p.m. and that the Battalieu would entrain at Flesselles for Buire on the following day. The afternoon was devoted to cleaning up and accordingly no parades were carried out.	
		2 p.m.	The Battalieu Transport moved off for Raineville via Fremont and Gardennette.	
		9.50 p.m.	Brigade Operation Order No. 60 was received containing the movements of the Brigade from 16th to 18th inclusive.	
		I 4	5 reinforcements joined the Battalieu. I man was evacuated to Hospital. Lieut. Cohen and II other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.	
		8.15 a.m.	Snow fell during the early morning and the day turned out dull and very cold.	
		9.15 a.m.	The sick marched to Flesselles under the command of the Battalieu Orderly Sergeant.	
		I 4	The Battalieu moved off as per Operation Order issued the previous day and marched to Flesselles. Here the Battalieu entrained for Buire which was reached about 3 p.m. At Buire the Battalieu went into billets.	
		I 4	The Transport left Raineville with the remainder of the Brigade Transport, under the command of Lieut. Shannen and arrived at Buire at about 4 p.m. The mens' second blanket and a few men who were unable to march through sore feet were transported by Motor Lorry. 2 other ranks left for Divisional INXXXXXXXXX Signalling School and one rejoined ex signalling School. 5 other ranks rejoined ex Lewis Gun School. 3 other ranks left for Bomb and Stokes Mortar Course. 5 other ranks rejoined ex leave.	
I 5	Today's daily orders Part II contain the information that Lieut. Gilbey has been evacuated to England sick.			
I 5	The day was fine and cold throughout.			
9.30 a.m.	Battalieu Parade was held in full marching order, all Specialists parading with their respective Companies.			

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BUIRE	Jan. 15		<p>During the morning C.O. inspected the parade, also the Billets. Beets sufficient to supply all deficiencies were today received from D.A.D.O.S. and distributed amongst the Companies.</p> <p>II Operation Order as per copy attached was issued regarding the move of the Battalion to Fricourt on the morrow.</p> <p>2 a.m. All ranks paraded in full marching order to Divisional Gas School for the purpose of having box respirators tested in "T" mixture.</p> <p>2 p.m. 4 other ranks rejoined ex leave. 14 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and 3 departed on leave. 1 man was transferred to 14th Machine Gun Coy.</p>	
		I 6	<p>The day was fine though very cold. A, B, C and D Coys. and A.M.C. moved off in that order for Fricourt, the leading Company Passing Battalion starting Point at 8.35 a.m., and marched to Brigade Starting Point which was reached at 9 a.m. Up to this point the Transport accompanied the Battalion. From Brigade Starting Point the Brigade, excluding 54th Battalion, marched to Fricourt, with an interval of 300 yards between Battalions, the Brigade Transport following in rear under the command of Lieut. Shannen. The roads traversed throughout were in very good order, both for marching and for the Transport to move over. Fricourt Camp was reached at noon and the Battalion encamped there for the night. The huts taken over were in a sanitary condition. During the afternoon the four Company Commanders proceeded to Mericourt to attend a Gas lecture.</p>	
			<p>8 p.m. Operation Order as per copy attached was issued concerning the move of the Battalion to Mentauban on the following day.</p> <p>8.15 p.m. C.O. held a meeting of all Officers and discussed general matters concerning the Battalion's forthcoming tour of duty in the trenches. 3 reinforcements joined the Battalion during the day and 10 rejoined ex sick and ex wounded. 6 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and 1 other rank for duty at Divisional Post Office.</p>	
	I 7		<p>At reveille there were several inches of snow on the ground. Light snow fell at intervals throughout the day and the weather was extremely cold. In accordance with Operation Order issued the previous evening Companies commenced to move independently for Mentauban, "A" Coy. the leading Coy. leaving Fricourt at 9 a.m. The camp was left in a clean and sanitary condition.</p> <p>9.30 a.m. Transport moved off for Mentauban Camp. The Battalion had the use of three G.S. Wagons for the move to assist in transporting 2nd blanket, etc. The frozen nature of the roads rendered matters most difficult for the Transport, the animals being unable to properly keep their feet.</p>	

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SOMME	Jan. 17		<p>Montauban Camp was reached about 11.30 a.m. Here, the accommodation at the disposal of the Battalion was rather limited, but the shelters for the men were substantial. The Transport Lines, however, had to be located in the mud, there being no other space available.</p> <p>Lt. Peere, 2/Lt. Courtney and 5 other ranks left for Divisional Infantry School.</p> <p>1 man was evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex sick.</p>	
		18	<p>Light snow fell intermittently throughout the day, the weather being very cold.</p> <p>Owing to the condition of the ground it was not possible to hold any parades beyond the usual foot massaging and inspection of rifles and equipment, which were duly carried out.</p> <p>Only self supporting fatigues for work about the camp were supplied.</p>	
		11.45 a.m.	<p>Brigadier called at Battalion Headquarters and discussed matters in general regarding the Battalion, and particularly the matter of equipment, and the arrangements being made in connection with hot food containers.</p>	
		12 Noon	<p>C.O. made an inspection of the mid-day meal and also of the huts occupied by the Battalion.</p> <p>A further six huts were today made available and there is now sufficient accommodation for all ranks.</p>	
		9.30 p.m.	<p>Brigadier rang up Major Andersen and informed him that he was to temporarily assume command of the 54th Battalion at Switch Trench the following morning, owing to illness of C.O. of that Battalion.</p> <p>There are now 24 men in the Battalion Rest Station: they are all suffering from minor complaints such as colds and sore feet.</p> <p>Lieut. Merison and 2 other ranks rejoined ex Divisional Infantry School.</p> <p>Lieut. Greive rejoined ex leave and three other ranks ex sick.</p>	
		19	<p>The weather was very cold and dull.</p>	
		7.30 a.m.	<p>16 other ranks left for fatigue duty at Divisional Headquarters. The balance of the men were engaged on camp fatigues and improving the Transport Lines.</p>	
		8 a.m.	<p>Major Andersen left to take command of the 54th Battalion and Captain H.R. Roberts thereupon assumed command of the Battalion. Later in the day, however, Captain Roberts left on leave to the United Kingdom and Captain A.C. Chappell took charge of the Battalion on his departure.</p>	
		7 p.m.	<p>Instructions were received from Brigade to the effect that 250 men of the Battalion would be engaged from the following morning in cable burying, daily, under supervision of Divisional Signal Company, and would live at Bernafay Camp. As the Battalion was already supplying a fatigue in that locality, C.O. decided to despatch the whole of "A" and "D" Coys. to Bernafay in the morning and arranged for two cooks to accompany them.</p> <p>Lieut. Christiansen and 2 other ranks left for Lewis Gun School and 1 N.C.O. for Div. Inf. School.</p> <p>3 other ranks rejoined ex leave.</p>	

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SOMME	Jan. 20	7.30 a.m.	<p>Weather fine and extremely cold. In accordance with instructions issued the previous night, "A" and "D" Companies under the command of Captain Mann moved off for Bernafay Camp. During the evening 250 men from this party were supplied for cable burying. Lieut. Dalkeith and 22 other ranks were despatched to Longueval for fatigue duty. Whilst engaged on this work they will live with and be rationed by the Engineers. 1 N.C.O. and 15 other ranks were supplied for fatigue duty at Divisional Headquarters. Lectures were delivered during the morning by Company Officers in accordance with syllabus prepared by Major Andersen. During the morning Captain Chappell accompanied by the Medical Officer made an inspection of the huts occupied by the Battalion and inspected the application of the new method of guarding against Trench Feet. This consists of washing the feet thoroughly clean, and cleaning the nails etc. after which Talcum powder is dusted on the feet. In accordance with instructions the use of whale oil has now been discontinued. 5 other ranks submitted as suitable for commissioned rank were paraded before G.O.C. Brigade at Brigade Headquarters.</p>	
	21		<p>1 other rank rejoined ex sick. Weather again fine and very cold. Usual fatigues were supplied. C.O. accompanied by M.O. made the usual inspection of the lines after breakfast and found everything quite satisfactory. Rations, however, were a little on the short side owing to a breakdown in the Supply Train. The inspection was made whilst the men were engaged in treating their feet under the new process, and the M.O. expressed himself as quite satisfied with the manner in which the treatment was carried out. The mid-day meal and the Battalion Rest Hut were also inspected and everything found quite satisfactory. Lectures were again delivered by Company Officers in accordance with the syllabus. 3 other ranks again paraded before G.O.C. Brigade with a view to appointment to Commissioned rank. 4 other ranks were accidentally wounded by a Bomb explosion. Captains Lucas and Plemley and 2/Lieut. Watt rejoined ex sick and Lieut. Schofield ex wounded. 8 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and 5 rejoined ex Lewis Gun School.</p>	
	22		<p>On his return Captain Lucas took over command of the Battalion. Weather again very cold. A little snow fell during the afternoon but most of the day was fine. The usual fatigues were supplied. C.O. accompanied by M.O. made the usual inspection of the Camp and found matters satisfactory.</p>	

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SOMME	Jan. 22	Neon	<p>Lectures were delivered by Company Officers in accordance with syllabus.</p> <p>Operation Order was received from Brigade to the effect that "B" and "C" Companies and Head(quarter Deatils would move to Fricourt Camp the following day. "A" and "D" Companies were still to remain at Bernafay.</p> <p>Operation Order as per copy attached was issued.</p>	
		4 p.m. 10 p.m.	<p>Message was received from Brigade to the effect that in view of further fatigues having to be supplied by the Battalion it had been decided to leave three huts available in Mentauban Camp to accommodate the number of men necessary to execute such fatigues. C.O. thereupon decided to leave Lieut. Wilson and 2/Lieut. Bull and 100 other ranks of "C" Coy., with 1 cooker, at Mentauban, and immediately issued instructions to that effect. 15 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital.</p> <p>2 reinforcements joined the Battalion and 12 other ranks rejoined ex sick and ex wounded.</p>	
	23		<p>There was a very heavy mg frost and the day was extremely cold though quite fine.</p> <p>Usual fatigues were supplied.</p> <p>That part of the Battalion which was moving camp left for Fricourt which was reached about 11 a.m. The sick were sent on ahead under the command of a Sergeant. Everything was found in order in the camp taken over.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions issued by C.O. the previous evening Lieut. Wilson and 2/Lieut. Bull and 100 other ranks of "C" Company remained at Mentauban Camp to supply any special fatigues. The Transport was moved to Fricourt.</p> <p>Captain Plemley and 2/Lieuts. Gordon and Watt called at Brigade Headquarters in accordance with instructions received and were interviewed by G.O.C. concerning the formation of a Raiding Party.</p> <p>In the afternoon G.O.C. Brigade called at Battalion Headquarters and discussed with C.O. general scheme for carrying out a raid on the enemy's line in the right Brigade sector. The C.O. was given instructions to detail a party of about 100 men who were to immediately commence special training.</p> <p>Lieuts. Williamson and Scheffield proceeded to Mericourt to attend a Gas Lecture.</p> <p>5 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick and one man was transferred to Anzac Light Railways.</p> <p>3 other ranks rejoined ex leave and three ex sick.</p>	

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SOMME	Jan. 24	9.30 a.m.	<p>Weather again very cold and fine. C.O. left to interview G.O.C. Brigade at Brigade Headquarters and to inspect Bernafay and Mentauban camps. Usual fatigues were supplied from Bernafay. No parades of any sort were held at Fricourt. During the day "C" Company Details at Mentauban moved to Bernafay Camp and Captain Plemley and 2/Lieuts. Gordon and Watt and 99 other ranks of the Raiding party took over their quarters at Mentauban. A certain amount of difficulty is now being experienced in obtaining water owing to all supplies being frozen. 8 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and five rejoined=ex left for Schools of Instruction. 4 other ranks rejoined ex leave and three ex sick.</p>	
	25		<p>Weather remains fine and very cold. Usual fatigues were supplied from Bernafay Camp and detached parties. No parades were held at Fricourt. During the morning 25 other ranks from "B" Coy. marched out of Fricourt Camp for Mentauban to complete the Raiding Party. In the afternoon C.O. inspected Mentauban and Bernafay Camps and also called at Brigade to interview G.O.C. Patrols from the Raiding party were out. On their return they reported that it was very necessary to have white clothing for patrol work as khaki showed out too distinctly against the snow. Patrol reports were forwarded direct to Brigade. 4 other ranks were accidentally wounded whilst they were on fatigue, by a bomb explosion. 4 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital sick. Lieut. O'Halloran and 2 other ranks rejoined ex leave.</p>	
	26	10 a.m.	<p>Weather still fine and very cold. C.O. left for Bernafay and Mentauban Camps and returned to Headquarters at 4 p.m. 60 other ranks from xxxxxxx Fricourt left for Bernafay to replace sick wastage and to keep up the strength of fatigues which are still being supplied. Training of the Raiding Party was carried out throughout the day under Captain Plemley. White patrol suits were today received and were worn by the patrol from the Raiding party and were found very serviceable in decreasing the visibility. Captain H.G. Thompson rejoined ex 14th Training Battalion. Lieut. Williamsen and 11 other ranks departed on leave and 12 other ranks left to attend Lewis Gun Schools.</p>	
	7 p.m.		<p>Brigade Operation Order No. 62 was received to the effect that the 14th Brigade would relieve</p>	

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SOMME	Jan. 26		the 8th Brigade in the front line system, commencing on 27th January.	
	27		Weather again very cold and fine. All men in Fricourt Camp were taken for a route march morning and evening in clean fatigue. The usual fatigues were again supplied. Training of the Raiding Party was continued throughout the day. 8 reinforcements joined the Battalion and 5 other ranks rejoined ex sick. 2 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one was transferred to Divisional Salvage Corps. I N.C.O. left for duty at 5th Divisional Base Depot, Etaples.	
	28 28		Usual patrols from the Raiding Party weresent out. Weather continues fine and very cold . Usual fatigues were supplied. Church Parade of Details in Fricourt Camp was held, after which the men were taken for a route march in clean fatigue. C.O. left to visit Montauban and Bernafay Camps and returned to Headquarters at 4.30 p.m. Arrangements were made during the day with Brigade for the supply of special equipment for the raid.	
		9.30 a.m. II a.m.	Instructions for the move to Trenches Wood on the following day were communicated personally by C.O. to Officers. Lieut. Eddison left for Training Battalion, England. 3 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one rejoined ex sick. 2 other ranks rejoined ex leave. During the night the usual patrols were sent out from the Raiding party. Weather again very cold though fine.	
		7 p.m.	A move was made from Fricourt Camp for Trenches Wood which was reached about 1 p.m. The Transport followed in rear of the Battalion party during the move. The Battalion again had the use of two G.S. Wagons to assist the Transport. The space set apart for the Details during the tour of the Battalion in the Trenches is some distance from the remainder of the Camp, and was used for Battalion Headquarters, telephonic communication with the remainder of the camp being established. Further training of the Raiding party was carried out. Usual fatigues were supplied and in addition at 6 p.m. fatigue of 1 officer and 50 other ranks was supplied for ammunition carrying. Patrols from the Raiding party were again sent out.	
		29 II a.m.		

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

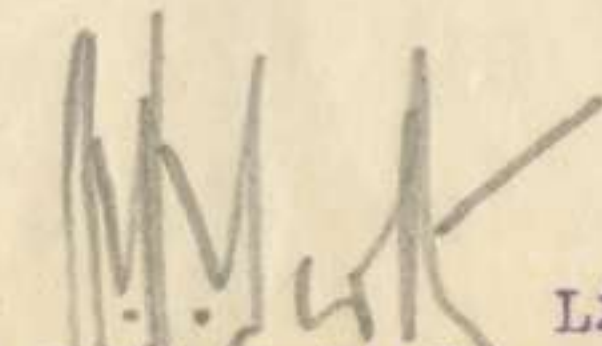
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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SOMME	Jan. 29		<p>25 other Ranks left for duty with Brigade Mining Company. 1 man was accidentally wounded. 1 other rank left for Gas School and one for Interpreter's Course. 3 other ranks rejoined ex school and 4 ex sick.</p>	
	30		<p>The weather was very cold and snow fell intermittently throughout. Fatigues of 6 Officers and 312 other ranks were supplied for excavating and carrying work. Training of the Raiding party was carried out throughout the day. About 150 men of the Battalion were enabled to have a "Foot Bath". Medical Inspection of "A" and "C" Companies was held with the result that 12 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital. Lieut-Colonel A.H. Scott, D.S.O. returned from Brigade and resumed command of the Battalion.</p>	
	31	5 p.m. 9 p.m.	<p>Brigade Operation Order No. 63 was received to the effect that the Battalion would move to the intermediate line the following night. 1 other rank left for Cadet Battalion, England. 5 other ranks rejoined ex schools and one ex sick. The day was very cold and light snow fell at intervals. Fatigue of 2 Officers and 100 other ranks was supplied for work on Ginchy Defences and permanent fatigue of 15 other ranks was supplied for work under 8th Field Coy. Engineers. C.O. held a meeting of Company Commanders and discussed the forthcoming tour of duty of the Battalion in the trenches, including the move to take place during the afternoon. Special training of the raiding party was continued during the day. 3 p.m. Headquarters moved off for Cow Trench, "A", "C" and "D" Companies following as seen as darkness set in. "B" Company is remaining in present camp until the Battalion moves to the Front Line. Remainder of the men were today enabled to have a "Foot bath". The Raiding Party sent out the usual patrols during the night. 9 other ranks were evacuated to Hospital and one was accidentally wounded. 2 other ranks rejoined ex sick.</p>	
		II a.m.		
		3 p.m.		



Lieut-Colonel.
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

by

LIEUT-COLONEL A.H. SCOTT, D.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH BATTALION A.I.F.

Reference Map -
Amiens - 1/100,000

3/1/17.

MOVE.

1. The Battalion will move from BUIRE to LAHOUSOYE on the 4th inst., and will go into Billets until the following day, the 5th inst, when the Battalion will proceed to ST. VAST.

ORDER OF MARCH.

2. Order of March will be as follows :-

"A" Coy.
 "B" "
 "C" "
 "D" "

Battalion specialists and Headquarter Details will move with their respective Companies to which they are attached. The Battalion Transport will move under the orders of Lieut. Eddison.

STARTING POINT.

3. The head of "A" Coy., will pass the starting point which will be the junction of the roads - BUIRE - LAVILLE and ALBERT AMIENS, at 9.3 a.m. The remaining Companies will follow at a distance between Companies of 100 yards. Each Company will drop connecting files to ensure that proper distance is maintained.

DRESS.

4. The following dress will be worn :-

Full Marching Order
 Waterproof sheet and 1 blanket per man.
 Steel helmets to be worn.

BAGGAGE.

5. Officers' baggage must be dumped at Bn., Hqrs., not later than 8 a.m., also 1 box per Company containing Coy., records. Transport Officer will make arrangements to collect this baggage. Company Commanders will see that any surplus blankets (e.g., men with two blankets) are collected and dumped with Officers' baggage, blankets will be transported by motor lorry. Officers' batmen will accompany baggage and act as baggage guard, also brakesmen if required by T.O.

LEWIS GUNS.

6. All Lewis Guns, also magazines, still in the Battalion are to be sent to Bn., Hqrs., dump by 8 a.m., for carriage by Transport. Two men per gun will accompany guns and magazines.

COOKERS.

7. All Company Cookers will accompany Transport Section - two cooks per Company will accompany cooks.

ADVANCE PARTIES.

8. The undermentioned Advance party will proceed by motor lorry to FLESSELLES to-morrow morning, leaving Bn., Hqrs., at 8 a.m. :-

Lieut. W.E. O'Halloran - 1 N.C.O., per Company.

This party will take complete marching out states to enable them to allot Billets on their arrival. Party will report to Staff Captain at FLESSELLES at 3 p.m., on the 4th inst. On arrival at FLESSELLES they will inspect all Billets before taking over and will report result of inspecting to Staff Captain.

The undermentioned Advance party will proceed direct to LAHOUSOYE leaving Bn., Hqrs., at 7.30 a.m., to-morrow and arrange Billets for the Bn., direct with Town Major. Captain A.C. Chappell - 1 N.C.O., per Company.

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OPERATION ORDER NO 23.REAR PARTY.

9. Lieut. Wilson will remain behind on the Bn's., departure from BUIRE for the purpose of handing over Billets to the incoming Unit. An inspection of the Billets will be made by Lieut. Wilson, accompanied by the Town Major and representative of the incoming Brigade, during the morning. On completion of handing over, Lieut. Wilson will report back to the Battalion at LAHOUSOYE.

BILLETS.

10. Company Commanders will render to B.O.R., by 8 a.m., on the 4th inst., a certificate to the effect that all Billets are in a clean and sanitary condition.

ORDERS FOR
MOVE ON THE
5TH INST.

11. Orders regarding the Battalion's move on the 5th inst., will be issued at LAHOUSOYE.

(Sgd.) A. H. Scott, Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at - 3.45 p.m.

Copies to -

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------|
| No | 2. | O.C. "A" Coy. |
| | 3. | "B" " |
| | 4. | "C" " |
| | 5. | "D" " |
| | 6. | Transport Officer |
| | 7. | Quarter Master. |
| | 8. | Medical Officer. |
| | 9. | R. S.M., |
| | 1. | Wardinary. |
| | 10. | Operation Order File. |

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OPERATION ORDER NO. 24.

by

LIEUT-COLONEL A. H. SCOTT, D.P.S.O., COMMANDING 56TH. BATTALION A.I.F.

Reference Map -
Amiens - I/100000

4/1/17.

- MOVE I. The Battalion will move to-morrow morning from present Billets to ST. VAST.
- ORDER OF MARCH. 2. Order of March will be as follows:-
"A" Coy.
"B" "
"C" "
"D" "
Battalion specialists and Headquarters Details will move with their respective Companies to which they are attached, pass
- STARTING POINT. 3. The head of the Column will ~~start~~ the starting point which will be the C.O.'s billet at 8:30 a.m., An interval of 100 yards will be maintained between Companies during the march. Communication files will not be dropped- Company Commanders however will be on the alert for any halt from the front.
- HALTS. 4. Halts will be signalled from the head of the Column.
- DRESS 5. Full marching order - blankets however will not be carried. Steel helmets will be worn. Mid-day meal will be carried. Water bottles must be filled.
- Baggage 6. All Officers' baggage will be packed ready at their billets by 7:30 a.m. to be picked up by Transport at 8 a.m., All men's blankets are to be rolled up in bundles of 20 and ready at Company Billets to be picked up by Transport at 7:30 a.m., Should the weather be fine to-morrow, water-proof sheets may be rolled in bundles of 20 and be picked up by Transport at 7:30 a.m.,
- COOKERS 7. All cooks with the exception of "A" Coy's cooker, which will move in rear of "D" Company, will move with Transport.
- TRANSPORT. 8. Battalion Transport will move at 9:15 a.m. under orders of Transport Officer. Special attention must be paid by Transport Officer to keeping all limbers etc. well closed up and at the right side of the road during the ~~the~~ march.
- UNFIT MEN. 9. All men who are marked unfit by thr M.O. will parade outside C.O.'s. billet at 8:15 a.m., These men will proceed by special transport. "A" Compnay will detail 1 N.C.O. to take charge of these men.
- MARCH DISCIPLINE 10. Company Commanders will take the usual steps to ensure that no man ~~man~~ is allowed to fall out without a written pass signed by an Officer. Each Company will have 1 Officer moving in rear for this purpose. Special attention must be paid to marching during the time the Battalion is marching through QUERRIEU (Army Headquarters)

Issued at 5:30 p.m.
 Copies to- No. 2 "A" Coy.
 3 "B"
 4 "C"
 5 "D"
 6 "T.O.
 7 Q.M.
 8 M.O.
 1 War Diary
 9 Operation Order File

(Signed) A.H. Scott Lieut-Colonel,
 Commanding 56th. Battalion A.I.F..

56TH BATTALION ORDER NUMBER 25.

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Reference Maps -
Amiens - Lens.Headquarters,
13/1/17.MOVE.

1. The Battalion less Transport will march to Flesselles and entrain there en route to Buire, to-morrow the 14th inst.

TRANSPORT.

2. Transport will march at 2 p.m., on the 13th inst., for Rainneville, proceeding to Buire on the 14th inst., in accordance with instructions already issued.

ORDER OF MARCH.

3. The order of march will be as per margin. Head of the column will pass the starting point at a time to be notified later.

Headquarters,
"A" Coy.
"B" "
"C" "
"D" "
A.M.C.

An interval of 100 yards will be maintained between Coys.

STARTING POINT.

4. The starting point will be the junction of the Fremont and Amiens road.

RATIONS.

5. Unconsumed portion of the day's rations will be carried in haversack. Breakfast on the 14th inst., will be at 7 a.m.

BLANKETS.

6. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 20, labelled and carried to Q.M's Store by 7 a.m., on the 14th inst.

CERTIFICATES.

7. The usual certificates regarding cleanliness of Billets will be rendered to B.O.R., by 9 a.m.

(Sgd.) J. S. S. Anderson, Major.
Temp., Commanding 56th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at - 12.30 p.m.

Copies to -

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------|
| No | 2. | O. C. "A" Coy. |
| | 3. | "B" " |
| | 4. | "C" " |
| | 5. | "D" " |
| | 6. | Quarter Master. |
| | 7. | Transport Officer. |
| | 8. | Medical Officer. |
| | 9. | R.S.M. |
| | 1. | War Diary. |
| | 10. | Operation Order File. |

56TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 26

Copy No. _____

Reference Map -
ALBERT I/40,000 =

Headquarters,
15 January, '17

- MOVE 1. The 56th Battalion will march to Fricourt on the 16th instant.
- ORDER OF MARCH 2. Order of March will be as per margin. Companies will march at an interval of 100 yards.
- STARTING POINT 3. The starting point will be the Church at D.29. b.9.4 Head of the column will pass the starting point at 8.35 a.m.
- TRANSPORT 4. Transport will move in rear of the column under orders of Transport Officer.
- BLANKETS 5. The second blanket will be rolled in bundles of 20, labelled and carried to Q.M. Store by 7.30 a.m.

Headquarters
"A" Coy.
"B"
"C"
"D"
A.M.C.

(Sgd) J.S.S. Anderson, Major,
Temp/Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F.

Issued at 11 a.m.

Copies to:

- No. 2 to "A" Coy.
- 3 "B"
- 4 "C"
- 5 "D"
- 6 Q.M.
- 7 Transport Officer
- 8 M.O.
- 9 R.S.M.
- 1 War Diary
- 10 Operation Order File

56TH BATTALION ORDER NO. 28.

COPY NO. 1

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Reference Map -
Albert, combined - 1/40,000Headquarters,
22/1/17.

- MOVE. 1. "B" and "C" Coys., will move to "A" Camp, Fricourt, to-morrow the 23rd inst.
- ORDER OF MARCH. 2. Starting Point will be the corner of Montauban Road and Cordurey Road.
"B" Coy., will pass the starting point at 10 a.m.,
"C" " will pass the starting point at 10.30 a.m.
Headquarters' Signallers, Pioneers, will move with "B" Coy.
A.M.C., and S.B's will move with "C" Coy.
Companies will move independently, in file, 100 yards between Plateons.
- TRANSPORT. 3. Transport Officer will arrange to move Company Cookers immediately after Breakfast - remainder of Transport will move as early as possible.
- BAGGAGE. 4. Officers' baggage, Lewis Guns, Magazines and Second blanket will be at the junction of the Cordurey Road and the entrance to 56th Bn., Transport lines, at 9 a.m.
Second blankets will be rolled in bundles of 20 & labelled.
- LOADING PARTIES. 5. Officers' batmen and 3 Lewis Gunners per Company will remain with baggage and will act as leading party and guard.
- RATIONS. 6. Unconsumed portion of the day's rations will be carried.
- CLEANLINESS OF HUTS. 7. Company Commanders will render to B.O.R., before moving out, a certificate to the effect that all huts and lines are in a clean and sanitary condition.
- REAR PARTY. 8. Four men per Company, also Sergeant Craig and Section will report to 2/Lt. J. Bull at B.O.R., at 10 a.m., to act as rear party.
- STATES. 9. Marching Out States will be at B.O.R., by 9.50 a.m.

(Sgd.) A.C. Chappell, Captain.
Adjutant, 56th Battalion A.I.F.

Issued at 4.30 p.m.

Copies to -

- No 2. O.C. "B" Coy.,
3. "C" "
4. Transport Officer.
1. War Diary.
5. Operation Order File.