

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/28/24

**Title:** 11th Infantry Battalion

February 1917



AWM4-23/28/24



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Date	Place		References to Remarks or Appendices attached
1917	Lisieux		
1/2/17	BARENTH	<p>Instructional work was carried out during the day by the Battalion, (less 3 Officers &amp; 150 other ranks S.S.C. etc. who were employed on road repairs etc.) as per Syllabus attached. Lieut. PATERSON (A Coy) and one N.C.O. visited 1st Battalion Hd Qtrs and spent five hours during the night 31/1/17 &amp; 1/2/17, and Lieut. AYLING (B Coy) and two N.C.O.s visited the 2nd Bde Hd Qtrs and spent time during the day, also Major (Comd 2nd in C, Capt. HEMINGWAY), and G. R. HALL visited the 1st Bde Hd Qtrs during the night of 1/2/17. Capt. T. H. MACKEAN with 3 N.C.O.s proceeded to a 3 days course at the Gas School MILENCOURT. The weather conditions fine with some slight snow showers.</p>	
2/2/17	x	<p>5 Officers and 320 other ranks were employed on various works under Portigade arrangements. The remainder of the Battalion were instructed on Subjects in accordance with the attached Syllabus. Lieut. BROOKS returned from leave of absence in England. Lieut. MORRIS and two other ranks left for a course at</p>	

Vol. 11  
 11XFWN101  
 Byd Cairns  
 Lieut. Colours  
 c/o. 17th Bn A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendices attached
1917	France	
2/2/17	Essentilly LE PETIT B.C.C.C.	The sniping school. Lieut. BUNNY returned from leave of absence in PARIS, weather conditions fine but cold and frosty.
3/2/17		The Battalion furnished 5 officers and 380 other ranks for work on the roads and unloading Railway trucks etc, the remainder were instructed in various subjects as per attached syllabus, nothing unusual happened during the day, the weather is still fine and frosty.
4/2/17		Church Parade for R.C. doctrine service was held at 0800 for C of G at 0900, Working parties as under were furnished during the day, one of 2 officers & 150 ORanks, one of 18 ORs in addition to the permanent party of 60 ORs. The C/O (Major J. BARONS) and the Intelligence officer (Lt BELFORD) visited the 1st Bde HQ at this and the front line during the early part of the night. The weather still fine and frosty.

J. Barons  
 Colonel  
 c/o 11th Bn. A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to appendix attached
1917	Worms	
5/2/17	BASEMENT Lt PETIT during the day in accordance with Syllabus on the S.S. & S.S. exception of 1 officer and 198 other ranks which were employed on Brigade working parties. The C.O (Rt. Col E. HILMER SMITH C.B.) returned from leave of absence in England. Captains O'NEILL & MACKERN returned from 3 days course at the Divisional Gas School. Lt NORRIE and one other rank returned from Sniping School which was postponed for a week. Captain HULLAHAN and Lt PATERSON & ARCHIBALD with two N.C.O's visited the front line of the left Brigade of our Sector, returning at 2200. The weather is still fine and frosty.	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> <i>Edmund Smith</i>            Lt. Col. 1st. Coy. 1st. Div. C.I.F.            c/o. 17th L. B. Coy. C.I.F.         </p>
6/2/17	"	
	Instructional work was carried out by Syllabus at the Battalion during the day, less 1 officer and 100 other ranks who were employed on various working parties. Lt ARCHIBALD and one N.C.O visited the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd and part of our right Sector. weather fine & frosty with a cold N.E. wind blowing.	



Date	Place and Line	Remarks or References to Appendices attached
7/2/17	<p>BASEMENT Instructional work was carried out by the Battalion Lc PETIT during the day as per syllabus, less 100 other ranks employed S.S.O.S.S on other duties, i.e. 50 other ranks on Dump &amp; Guard duty and 10 officers &amp; 50 other ranks employed on road repairs etc. Captain L.L. LE NAY and 22 other ranks reported for duty from Hospitals in England. Capt HALLAHAN and three Gas H.C.O.'s proceeded to a 3 days course of instruction at the Divisional Gas School at MELINDOOR. Captain J.P. O'NEILL and 2 other ranks visited the Hd Qrs of the Bde &amp; Bn holding the left Sector of the front line at 1800 hrs. Weather conditions fine frosty with a cold N.E. wind blowing.</p>	<p>Lieut.-Colonel  <i>E. Filmer Smith</i>      c/o. 17th Bn., A.I.F.</p>
8/2/17	<p>" Instructional work was carried out during the day on above lines. 1 officer and 100 O.R. ranks were employed on roads - carrying material etc under Bde arrangements. Lieut COOKE and 10 Ranks returned from 4th Army Signalling School (1 month course). The C.O (Lt Col. E. FILMER SMITH) together with Lieut BELFORD &amp; ARCHIBALD visited the front line</p>	



Date	Place	Remarks or Reference to
10/17	Dume	Appendices attached
8/2/17	BASENTIN during the early part of the night, a second party of two LE PETIT officers & I.N.C.O. (Capt. MACKENZIE & Pk PETIT) also visited S.S.C.S. the front line during the night, returning at 2215. Weather conditions still very cold and frosty.	
9/2/17	The Battalion furnished the following working parties during the day, one of 1 officer & 50 ORanks for road repairs, 3 officers & 200 ORanks for cable work but owing to the non arrival of material they returned to camp and carried out instructional duties in accordance with Syllabus, in addition to the above the permanent dump party was furnished as usual. Major (DIXON HEARDER) reported for duty from Hospital in England (sick) Capt. LE NAY visited the front line during the day. The weather conditions still fine and frosty.	<p><i>W. Mackenzie</i> Lieut.-Col. d/o. 71th Bn. I.I.F.</p>
10/2/17	Working parties were furnished by the Battalion during the day as under, 50 ORanks on permanent dump work, 1 officer & 50 ORanks on road repairs, 10 ORanks.	



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendices attached
1917	Dijne	
10/2/17	<p>BASENTIN on Hut-building on Camp, 1 Officer and 180 Ranks          LE PETIT on Salvage work, 3 Officers &amp; 200 Ranks laying          S.B.C.S.S. Cable (Telephone). The remainder of the Battalion          carried out instructional work as per Syllabus.          Lieut FLYING &amp; COLVIN visited the 1st Bde Hd Qtrs and          the Front Line during the early part of the night. Lieut          BEASLEY and 34 other ranks reported for duty from          ETAPLES. Lieut P.W. LYON was evacuated to Hospital          sick, weather conditions cold &amp; frosty.</p>	
11/2/17	<p>The following working parties were furnished          by the Battalion today, 1 party of 1 officer and 50 ranks          laying water pipes. 1 party of 3 officers and 200          ranks on Telephone Cable work, and one permanent          party of 100 other ranks on Dump duty, in          addition 1 officer &amp; 50 ranks was employed          on Salvage. Lieut BRODIE C.A. with 23 other          ranks reported for duty from sick and reinforcements.          The Battalion Mining Section of 1 officer and          21 other ranks together with 10 extra men</p>	

J. M. ...  
 11th Dec 1917  
 11th Dec 1917







Date	Place	Remarks or Reference to
1917	June	Appendices attached
13/2/17	YARRA forenoon enemy shelling of the front line was fairly RESERVE brisk and 3 men were wounded by shell fire. Nos M200. 5186 Pte READER S, 5432 Pte MAYNE A.J., 5175 Pte OLSEN 8.35 T. The Brigade Commander visited Battalion Hd Qtrs during the day (Col. H.G. BENNET, C.M.G.). The C.O. (Lt. Col. E. HILMER SMITH C.B.) and Capt. HALLAHAN visited the Coy in Support and the right Coy in the front line (D Coy) during the early part of the night; General Situation Normal, weather fine but cold.	Lieut. Colonel c/o 71th Bn., A.I.F.
14/2/17	" Improvements of Dugouts & Trench improvements carried out during the day & night as above 2 Officers & 208 O.Ranks were employed on this work. These parties were drawn from the front line Garrison and Support Coys. In addition to the above parties 2 officers & 123 other ranks were employed on Dump Guards and Ration Carrying parties etc. The C.O. (Lt. Col. E. HILMER SMITH C.B.) with Capt. HALLAHAN visited the front line	Lieut. Colonel c/o 71th Bn., A.I.F.



Date	Place	Time	Remarks or References to appendices attached.
14/2/17	YARRA RESERVE R.M.O M30.M835	during the early part of the night together with the (Captain HAROLD OSCAR TEAGUE), on the return journey the enemy started to shell the track and unfortunately Captain Teague was killed by shell fire, at about 2130, his body was brought down and sent on to BASENTIN LE PETIT for burial. General situation normal, weather fine.	Remarks or References to appendices attached.
15/2/17	"	Improvement of trenches and dugouts carried out as on previous day the same numbers being employed on this work, the following Reinforcements reported for duty, 13 other ranks, 2/Lieut. J.A.J. STAFF returned from leave of absence from England, Lieut. W.A. AYLMER was evacuated sick, (sent to rest camp for a few days) The enemy shelling during the day was about normal, one man, No 5383 Pte J. DRUMMOND was slightly wounded (by shell fire) weather continues fine with some frost during the night.	Remarks or References to appendices attached.

W. A. Aylmer  
Lieut. Colonel,  
11th Battalion, A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendices attached
1919	Ivime	
16/2/17	YARRA	<p>Work on Improvement of Trenches &amp; Dugouts was continued during the night &amp; day, 4 Officers &amp; 180 of Ranks were employed on this work, in addition to the 2 Officers &amp; 136 of Ranks employed permanently on the Divisional Dumps.</p>
		<p>The enemy activity during the day was about normal, during the early part of the night 16/17 he became more active firing Bombs &amp; shells over our front line trenches, until silenced by our Guns, the following men (on Carrying party duty) were wounded by shell fire, No 3458 Pte SCHULTZ Wt. 888 Pte DRYSDALE, R.A. and No 6529 Pte MESSENGER, H.C.</p>
		<p>The C.O. (Lt Col E. HILMER SMITH, C.B.) and Capt. HALLAHAN visited the right Coy (D) of our Sector during the early part of the night, a Patrol from the Intelligence Platoon patrolled "no man's land" from 2100 to 2300 and inspected the damage done to and general state of the enemy wire entanglements etc. weather conditions, some slight showers of rain fell during the day, otherwise fine with good visibility.</p>
17/2/17	"	<p>Improvement of Trenches and sapping towards front line was carried out during the day &amp; night 16/17, 20 Officers</p>

E. Hilmer Smith  
 Lieut.-Colonel  
 G.O. 7164 Bde. A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to appendices attached
1917	Time	
17/2/17	YARRA	<p>and 136 other ranks were employed on this work, the following RESERVE casualties took place in the Ration parties to Front Line: Killed, No 5979 Pte F. H. AKHURST (by shell, F.L.) Fire, wounded, No 4062 Pte W. J. HOUSTON, 6243 Pte W. D. CAMPBELL, 3495 Pte J. WHELOCK, all by shell fire. The companies in the front line were relieved during the early part of the night 17/18/2/17 without incident, C &amp; D Coys coming back into support, D Coy in YARRA RESERVE, D Coy in COBHAM TRENCH, A Coy in left sub sector of front line, with B Coy holding the right sub sector. The night turned out rather wet &amp; muggy, consequently the relief was not completed until 2135, working parties were cancelled for the night owing to the fatigued state of the men and the very bad weather.</p>
18/2/17	"	<p>Improvement of dugouts &amp; trenches also sapping towards the front carried out during the day &amp; night. 4 officers and 170 other ranks were employed on this work in addition to the permanent parties on front dumps &amp; carrying rations etc.</p>

Lieut.-Colonel,  
*[Signature]*  
 CO 7th Div.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendixes attached
1917	Tinne	
18/2/17	XXXXX RESERVE HALLAHAN M304834	The C.O. (Lt. Col E. HILMER SMITH, C.B) and Captain visited the front line (Right Coy) during the day. Enemy activity fairly quiet; visibility was not good, a slight fog lay on the low ground during the greater part of the day, weather conditions cold and wet; the trenches being generally very muddy. The Divisional Comd (Major Gen H.B. WALKER, C.B., D.S.O.) visited the front line during the early morning.
19/2/17		Work in connection with repairs and improvement of trenches & dugouts was continued during the night & day also the extending of saps, every available man being employed on this work. General situation quiet; weather conditions fine but the trenches are very muddy owing to the snow having set in.
20/2/17	"	Improvement of trenches, extending saps and repairs to dugouts was carried out during the day and night every available man being employed on the above work. The Bde Commander (Col. H.G. BENNET, C.M.G. Brigadier Genl) visited the Battalion during the day, Major J. BOYD HARNE reported.

J. H. Walker  
 Lieut. Colonel  
 40 716 Jan. 17.



Date	Place	Remarks or Reference to
1917	June	Appendix attached
20/2/17	YARRA RESERVE	for duty from PIONEER CAMP to relieve the C.O. Enemy activity normal, weather conditions wet, causing the trenches to be in a very muddy condition. The health of the Battalion remains good notwithstanding the bad conditions.
21/2/17	"	Improvements to trenches and dugouts continued during the night and day. Enemy activity normal. The Brigade Commander (Brigadier Genl. H.G. BENNETT C.M.G.) with the Deputy C.O. (Major J. BOYD ARONS) and Captain HALLAHAN visited the front line during the early part of the night 21/22/2/17. The C.O. (Lt Col E. HILMER SMITH C.B.) moved to PIONEER CAMP. The weather conditions remain fine with some fog in the morning and evening.
22/2/17	"	Work in connection with resetting trenches and improving and extending dugouts was carried out during the night and day, every available man being employed on this work. Enemy activity about normal. The 9th Battalion relieved the Battalion in the front line on night of 22/20/2/17. The relief was completed by 2320, without the Battalion moved to Hutments at BAZENTIN LE PETIT.

Lt Col. E. Hilmer Smith  
 c/o. 77th Bn. A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendices attached
1917	Time	
23/2/17	BAZENTON	The day was devoted to inspection of arms etc and a general overhaul and clean up. Two of the Companies were put through the Provisional Bath, and a clean outfit of underclothing obtained and which was greatly appreciated by the members. weather conditions fine.
24/2/17	"	During the night 24/25/17 the Battalion moved out to the following positions. A Coy to SWITCH DUMP, B Coy to YARRA RESERVE, C Coy to YORK DUMP & D Coy to COUGH DROP, both Head Qtrs remaining in this Camp. They were employed in carrying rations & Engineers material to the forward area in connection with a forward move on the retirement of the enemy. A & C & D Coys returned early on the morning of the 25 <sup>th</sup> , B Coy remaining at YARRA RESERVE. The general situation very quiet, weather conditions fine but foggy.
25/2/17	"	The men were given a rest for the day, having been on duty all night. at 1700 C & D & Head Qtrs moved to COUGH DROP, A Coy & some details remaining in this Camp. weather fine and clear during the afternoon.

J. H. M. Smith, Lieut. Colonel  
 C/o. 11th Bn. I.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to appendices attached
1917	Time	
25/2/17	BAZENTIN	The following working parties were furnished
	LEPETIT	from the companies at COUGH DROP on the night
	S.B.S. 16	of 25/26/2/17 carrying rations and ammunition
		to the front line, 4 Officers & 150 ORanks, 'B' Company
		forming part of the above working parties sustained
		the following casualties at TURK DUMP at about 2000
		by shell fire - Killed, No 5664 Pte R. BRADY, 6124 Pte
		M. CARROLL, 5381 Pte C.E. DOWNES, 5434 Pte R. MILNE, 6316 Pte W.A.
		PORTER, 6366 Pte A.E. RAMSDEN, 4650 Pte A.E. SPRING, 371 Pte H. WHEELER,
		3529 Pte J.L. WRIGHT, 3993 Pte H. WAAVICKER, and the following
		were wounded at the same time & place:- 5363 Pte N.L. CARTER,
		5246 Pte M. EGER, 3390 Pte H. FISHER, 50 Pte R. GARBUTT, 1355 Pte J.B.
		HIGGINS, 6204 Pte W. McDONALD, 3421 Pte R.J. MEDHURST, 6312 Pte C.H.
		PORTRIDGE, 6099 Pte G. RAY, 4603 Pte T.F. SUGARS, 6117 Pte A. WILSON,
		6467 Pte T. ARTHUR, 3293 L/Cpl. CHAMBERS,
26/2/17	COUGH	The Coy joined the remainder of the Battalion
	DROP.	at 1700 at COUGH DROP. The Battalion relieved the 9th Bn
		in the front line on the night 26/27/2/17 the relief being
		completed by 2355. See Narrative of operations attached for 29 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb

*Edmund Smith*

Lieut. Colonel,

C.O. 11th Bn, A.I.F.



Date	Place	Remarks or References to Appendix attached
1917	Time	
27/2/17	YARRA BANK	<p>The following casualties took place during the operations on the 26/2/17:- Killed No 4448 Pte C BRANDON, 2421 Pte H.E. McHARDY, 4601 Pte T. STANTON, No 6004 Pte G.W. BARTLETT, 5130 Pte H. LAWS, 6500 Pte J. CAVINE, 5917 Pte E.E. SEWELL, and the following were wounded:- 4867 L/Cpl E. D. O'BRIEN, 4658 Sgt. J.F. O'RIELLY, 1357 Corp. H. HODGE, 6793 Pte G. MAVER, 1788 Pte F. AINSWORTH, 6298 Pte J.R. MOORE, 2576 L/Cpl T.A. BURNETT, 6254 Pte J. CONDRON, 2657 Pte H. REYNOLDS, 5739 Pte J. LAIRD, 6522 Pte G.R. HUGHES, 6336 Pte J.W. SMITH, 2415 Pte R. J. MANN, 5658 Pte C.H. BROWN, 6056 Pte S. HARRISON, 3855 Pte H. HOKEY, 6024 Pte J. CANNY, 6508 Pte W. J. FARRELL, 6102 Pte E.A. STANLEY, 4603 L/Cpl J. SUGARS, 6521 Pte S. KING, 2389 Pte L.J. HAINING, 1850 Sgt. H. WATTS, 876 Sgt. J. CAILE, 1249A Pte P. A. JACK, 5183 Pte G. L. RYBURN, 5099 Pte F. GYILLOTTI, 3737 Pte D. BUCKLE, 1869 Pte C. STEPHENSON, 3129 Pte G. H. THOMPSON, 6255 Pte J. J. COPLEY, 4070 Pte G. SCRIVDER, 6359 Pte P. F. BUTLER, 5668 Pte E. DRAGE. The whole of above were wounded by shell fire.</p>

*Richard Smith*

*100 Yarra Bank*



Date 1917	Place Line		Remarks or References to appearances Attached
28/2/17	YARRA BANK	The Battalion was relieved on the night of 27/28/17 by a <del>company</del> of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion the relief being completed by 2030. On Relief the Battalion moved to No 2 Camp at BAZENTIN LE-PETIT, Companies moving out independently when relieved. During the 28 <sup>th</sup> the men were given a well deserved rest.	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>1st Lt. Col. [Signature]</p> <p>cle, 77th Bn., A.I.F.</p>



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632

by  
Lieut-Colonel F. HILMER SMITH C.B.,

Commanding 11th Battalion, A.I.F. (11)  
BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT. 11/2/1917.

Reference Exp - 57 C. S.S. 1/30,000.

INFORMATION. (1) The 11th Battalion will relieve the 1st Battalion in Right Sub-Sector of Left Sector on night of 12/13th Feby. 1917.

MOVE. (2) 'C' & 'D' Coys. will relieve Coys. of 1st Battalion in Front Line, 'C' Coy. relieving Left Coy., 'D' Coy. relieving Right Coy. 'A' & 'B' Coys. will relieve Coys. of 1st Battalion in Support, 'A' Coy. relieving Coy. in GUBSHAW TRENCH and TURK AVENUE, 'B' Coy. relieving the Coy. in YARRA AVENUE, 'E' Coy. will be situated in Battalion Headquarters and TURK AVENUE.

TIME OF MOVE. (3) Head to pass Starting Point, S.E.E.S., at 1715.

ROUTE. (4) From BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT via road running from S.8.a.9.6 1/2 through S.8.B. thence through S.3.C.D. passing west of HIGH WOOD to Brigade Hqs. at COUCH DROP, thence by duck board to forward area.

ORDER OF MARCH. (5) Coys. will move in file independently in the following order - 'D', 'C', 'E', 'A' & 'B' Coys. Distances of 100 yards will be maintained on the march between Platoons and of 200 yards between Coys.

DRESS. (6) Fighting order plus two blankets, greatcoat and Groundsheet, Sheepskins will be worn, water bottles filled, blankets and ground sheet will be carried in Sanderols. All ranks, before discarding packs, will take at least two pairs of socks with them.

RATIONS. (7) (a) 24 hours Rations less portion to be cooked under Q.M.'s arrangements will be carried.  
(b) Cooking arrangements will be as under:-  
Cooking for Coys. in Front Line will done in back area under arrangements made by the Q.M. This food will be sent forward in Hot Food Containers nightly.  
'E' Coy. and Coys in Support will make cook in Support Lines. A sufficient number of Camp Kettles per Coy. will be carried to forward area for this purpose.  
(c) Ration Parties. - The Coys. in Front Line will detail Ration Parties to carry from TURKS DUMP to Front Line under cover of darkness. These parties will bring down all empty vessels, returning with full ones.  
'E' Coy. and Support Coys. will detail necessary Parties for carrying from TURKS DUMP. All Parties reporting at TURKS DUMP at 1800 daily.

TRANSPORT. (8) Transport will remain in its present location. The T.O. will arrange for cartage of Battalion baggage from present site to Pioneer Battalion Camp S.8.b.2.8. on afternoon of 12th inst; he will also arrange with the Q.M. for removal of Field Kitchens

SUPPLIES. (9) The Q.M. will arrange for proper distribution of supplies in accordance with above dispositions.

BAGGAGE. (10) Packs and surplus kit will be stacked on edge of road near Q.M.'s store by 1400 on 12th inst. The H.C.C. in charge of Baggage Guard will be held responsible for proper care and stacking of Baggage in new location.

BAGGAGE GUARD. (11) C.O. 'B' Coy. will detail 1 Sgt. & 6 other ranks to act as Baggage Guard. The Q.M. will make the necessary arrangements for rationing this Guard.

R.H.G.



ADVANCE PARTIES. (13) Advance Parties as under will despatch at En.Hrs. at 1700 on 11th inst.:-

'E' Coy. - Intelligence Officer, 1 S.C.O. & 1 other rank, 1 S.C.O. & 6 other ranks, Bombing Sgt. & 3 other ranks.

A, B, C & D Coys. - 1 Officer, 1 S.C.O. & 3 men.

These Parties will proceed to new area to take over stores, etc. 48 Hours rations will be carried.

REAR PARTY. (13) C.O. 'A' Coy. will detail 1 Officer & 10 other ranks as rear Party to hand over present camp to incoming Battalion.

STORES. (14) All Stores will be taken over by Officers in charge of respective Advance Parties. These Stores must be carefully checked, receipts made out in triplicate, two copies of which will be sent to Battn. Hqs. The third copy being handed to outgoing unit.

CAMP. (15) Coy. Cmdrs. will ensure that their huts and lines are left clean and in a sanitary condition.

RELIEF. (16) Completion of Relief will be reported immediately to Battalion Headquarters.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
.....Captain,  
Adjutant, 11th Battalion, A.I.F.

Copies to:-

- 1 to File.
- 1 A Coy.
- 1 B Coy.
- 1 C Coy.
- 1 D Coy.
- 1 E Coy.
- 1 War Diary.
- 1 S.C.O.

*War Diary*



SECRET.MOVE ORDER No 2 1.Copy No. 10

by  
Major J.B.Aarons,  
Temporary Commanding 11th Battalion.A.I.F.

In the Field.  
21st February,  
1917.

Map Reference Sheet 57C.s.w.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| INFORMATION.              | 1. The 9th Battalion will relieve the 11th Batta in the right Sub-Sector of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Sector on the night of the 22/23rd inst.   |
| MOVE.                     | 2. The 11th Battalion on relief will move to Site 4. BASENTIN-LE-PETIT(S.8.B.1.6.)  |
| ROUTE.                    | 3. Via Brigade Head Quarters thence by route East of HIGH WOOD to CAMP.   |
| MOVEMENT.                 | 4. A distance of not less than 300 yards between Companies and 100 yards between Platoons will be maintained, Companies will move in File.  |
| ORDER OF MARCH.<br>DRESS. | 5. Companies as relieved will move independently to new Area.   |
| TRANSPORT.                | 6. Fighting order plus blankets., overcoats and ground sheets. Blankets and ground sheets will be worn in Banderole. Company Commanders will be held responsible that all blankets are taken with them.   |
| SUPPLIES.                 | 7. The T.O. will make the necessary arrangements for removal of baggage and packs from PIONEER CAMP to new Site.  |
| COOKERS.                  | 8. The Q.M. will arrange for Rations to be available at new Site on night of 22/23rd. and will arrange for a hot meal for the Troops on arrival.  |
| ADVANCE PARTIES.          | 9. The T.O. will arrange for transfer of Company Cookers to new Site on 22nd inst.  |
|                           | 10. Captain Mackean will arrange to take over CAMP at Site 4. from Unit now occupying same and allot Hut accomodation for Companies, he will also arrange to have Guides to meet the Companies at the entrance to CAMP and guide Companies to CAMP. |



- TRENCH STORES. 11. All Trench and Area Stores will be handed over and receipts in TRIPLICATE will be handed to Bn.Hd.Qrs. before leaving present position.
- RELIEF. 12. Completion of relief in Code will be reported immediately to Bn.Hd.Qrs. and Company Commanders will report personally enroute.

*W. J. Gorman*  
.....Captain,  
Adjutant with Battalion.A.I.F.

Distribution. Copies. No1 File  
2Q.M.  
3.T.O.  
4.A.  
5.B.  
6.C.  
7.D.  
8.E.  
9.O.C.Pioneer Camp.  
10. War Diary.



BATTALION MOVE ORDER No. 22,  
by  
Lieut-Colonel E. HILMER SMITH C.B.,  
Commanding 11th Battalion, A.I.F.  
BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT. 24/2/1917.

Reference Map - 57 C S.W. 1/20,000.

INFORMATION. (1) The 11th Battalion will relieve the 9th Battalion in Right Sub-Sector of Left Sector on night of 25/26th February 1917.

MOVE. (2) 'C' & 'D' Coys. will relieve Coys. of 9th Battalion in Front Line, 'C' Coy. relieving Left Coy., 'D' Coy. relieving Right Coy. 'A' & 'B' Coys. will relieve Coys. of 9th Battalion in Support; 'A' Coy. relieving Coy in COBHAM TRENCH and TURK AVENUE, 'B' Coy. relieving the Coy. in YARFA AVENUE, 'E' Coy. will be situated in Battalion Headquarters and TURK AVENUE.

TIME OF MOVE (3) Head to pass Starting Point, S.S.c.8.9., at 1745.

ROUTE. (4) From BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT via road running from S.S.a.9.6 $\frac{1}{2}$  through S.S.B. thence through S.S.C.D. passing West of HIGH WOOD to Brigade Hqrs. at COUGH DROP, thence by duckboard to forward area.

ORDER OF MARCH. (5) Coys. will move in file independently in the following order:- D, C, E, A & B Coys. Distances of 100 yards will be maintained on the march between Platoons and of 300 yards between Companies.

DRESS. (6) Fighting order plus two blankets, greatcoat and groundsheet, sheepskins will be worn, waterbottles filled, blankets and ground sheet will be carried under haversack with pack supporting straps. All ranks, before discarding packs, will take at least two pairs of socks with them.

RATIONS. (7) (a) 24 hours rations, less portion to be cooked under Q.M.'s arrangements, will be carried.

(b) Cooking arrangements will be as under:-  
Cooking for Coys. in front line will be done in back area under arrangements made by the Q.M. This food will be sent forward in Hot Food Containers nightly.

'E' Coy. and Coys. in support will cook in support lines. A sufficient number of camp kettles per Coy. will be carried to forward area for this purpose.

(c) Ration Parties. The Coys. in Front Line will detail Ration Parties to carry from TURK DUMP to front line under cover of darkness. These parties will bring down all empty vessels, returning with full ones.

'E' Coy. and Support Coys. will detail necessary parties for carrying from TURK DUMP. All parties reporting at TURK DUMP at 1900 daily.

TRANSPORT. (8) Transport will remain in its present location. The T.O. will arrange for cartage of Battalion baggage from present site to Pioneer Camp, S.S.b.2.8. on afternoon of 25th inst; he will also arrange with the Q.M. for removal of Field Kitchens.

SUPPLIES. (9) The Q.M. will arrange for proper distribution of supplies in accordance with above dispositions.

BAGGAGE. (10) Packs and surplus kit will be stacked on edge of road near Q.M.'s store by 1400 on 25th inst. The N.C.O. in charge of Baggage Guard will be held responsible for proper care and stacking of Baggage in new location.

BAGGAGE GUARD (11) O.C. 'C' Coy. will detail 1 Sgt. & 6 O.Rs. to act as Baggage Guard. The Q.M. will make the necessary arrangements for rationing this Guard.



- ADVANCE PARTIES. (12) Advance Parties as under will report at Battalion Headquarters at 1700 on 34th inst:-  
 'E' Coy. Intelligence Officer, 1 N.C.O. & 1 other rank.  
 L.M.G.O. & 6 other ranks.  
 Signallers - 3 other ranks.  
 Bombing Sgt. & 3 other ranks.  
 A, B, C & D Coys. - 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O & 3 men.  
 These parties will proceed to new area to take over stores, etc. 48 hours rations will be carried.
- REAR PARTY. (13) O.C. 'B' Coy. will detail 1 Off. & 10 other ranks as rear Party to hand over present camp to incoming Battalion.
- STORES. (14) All stores will be taken over by Officers in charge of respective advance parties. These stores must be carefully checked, receipts made out in triplicate, two copies of which will be sent to Battalion Headquarters, the third copy being handed to outgoing Unit.
- CAMP. (15) Coy. Cmdrs. will ensure that their huts and lines are left clean and in a sanitary condition.
- RELIEF. (16) Completion of relief will be reported immediately to Battalion Headquarters.

*H. J. Fennan*  
 ..... Captain,  
 Adjutant, 14th Battalion, A.I.F.

## Copies to:-

- No. 1 to File.  
 2 A Coy.  
 3 B  
 4 C  
 5 D  
 6 E  
 7 War Diary. -  
 8 T.O.  
 9 C.O.  
 10 Q.M.

*War Diary.*



BATTALION MOVE ORDER NO. 23,  
by  
Lieut-Colonel E. HILMER SMITH C.B.,  
Commanding 11th Battalion, A.I.F.

BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT. 25/2/1917.

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- INFORMATION. (1) The 11th Battalion, will move to COUGH DROP on 25/26th Feb. 17.
- TIME. (2) Teams will be notified later.
- ROUTE. (3) From Camp 4 via CLARKES DUMP passing West of HIGH WOOD to COUGH DROP.
- ORDER OF MARCH. (4) Coys. will move in file independently in the following order:— C, D, E & A Coys. Distances of 100 yards will be maintained between Platoons and of 200 yards between Coys.
- DRESS. (5) Fighting Order plus one blanket, greatcoat and groundsheet, sheepskins will be worn, waterbottles to be filled. Blanket and groundsheet will be carried under haversack with pack supporting straps.  
All ranks before discarding packs will take at least two pairs of socks with them.
- RATIONS. (6) 24 hours rations less meat portion, to be sent up uncooked under Q.M.'s arrangements, will be carried.  
A sufficient number of camp kettles ~~will be carried by~~ for cooking will be carried by Coys. Coys. will detail necessary number of cooks to accompany them.  
The Q.M. will arrange for a water ration to be sent up daily.
- TRANSPORT. (7) Transport will remain in present location with the exception of the Transport Officer, pack animals and necessary personnel who will be quartered in new horse lines, BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT, No. 4 Camp Site. The T.O. will arrange for cartage of baggage of C & D Coys. to site 4 on 25th inst.
- SUPPLIES. (8) The Q.M. will arrange for a proper distribution of supplies in accordance with above dispositions.
- BAGGAGE. (9) Packs and surplus kit will be stored in hut selected by the Q.M. in Site 4. Extra blankets will be rolled up in bundles of 10 securely fastened and labelled before sending to store by 1530
- BAGGAGE GUARD. (10) O.C. C Coy. will detail 1 Sgt. & 6 O.Rs. to act as Baggage Guard. The Q.M. will make the necessary arrangements for rationing this Guard.
- CAMP. (11) Coy. Cmdrs. will ensure that their huts and lines are left clean and in a sanitary condition.
- REPORTS. (12) Reports to be sent, on completion of move, to BattaMtrs. at COUGH DROP.  
Detailed instructions regarding number to be left in this camp will be furnished later.

*H. L. Leman*  
.....Captain,  
Adjutant, 11th Battalion, A.I.F.



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CONTINUATION OF BATTALION MOVE ORDER NO.23,

by  
Lieut-Colonel E. HILMER SMITH C.B.,  
Commanding 11th Battalion, A.I.F.

BAZENTIN-~~12~~-PETIT. 25/2/1917.

C & D Coys. will move to forward area, also 'E' Coy. less Headquarters  
Bombers, 2 Hqrs. Runners, 2 Pioneers and 1 Signaller; 4 Police and  
5 Buglers.

TIME OF MOVE. 1700.

*Hilmer*  
.....Captain,  
Adjutant, 11th Battalion, A.I.F.



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NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS OF  
11TH BATTALION.

From night 26/27th February to night 27/28th February 1917.  
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Reference Map - FRANCE 57 C. S.W., & LE SARS to LOUPART WOOD and LE BARQUE.

The 11th Battalion relieved the 9th Battalion in the Line on night of 26/27th February 1917.

The Front Line relief was completed by 2130; the whole relief being completed at 2355.

The dispositions taken over on relief were as follows:-

1 Company in MALT TRENCH - RYE TRENCH.

From M.12.D.6.7. to N.7.C.8.5.

1 Company in OAT LANE from M.12.D.6.1. to N.13.A.3.6.

1 Company in BANK TRENCH M.12.D.

1 Company in THE MAZE M.12.C.1.3. to M.24.A.6.6.

Acting under instructions from the G.O.C., 3rd Infantry Brigade dispositions were at once made to capture and mop up LE BARQUE.

At 2200 two patrols, each of 1 N.C.O. & 3 men, were sent out to try and ascertain positions enemy were located in and also positions of Machine Guns.

The patrols returned at <sup>0300</sup> 1500 and reported having located enemies Machine Guns on both our flanks; the Right one being in LIGNY THILLOY about N.7.B.7.3. and the Left one in the Northern part of BANK TRENCH.

These guns were actively firing across our front throughout the night.

While the patrols were out the enemy sent up a number of flares from LE BARQUE.

At 0400 two strong patrols, each of 1 Lewis Machine Gun and team, 6 bombers and 6 riflemen, were sent out on the Right flank of LE BARQUE to establish themselves at N.7.A.5.0. and N.7.A.4.4.5.

Prior to these patrols being sent our a Bombing team was sent along trench joining with RYE TRENCH at N.7.C.8.5. and running towards LE BARQUE. This was reported inoccupied.

Posts reported "in position" at 0430.

The remainder of garrison was reinforced by two Platoons from Company in OAT LANE and organised ~~into~~ parties as follows:-

No.1. Lieut. HALL and 40 men to move forward along BLUE CUT into LE BARQUE to mop up and bomb dugouts.

No.2. Sergt. CAMDEN and 15 men to move up YELLOW CUT to mop and bomb dugouts and eventually link up with Lieut. HALL in wood North of village.

These parties moved out from MALT and RYE TRENCHES respectively at 0530 and no opposition was met with until about 0615 when a White light bursting into two Pink flares was sent up from the village.

Immediately the enemy placed an ~~artillery~~ artillery barrage on MALT and RYE TRENCHES and also on OAT LANE. The barrage consisted of 4.2 H.E's and High Explosive Shrapnel. Machine Guns, located by our first

patrols, swept with cross fire the outskirts of the village on either side.

This fire lasted about 15 minutes by which time (0630) the visibility was good. Our parties observed the enemy rapidly retiring in small groups towards LIGNY THILLOY and at once pushed forward.

No opposition was met with in the wood North of LE BARQUE (only one prisoner - a sniper - being captured) and our parties immediately pushed forward into LIGNY THILLOY and proceeded to mop up this village. The enemy had evidently cleared right through to THILLOY as the village was found deserted.

A number of the dugouts in LE BARQUE and LIGNY THILLOY were found to have been already destroyed by the enemy.

By 0645 a defensive position had been established about 200 yards N.E. of LIGNY THILLOY on a line running from N.1.C.6.5.1.5 to N.7.B.6.8. A start was immediately made to consolidate and a trench four feet was dug along this line while a Strong Post was constructed on the Right hand side of WEDDING LANE.

At 0700 a patrol under Sergt. MCKINLEY was sent forward from this new position to ascertain the strength of the enemy in THILLOY as this was our next objective. The patrol went forward about 100 yards



when it came under heavy machine gun fire and was held up.

At 0730 communication was established with our Left. A Company of the 13th Battalion arriving at that time. Our Right flank was still in the air as the Battalion on our Right was still in RYE TRENCH. A request was made to the C.O. of the Right Battalion to push a patrol forward along BLACK STREET.

Up to 0800 our casualties amounted to about 30.

At 0800 a half Company of the 13th Battalion under Lieut. ALLEN, evidently having lost direction, came up through LIGNY THILLOY on our Right flank and our line was further extended to the East of WEDDING LANE where Posts were established. At 1000 Lieut. ALLEN's party having been ordered to obtain communication with the Right Battalion reported that they had found a patrol of this Battalion in BLACK STREET at N.7.B.9.1.

From 0900 to dusk the enemy shelled consistently with H.E. in salvos, most of his fire being directed on the villages of LE BARQUE and LIGNY THILLOY; in addition our ~~position~~ new position was subjected to bursts of shrapnel but this fell short about 50 yards in front of our line. Machine Gun fire from the direction of THILLOY was kept continuously on our new position throughout the day but only slight casualties (20 in all) resulted. The strength of the garrison at this time was about 220.

At 1430 a request was sent for Artillery retaliation (counter battery) and also for THILLOY to be shelled. At about 1600 our High Explosive shelled THILLOY, six direct hits were observed but many shells fell short behind our lines and in the village of LIGNY THILLOY. At about 1800 the shelling ceased.

The 18 pdrs. opened fire on THILLOY at 1500 but a number of the shells fell short, several exploding over the Left of our own trenches and inflicting casualties (estimated 12).

At 1300 instructions were received from G.O.C. 3rd Infantry Brigade to advance at dusk, capture THILLOY, and establish posts on the further side of the village.

At 1830 two patrols, consisting each of 1 L.M.G. team with six Bombers and four riflemen left our lines and established Posts South of THILLOY at N.1.D.9.1. and N.8.A.4.9. No opposition was met with by these patrols. When these were established parties as under were sent forward:-

- No.1 (Right Party) Lieut. BEASLEY and 20 men and 1 Lewis Machine Gun.
- No.2 (Right Centre) Lieut. PETTIT and 15 men.
- No.3 (Left Centre) Lieuts. HALL and LONG and 30 men with 10 Bombers.
- No.4 (Left Party) Lieut. ARCHIBALD and 20 men with 6 bombers and 1 Lewis Machine Gun.

These moved through the posts already established, picking up the Bombers of the advanced posts as they went.

On entering the village all dugouts were systematically bombed. only one dugout was found inhabited; this was effectively bombed and two prisoners who were found at the entrance captured.- these belonged to the 5th PRUSSIAN FOOT GUARDS. The parties went right through the village and by 2015 had established five posts about 20 yards apart on the outskirts of the wood - Map Location Left flank N.2.C.50.85., Right flank N.2.D.0.3. A patrol was immediately pushed forward and approached TILL TRENCH. Finding it occupied they returned to our line. Patrols were also sent to the Right and Left to try and establish communication with the Right and Left Battalions. On ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> Right about 50 yards from our flank the Right Battalion had established a Post and our Left patrol found a Post which had been established by the Left Battalion about 400 yards West of KNOTTY POINT. A start was immediately made to consolidate the new position and posts were established. ~~to these~~

At 2030 our line was relieved by a Company of the 3rd Battalion.

#### GENERAL.

Telephonic Communication was maintained with the Front Line throughout the operations.

North of THILLOY our patrols report that the ground is even, very few shell holes being seen. There were signs of broad wheeled transport tracks quite new. Evidently the tracks of guns which have recently been removed from THILLOY. The houses in the village are in a fair state of repair and it does not seem to have suffered much from shell fire.



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I wish to bring under notice the excellent services rendered by Captain JOHN O'NEILL who was in command of the Front Line and also the names of the following Officers:-  
Lieutenants HALL, LONG, AITKEN and ARCHIBALD who shewed great initiative and dash throughout.

My recommendations for award will be forwarded in another despatch.

*E. H. Smith*

.....Lieut-Colonel,  
Commanding 11th Battalion, A.I.F.