

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/22/27

Title: 5th Infantry Battalion

May 1917



AWM4-23/22/27

WAR DIARY

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

5th Aust Battalion 532

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917 May	1.		B ⁿ relieved by the 7 th B ⁿ in forward line. B ⁿ moved to support locations vacated by the 7 th B ⁿ - HQs, B & D Coys to Sunken Road C30 a 8.1. A Coy to Sunken Road C29 b & d. C Coy relieving A Coy of 7 th B ⁿ in Strong Points and Sunken Road C24 b. Relief complete 0030. I.O. Ranks to Stokes T. M. School.	B ⁿ Op. Order 18.
	4		I.O. Ranks to Visual Sig. School. CONTAY. Relieved by the 2/11 London Regiment and moved to trenches at VAULX, in support Relief at LAGINCOURT complete by 0100. Arrived at VAULX at 0300.	B ⁿ Operation Order No 19
	6.		2. I.Ranks to course at 1 st ANZAC Armourers Workshop. Captain A.V. CARTER. M.C. returned from 5 th ARMY SCHOOL. Captain E.G. de T. PERMEZEL, Captain A.V. CARTER. M.C. Lieutenant E.A. WILLIAMS. transferred to 2 nd Vict. TRAINING B ⁿ . ENGLAND.	
	7.		Relieved 4 th & 9 th B ⁿ s A.I.F. in the line BULLECOURT sector. Moved out of billets at VAULX at 2100. Relief complete, without casualty, at 0225. a percentage of officers and I.Ranks were left at VAULX. CAPT. F.L. MOORE and LIEUT. W.H. TAYLOR. wounded. I.Ranks 3 Killed & wounded.	B ⁿ Operation Order No 19 ^a

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1917				
MAY	8		ENEMY counter attacked the B ⁿ on our left. B ⁿ standing to at 2140. the attack was driven off. 1 PRISONER captured while laying lines by D coy. CAPT. H.M. GRIFFITHS M.C. killed. 0 Ranks, 8 killed 19 wounded.	
	9		ENEMY made attempts to bomb left flank of 8 th B ⁿ . The attack was driven off, B coy. Rifle Grenadiers gave assistance. LIEUT E.A. HAY and LIEUT H. BURLEIGH were wounded. 0 Ranks, 7 killed, 28 Wounded. Relieved by the 57 th and 58 th B ⁿ s A.I.F. and moved back to VAULX, & rested there 4 hours and moved on to B'de. Camp at BIEFVILLERS.	B ⁿ Operation Order N ^o 20.
	10		Moved from VAULX at 1130, to B'de Camp at BIEFVILLERS, arriving at 1400	B ⁿ Operational Order N ^o 21.
	11.		3 Officers (LIEUT. BECHERVAISE, 2 LIEUTS. GRANT & CAMERON.) and 121 0 Ranks joined up. LIEUTS. ROBINSON, NASH and MACKAY joined up from DIVISIONAL SCHOOL. LIEUT BECHERVAISE and 25 0 Ranks went to REST CAMP at VALERY-SUR-SOMME.	
	12.		2 LIEUTS, GARLICK, GLANVILLE went to DIVISIONAL INFANTRY SCHOOL. LIEUT. BARBER to STOKES mortar School. LIEUT WALTERS and 4 0 Ranks to Army Musketry School. LIEUT TWAITS and 2 0 Ranks to Army Sniping School.	

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1917				
MAY	12		N ^o 3868 Cpl. HUNGERTORD, N ^o 5773 Pte. S. THOMS and N ^o 2415 Pte R. MITCHELL recommended for the MILITARY MEDAL.	
	14.		A. and D. Companies moved to occupy Strong points in CORPS INTERMEDIATE LINE.	B ⁿ Operations Order N ^o 22.
	16		A. and D. Coys relieved by two companies of the 6 th B ⁿ A.I.F. and returned to BIEFVILLERS Camp.	
	21		B ⁿ left camp at BIEFVILLERS, at 0700 and moved by road through BAPAUME to OVILLERS Camp arriving at 1155. 2 LIEUT GARLICK reported evacuated by the 1 st DIVISIONAL School. 2 O Ranks to N.C.O.'s school at BOUZINCOURT. LIEUT. LANGFORD, 2 LIEUT. MACKAY and 1 O Rank to 5 th ARMY. Infantry School. LIEUT. S.C. GILMOYR, E.L. WILCOCK. M.C., H.F. MORRISON and E.W. CHENU. reported for duty. LIEUT. WALTERS and 1 O Rank reported back from 5 th Army musketry school. 23 O Ranks joined up.	B ⁿ Operations Order N ^o 22 ^A
	22.		Moved from OVILLERS HUTS to HENENCOURT WOOD. Left OVILLERS at 0635 arrived at HENENCOURT at 1130.	B ⁿ Operations Order N ^o 24.
	25		6 O Ranks to N.C.O.'s school at BOUZINCOURT.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917				
MAY	27.		5. 0 tanks to 5 th Army Musketry School at WARLOY. 1 officer (LIEUT. H.P. MOLONY) and 15. 0 tanks to Rest Camp at VALERY-SUR-SOMME. 2 LIEUTS. NASH and ROBINSON transferred to the 6 th AUST. DIVISION. LIEUT. BECHERVAISE and 25 0 tanks reported from Rest Camp at VALERY-SUR-SOMME.	
	28.		2. 0 tanks to Sniping School. LIEUT. TWAITTS and 2 0 tanks reported from Sniping School. 30. 0 tanks joined up.	
	29.		Cpl. HUNGERFORD, Ptes THOMS and MITCHELL awarded the Military Medal. 2 LIEUTS OFARRELL and CORLETT. joined up and 5. 0 tanks. LIEUTS COPP and CAMERON and 4 0 tanks to STOKES T.M. School. 6. 0 tanks to INTELLIGENCE course at 1 st DIVISION. H Q. SGT. W.F. TURNER and SGT N.S. MADDOX promoted to rank of 2 LIEUTENANT.	
	30.		2 0 tanks to GAS School at RIBEMONT.	
	31.		1. 0 tank to 5 th Army COOKERY School.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1917				
MAY				
			Weekly effective strengths	
			Week ending 4 th May 40 Officers 868 Men	
			" " 11 th " 39 " 924 "	
			" " 18 th " 41 " 957 "	
			" " 25 th " 45 " 940 "	
			<u>Summary.</u>	
MAY 1 st to 3 rd			B ⁿ in line in LAGNICOURT sector	
4 th to 6 th			B ⁿ in reserve to 2 nd Aust. Division. Stationed at VAULX.	
7 th to 9 th			B ⁿ in line in BULLECOURT sector.	
10 th to 20 th			B ⁿ in training at B'de Camp at BIEFVILLERS.	
21 st			B ⁿ moved from BIEFVILLERS to OVILLERS.	
22 nd			B ⁿ moved from OVILLERS to HENENCOURT WOOD.	
22 nd to 31 st			B ⁿ in training at HENENCOURT WOOD.	

Asst. Adjutant Gen. Lt.
asst. Adjutant Gen. Batt. A.I.F.

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SECRET.

Copy No. /

Headquarters 5th. Battalion A.I.F.
1/5/17.SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 18.
BY LT. COL. D.A. LUNTON D.S. O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map 57c N.E. 1/20000.

1. 5th. Battalion will be relieved by the 7th. Battalion on the night 1st./2nd. May in the right sub sector of the line. 5th. Battalion on relief will move into Support locations vacated by 7th. Battalion.
"B" Coy. on the right will be relieved by "D" Coy. of 7th. Battalion.
"D" Coy. on the left by "C" Coy. of 7th. Battalion.
"C" Coy. 5th. Battalion will relieve "B" Coy. of 7th. Battalion in Strong points.
Battalion Headquarters, "A", "B", and "D" Coys. will move to Sunken Road at D.30a.
2. Advance parties will be sent forward 24 hours in advance and maps, air photos, particulars of work in hand or proposed and all information of value will be handed over.
3. Trench Stores will be handed over and receipts obtained in duplicate. Copy of receipt to be forwarded to Battalion Headquarters.
(Primus Stoves and Tommy Cookers are ~~not~~ Trench Stores and will ~~not~~ be handed over).
4. Guides. O.Cs. "B" and "D" Coys. will provide 2 Guides per Platoon to report to Battalion Headquarters at 2200.
5. Completion of relief to be wired in code to Battalion Headquarters.
6. Acknowledge by wire.

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

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	
2.	File.	
3.	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
5.	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
6.	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
7.	O.C. 7th. Bttn.	"

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Headquarters 5th. Battalion A.I.F.
4/5/17.

SECRET OPERATION ORDER No. 10.
BY LT. COL. D.A. LUNTON P.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map 57a H.W. (1/29000).

1. RELIEF. The 2/11 London Regiment will relieve 5th, and 6th. Battalions tonight 4th. May. 5th. Battalion will move on relief to trenches near VAUX (C.26c).
2. ADVANCE PARTIES. 1 officer and 7 N.C.Os. per Coy. will reconnoitre new position so as to be able to guide their Units in. Senior officer of the Battalion party will report to 2nd. Asst. Divisional Headquarters for further information. A guide will meet the Battalion at Cruzifix C.26.d.6.5. Signalling officer will detail 1 guide to report to Brigade Headquarters at 1630 to-day.
3. TRANSPORT. C.M. will arrange for Cooks to be withdrawn tonight and move to a position near the vicinity of VAUX. Further particulars later. Rations will be distributed in new billets.
4. TRENCH REPAIRS. Will be handed over to incoming Unit and receipts for same will be obtained in quadruplicate. This includes Patrol tins, trench covers etc. Representatives of relieving Unit will be taking over at 1700 to night.
5. ORDER OF MARCH. H.Q. Signallers, pioneers, "B", "D", "A", "C".
6. DETACHMENTS. 50 yards between PL^{ts} teams, 100 yards between Coys.
7. ROUTE. A cross country to cross roads at I.S. d. Central thence along road through I.S.d. b. and a. to Cruzifix at C.26.d.6.5, where guides will be met.
8. TIME OF MARCH. Units will be ready to move at 2045.
9. Reports to head of column.
10. Completion of relief to be ^{notified} immediately to Battalion Headquarters.

(Signed) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Asst. Adjutant.

Coy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	
2.	File.	
3.	C.O. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	C.O. "B" Coy.	"
5.	C.O. "C" Coy.	"
6.	C.O. "D" Coy.	"
7.	C.M. & Transport Officers.	"

Reference Map O.31.d.2.4 1/20000.

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1. RELIEF. 5th. Battalion will relieve ~~1st.~~ and ~~2nd.~~ Battalions tonight 7th./8th. May 1917.
"1" will relieve on the right sector from U.29.d.8.8 to U.29.d.9.0.
"2" Coy. on left from U.29.d.9.0 to U.29.d.1.7.
"3" and "4" will be in Supports in U.29.c.7.5 to U.29.d.4.8.
 2. ADVANCE PARTIES. O.Cs. Coys. with Guides will reconnoitre new position and will send guides back to meet Platoons at G. 10.c.7.9 (Cross roads).
 3. MOVE. Battalion will be ready to move at dusk tonight and will move via VRAUCOURT COPSE, keeping MOREVIL well on the right.
Coys. to move by Platoons with 50 yards distance between platoons. 1 runner per Coy. to report to Major CARTER at Battalion Headquarters at 1830 and will be sent back to Coys. with instructions as to the time Coy. is to move.
 4. ORDER OF MOVE. Headquarters, "D", "A", "C", "B",
 5. DRESS. Fighting order, 200 rounds S. A.A., 2 Mills Grenades. Overcoat in Waterproof and strapped on belt. Water bottles filled and 24 hours iron rations and unexpired portion of Coy's rations.
 6. TACKS. Packs suitably marked, with blanket round pack to be dumped by platoons at Headquarters not later than 1830.
"A" Coy. to return packs on liberated waggons.
 7. RESERVE PARTIES. Officers and other ranks detailed to remain behind will report to Major CARTER at Battalion Headquarters after Coys. have cleared VAUX.
 8. REPORTS. Completion of relief to be notified to Battalion Headquarters.

(Signed) G.E. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Asst. Adjutant.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1	War Diary.	
2	File.	
3	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
5	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
6	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
7	O.C. & Transport officers.	"

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5th Bn ATF 9-5-17
Operation Order No 20 6 copies

Ref Mats } 031-D24 1:20000
5721XW 1:20000

Relief

On the night of 9/10 May the 2nd Bde will be relieved by the 15th Inf Bde. The 5th Bn will be relieved by the 57th Bn, the 8th Bn by the 58th Bn, the 6th Bn by the 59th Bn and the 7th Bn by the 60th. MG Coy and LTM Bty will be relieved by similar units of 15th Bde. The guns of the 22nd MG Coy attached to 2nd Inf Bde will withdraw from line and rejoin their own unit.

Rear Parties

The Nos 1 of each VMG and Lewis guns will remain with the relieving teams for 24 hrs after relief and will then rejoin their units.

One officer from each of A and II coys and one NCO from each of B and C coys will also remain behind with O/C of relieving company for 24 hrs after relief and will rejoin the Battalion at BIEFVILLERS. Senior officers will

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-2-

take charge of rear party who will assemble after relief at rear BC HQs VARKY where a guide will meet them.

Maps etc

(3) Maps photos and information of value will be handed over and receipts obtained.

Trench Stores

Trench stores, ammunition, bombs will be handed over and a receipt obtained. Copies of receipts to be prepared forwarded to BC HQs by 1400 g^m inst. Two bombs, two sandbags, 100 extra rounds S&A will be handed over to incoming unit.

More

Companies will move independently as relieved from the line to VARKY reporting there to rear BC HQs. Co's companies reporting relief complete as company moves out of trench.

- 3 -

Advance Parties (6) Senior Major
will arrange to send forward
to BIEFVILLERS advance parties
to report to him C DURHAM Bn
BILLETING office at TOWN MAJOR'S
Office at 1600 on 9th inst

Details of relief not provided for
will be arranged through O's
companies direct

W. H. M. L. A. H. M. S.
1/1/1932
Method

Copy No	To whom	Method
1	War Diary	
2	File	
3	O.C. A Coy	Runner
4	O.C. B Coy	"
5	O.C. C Coy	"
6	O.C. D Coy	"
7	Major Carter	"

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SECRET.

Copy No. /
Headquarters 5th. Battalion A. I.F.
10/5/17.

SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 21.
BY LT. COL. D.A. LUNTON D. S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map 57c.N.W. 1/20000.

- 1. MOVE. The Battalion will move to BIEFVILLERS on 10th. inst. via. BEUGNATRE - FAVREUIL - BIEFVILLERS.
- 2. STARTING POINT. Head of column will pass A.B. and C. Coy. Billet at 1150.
- 3. ORDER OF MOVE. Headquarters Band, Signallers, Pioneers, "D", "A", "B", "C", A.M. C. H.Q. Details, Police, Transport.
- 4. DISTANCES. 100 yards between Companies.
200 yards between Transport.
- 5. DRESS. Full marching order, water bottle filled, unexpired portion of day's ration carried, blanket in waterproof in approved manner.
- 6. COOKERS. Cookers will move in rear of Companies.
- 7. REPORTS. Reports to head of column.

(Signed) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Asst. Adjt.

Copy No.	To whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	
2.	File.	
3.	C.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	C.C. "B" Coy.	"
5.	C.C. "C" Coy.	"
6.	C.C. "D" Coy.	"
7.	Q.M. & Transport Officers.	"

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Headquarters 5th. Battalion A. I.F.
13/5/17.

SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 22.
BY LT. COL. D.A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

MOVE. 1 "A" and "D" Coys. will move out at 0930, 14th. inst. to occupy strong posts at positions already notified in the COYS INTERMEDIATE LINE.

PREP. 2. Full marching order, water bottles filled, and unexpired portion of day's rations.

REPORTS. 3. Coys. will report when in position, forwarding a sketch showing their position and dispositions.

(Signed) G. L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Acting Adjutant.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	
2.	File.	
3.	C.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	C.C. "D" Coy.	"

SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 22. A
BY. LT. COL. D. A. LUXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map ALBERT Combined Sheet 57c 1/40000.

MOVE. 1. Brigade Group will move to BASIEUX, staging through OVILLERS Huts. 5th. Battalion will move to OVILLERS Huts on 21st. inst.ORDER OF MARCH. 2. H.Q., Sigs., Intelligence, Band, "A", "B", "C", "D".
- Pioneers, A. M.C., H.Q. Details, Police, Transport.DRESS. 3. Full marching order less blanket. Waterproof to be carried in pack.STARTING POINT. 4. Head of column will pass Starting Point at H.26.d.6.5 at 0710.ROUTE. 5. Along the main BAPAUME - ALBERT Road to X.4.b.9.4. where guides will be met.HALTS. 6. A short halt at 30 minutes after passing Starting Point, thereafter 10 minutes at every 10 minutes to clock hour.DISTANCES. 7. The following distances will be maintained. -
200 yards between Battalions and Field Coy., -
200 yards between Transports of Units and other troops.
100 yards between Coys.ADVANCE PARTIES. 8. For OVILLERS Huts 1 Officer and 3 N. C.Os. (Lt. THOMPSON and 1 N.C.O. from each of "A", "B" and "D" Coys.)
For HENENCOURT, 1 Officer and 4 N. C.Os. (Lt. ANDERSON and 1 N.C.O. per Coy.)
Both parties to report to Lt. WEBSTER at 0930 on 20th. inst.REAR PARTY. 9. 2/Lt. ATTWOOD and 1 other rank per Coy. will remain to hand over camp, obtaining certificates in triplicate as to cleanliness of lines before moving off.COOKERS. 10. 2 Cooks per co oker will move with cookers and act as Brakesmen. Cookers to move in rear of Coys.REPORTS. 11. Reports to head of column. Coys. to report when correct.(Signed) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Acting Adjutant.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1	War Diary.	
2	File	
3	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
5.	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
6.	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
7.	Q.M. & Transport Officers.	"

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SECRET.

Copy No. 8

Headquarters 5th. Battalion A.I.F.
21/5/17.

SECRET OPERATION ORDER NO. 24.
BY LT. COL. P.A. LIXTON D.S.O. COMMANDING.

Reference Map ALBERT Combined Sheet 57c 1/40000.

MOVE. 1. 5th. Battalion will move via ALBERT, MELINCOURT to HENECOURT tomorrow 22nd. inst. Dress. - As for march on 21st. inst.

STARTING POINT. 2. Head of column will pass Starting Point X.19.b.o.g at 0710

ORDER OF MARCH. 3. H.Q., Sigs., Intelligence, Band, "B", "C", "D", "A", A.M.C., Pioneers, H.Q. Details, Police.

DISTANCES. 4. As in march on 21st. inst.

HALTS. 5. A short halt at 30 minutes after passing Starting Point, thereafter 10 minutes at every 10 minutes to clock hour.

REAR PARTY. 6. Lt. CONWAY and ^{1 man} ~~5 men~~ per Coy. will remain behind to obtain certificates in triplicate from incoming Unit as to cleanliness of billets and lines.

~~7. Reports to head of Battalion. Coys. will report when settled in billets.~~

REPORTS. 7. Reports to head of Battalion. Coys. will report when settled in billets.

(Signed) G.L. FINLAY,
Lieut. & Acting Adjutant.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1.	War Diary.	
2.	File.	
3.	O.C. "A" Coy.	Runner.
4.	O.C. "B" Coy.	"
5.	O.C. "C" Coy.	"
6.	O.C. "D" Coy.	"
7.	Q.M. & Transport Officers.	"