

AWM4

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/22/25

Title: 5th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/22/25

WAR DIARY

March 1917
Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

5th Aus Battr.

530

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1917 March | 1 | | 'C' Coy relieved 'A' Coy in BARLEY TRENCH (THILLOY) 2 platoons 'A' Coy moving to "brake" 2 platoons to BAYONET TRENCH. Battalion took over additional frontage from 4 th Battalion on the left, 'D' Coy from N2C2.9 to N2D1.1, 'B' Coy from NSA 6.8 to NSa.7.3. The latter Coy occupied line of Strong Points in front of THILLOY. Battr Head Qrs to LUISENHOF FARM, H.Q. details to BAYONET TRENCH. | |
| | 2 | | Front line trenches attacked by strong enemy patrols from TILL TRENCH ^{attacks beaten off and} taken (including 11 wounded). Our casualties 1 officer (2/Lt F. J. SMITH) + 2 O.R. wounded 8 O.R. Killed, 9 O.R. missing. Enemy killed 19. Battalion relieved in front line trenches by 7 th Battr & 2 nd B Coy moving to FACTORY CORNER in supports, D Coy + Specialist units to FLERS LINE, C Coy to YARRA BANK. | |
| | 3 | | 2 officers (L' F. R. IMRAY, 2/Lt A. F. BECHERVAISE) + 13 O.R. returned from 1 st Divisional School. (3 rd course) 3 officers (L' G. L. FINLAY, 2/Lt J. W. MAUNSELL, A. O. Rigg) + 10 O.R. to 4 th course 1 st Divisional School. 2/Lt W. D. McMINN reported for duty from "Sick" Capt C. M. LILLIE reported for duty from "Sick" | |

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~~or~~
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530

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1917 | | | | |
| March | 4 | | 1 O.R. killed 7 O.R. wounded | |
| | 5 | | 1 O.R. wounded. Battalion relieved by 18 th Battalion A.I.F. at YARRA BANK, FACTORY CORNER and FLERS LINE and moved to MAMMETZ 'B' Camp. Relief completed at 2107. | |
| | 6 | | Camp inspected by G.O.C 1 st Division Major Gen. H.B. WALKER | |
| | 7 | | Lieut Col JOHN WALSTAB left Batta to take charge 2 nd Training Batta (Eng). Major D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. assumed command. Battalion left MAMMETZ CAMP at 1000 and moved by road to billets at DERNANCOURT arriving at 1215 | Operations order No 10. |
| | 10 | | Lieut R. G. SAMSON evacuated sick. Capt T. HASTIE resumed duty with Battalion from 1 st A.D. Hqs. | |
| | | | 1 O.R. to Stokes course 1 O.R. to Intell. course 1 st Anzac Corps School | |
| | | | 1 O.R. to 5 th Army Signal Training School | |
| | 11 | | 13 O.R. reinforcements reported for duty Lieut W. M. Taylor returned from Lewis Gun School LeTOQUET 1 O.R. returned from Stokes Mortar course 1 st Anzac Corps School 2/Lt M.E. THOMPSON to Intelligence School FRICOURT FARM | |

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530

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|-------------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1917 mar | 12 | | 1. O.R. to Divisional Gas School | |
| | 13 | | 2. O.R. (Sgt MACKAY & Cpl STIRLING) to faded course 1 st Divisional School | |
| | 14 | | Battalion left billets at DERNANCOURT at 0900 & moved to THAMETZ 'A' Camp arriving at 1115 | Op ⁿ Order No 11 |
| | | | 1. O.R. returned from Divl Gas School | |
| | 16 | | 1. O.R. to Lewis Gun School Le TOUQUET | |
| | 17 | | 1. O.R. to 5 th Army Cookery School | |
| | 18 | | Lt Gen Sir W. BIRDWOOD presented ribbons & medals to Officers 5 O.R. 1 st Division awarded decorations at 1 st Divl Hdqrs FRICOURT FARM. Major Gen H-B. WALKER was present. | |
| | | | 2/Lt M.E. THOMPSON returned from Intelligence School | |
| | 19 | | 1. O.R. to Divl Gas School 45 reinforcements reported for duty | |
| | 20 | | Lieut H.C. MORRISON evacuated, accidentally wounded by bomb | |
| | 21 | | Battalion left THAMETZ 'A' Camp, moved by road to billets at BUIRE arriving at 1330 | Operation Order No 12 |
| | 22 | | 3. O.R. reinforcements reported for duty | |

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530

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|-------|--------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | 1917 | | | |
| | Mar 22 | | 2 off (2/L ^{ts} E. A. HAY & F. LANGFORD) & 150 O.R. moved to ALBERT for duty under R.E. relieving detachment of 6 th Batta A.I.F. | |
| | 23 | | Capt T. HASTIE (transferred to 65 th Batta) left to take up duty with that Battalion | |
| | 25 | | 2/Lt L. T. PEARCE to Lewis Gun School LeTOUQUET 1.O.R. from Intelligence course, 1.O.R. from Stokes Course 1 st Angzac Corps School | |
| | 29 | | 1 Officer (2/Lt W. H. TAYLOR) & 2.O.R. to Divisional Gas School Capt E. G. PERNEZEL 1.O.R. from 5 th Army School. | |
| | 30 | | 1 officer (2/Lt M. E. THOMPSON) & 1.O.R. to 5 th Army School of Sniping 1.O.R. to School of Saddlery ABBEVILLE | |
| | 31 | | Lt F. R. INRAY (transferred to 65 th Batta) left to take up duty with that Battalion Capt A. V. CARTER & 1.O.R. to 5 th Army School. 2/Lt W. H. TAYLOR & 2.O.R. returned from Div. School. | |

During period 10-31 March Battalion was engaged in training

SECRET.

6

BATTALION OPERATION ORDER No. 10.By MAJOR D. A. LIXTON, ^{P.}TEMPORARILY COMMANDING.

Reference Map. ALBERT. COMBINED SHEET. I/40000.

- 530
1. MOVE. The Battalion will move from MAMETZ Camp, via MEAULTE" to DERNANCOURT for training on 7th inst. The following distances will be maintained :-- 50 yards between platoons. 200 yards between Companies and Battalion Transport.
 2. STARTING POINT. Head of column will pass starting point where Corduroy Road meets Main Road at F. 4. d. at 1000.
 3. ORDER OF MARCH. Headquarters Signallers, Drums, Fifes, Bugles, "A" Coy. with Intelligence Platoon, "B" Coy. with Bombers, "C" Coy, "D" Coy. H.Q. Details, Pioneers, Police, A.M.C, Headquarters and Coy. Lewis Gunners massed under Lewis Machine Gun Officer, Transport.
 4. HALTS. Halts of ten minutes duration will be held, at 1050, 1150" and 1250.
 5. ADVANCE PARTIES. Advance party of 2/Lieut H.G. MORRISON and one N.C.C. per Company will report to Staff Captain at the Town Majors Office DERNANCOURT at 1330 on 6th inst. This officer will inspect Billets and report to O/C outgoing Unit.
 6. REAR PARTY. 2/Lieut M.E. THOMPSON with 6 men from the Intelligence platoon will remain behind and hand over Camp to incoming Unit, obtaining a certificate as to the cleanliness of camp, in duplicate, one copy to be handed to incoming Unit and one copy to Adjutant on arrival at DERNANCOURT.
 7. DRESS. Full Marching Order with one blanket and waterproof Sheet rolled in approved method, waterbottles filled and unconsumed portion of day's ration to be carried
 8. BAGGAGE. Officers valises, Regimental and Coy. records and mess Stores to be at Q.M. Store by 0830. Blankets rolled in bundles of ten to be sent to Q.M. Store by 0800. H.Q. Batmen to report to Q.M. and act as Baggage Guard. Train wagons and one motor lorry will report at MAMETZ Camp at 0800 for conveyance of extra blankets etc.,
 9. REPORTS. Reports to head of column. On arrival at DERNANCOURT Coy. and Specialist Unit Commanders will report to Battn Hdqrs when their Commands are settled in Billets.

(Signed) E.A. WILLIAMS.
Lieutenant.
Acting Adjutant.

| Copy No. | To whom. | Method. |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| No 1 | War Diary. | |
| 2 | Handed to C.O. | |
| 3 | " " O.C. | "A" Coy. Runner. |
| 4 | " " " | "B" Coy. " |
| 5 | " " " | "C" Coy. " |
| 6 | " " " | "D" Coy. " |
| 7 | " " " | Spec. Unit Comrds. " |
| 8 | " " " | Q.M. and Tpt Off. " |

Copy No 1

7

Secret.

5th Battalion, A. I. F.

Headquarters,
13/3/17.

530

SECRET OPERATION ORDER No 11.

by Major D. A. LUNTON, D.S.O., Temp^{ly} Commanding.

Map Reference Albert (combined sheet) 1/40000.

1. MOVE. Battalion will move from DER NANCOURT to MAMETZ Camp and will interchange camp and billets with 7th Battalion moving, via Meaulite along main road and link road.
2. ORDER OF MARCH. H. Q. Signallers, Drums, Pipes and Buglers, D., B., A and C. Companies, Machine Gunners massed under M. G. officer, H. Q. Details and Transport. Companies will fall in outside billets, ready to move off at 0845. Marching out state to be sent to Battalion H. Q. by 0830.
3. STARTING POINT Head of Column will pass forward road at Dernancourt, E. 21. a 99, at 0900, distances will be maintained as laid down for 5th Army Area, i.e., 50 yards between platoons, 200 yards between Companies.
4. HALTS. A halt of 5 minutes after 30 minutes starting and thereafter of 10 minutes one hour after starting.
5. BILLETING. Party of 1 Officer and 4 N. C. O's per Company will proceed on 13th inst to take over Camp from 7th Battalion. Usual cleanliness certificates to be rendered by Companies to Battalion H. Q. by 0830.
6. REAR PARTY. 1 officer, Capt. J. HASTIE, and 4 men from Duty Company to remain behind as rear party. Certificates (in triplicate) as to cleanliness of billets of billets to be obtained from incoming unit. Police will move in rear of column and pick up all stragglers.
7. PREPARE. Full marching order, one blanket to be rolled in W. P. Sheet round pack in approved manner. Unexpired portion of day's rations to be carried and water bottles filled.
8. BAGGAGE. Extra blanket to be rolled in bundles of ten and to be at Square near Church at 0715. Officers, valises, Regimental and Company Records and Mess Boxes at same place at 0745. H. Q. Batmen to report to Q. M. and act as brakesmen. Pioneers will report to Q. M. at 0745 for duty as loading party.

(2)

9. REPORTS. Reports to Head of Column. Companies to report to Battalion H. Q. when quartered at Hametz Camp.

(Signed) E. A. Williams,
Lieutenant & Adjutant.

| COPY No. | TO WHOM | METHOD |
|----------|----------------------|---------|
| 1. | War Diary | |
| 2. | Q. C. A Co. | Runner. |
| 3. | O. C. B Co. | do |
| 4. | O. C. C Co. | do |
| 5. | O. C. D Co. | do |
| 6. | Q.M. & T. O. | do |
| 7. | M.G.O. & Sig. O. | do |
| 8. | R. S. M. for details | do |

5530
Copy No 1

(Secret).

Headquarters 5th. Battalion A.I.F.
20/3/17.

9

SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 12.
BY MAJOR D. A. LUXTON D. S. O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map ALBERT ((combined sheet 1/40000)).

MOVE. 1. Battalion will move from MAMETZ B CAMP to BEIRE via MEAULTE and VILLE-SUR-ANGRE on the 21st. inst.

ORDER of MARCH. 2. Headquarters Signallers, Drums, Fifes, and Bugles B Coy, A Coy., C Coy, and D Coy. Machine Gunners massed under Machine Gun Officer, H.Q. Details, Transport. Cookers will move in rear of their respective Coys. Coys. will fall in in their lines ready to move off at 1015.

STARTING POINT. 3. The head of column will pass Starting Point at corner of LINK ROAD and MAIN MEAULTE ROAD (F 4 G 5. 3). at 1030. Distances will be maintained on the march as under : -
200 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Transport and Units.
100 yards between Coys.

HALTS. 4. A halt of 10 minutes at 1050 and thereafter halts of 10 minutes duration at 10 minutes to each clock hour.

BILLETING. 5. Billeting party consisting of 1 Officer (Lt. J. A. ANDERSON) and 1 N. C. O. per Coy. will proceed on the 20th. inst. to BEIRE to take over billets from the 13th. Inf. Brigade.

DRESS. 6. Full marching order. 1 blanket rolled in waterproof sheet around pack. Unexpired portion of day's ration to be carried and water bottles filled.

BAGGAGE. 7. Extra blankets rolled in bundles of 10 to be at Q.M. Store by 0830. Officers' valises, Regimental and Coy. Records and Mess boxes to be at Q.M. Store by 0845. Headquarters Batmen will report to Q. M. and act as brakesmen. Pioneers will report to Q. M. at 0800 for duty as loading party.

REAR PARTIES. 8. 1 Officer (to be detailed), 1 N. C. O. and 3 men will remain behind and hand over Camp to incoming Units, obtaining receipt in triplicate as to cleanliness and sanitation. In addition a party of 1 Officer (2/Lt. M. E. THOMPSON) and 6 men will move in rear of Battalion to pick up and bring on men falling out.

REPORTS. 9. Reports to head of column. Coys. will report to Battalion Headquarters when quartered in new billets

(Signed) E. A. WILLIAMS,
Lieut. & Adjutant.

| Copy No. | To whom. | Method. |
|----------|--|------------|
| 1 | War Diary | |
| 2 | O.C. A. Coy. | By runner. |
| 3 | " B. " | " |
| 4 | " C. " | " |
| 5 | " D. " | " |
| 6 | Q.M. & Transport Off. | " |
| 7 | M.G. Officer, Bombing & Sig. Officers. | " |
| 8 | R. S. M. for Details. | " |