

AWM4

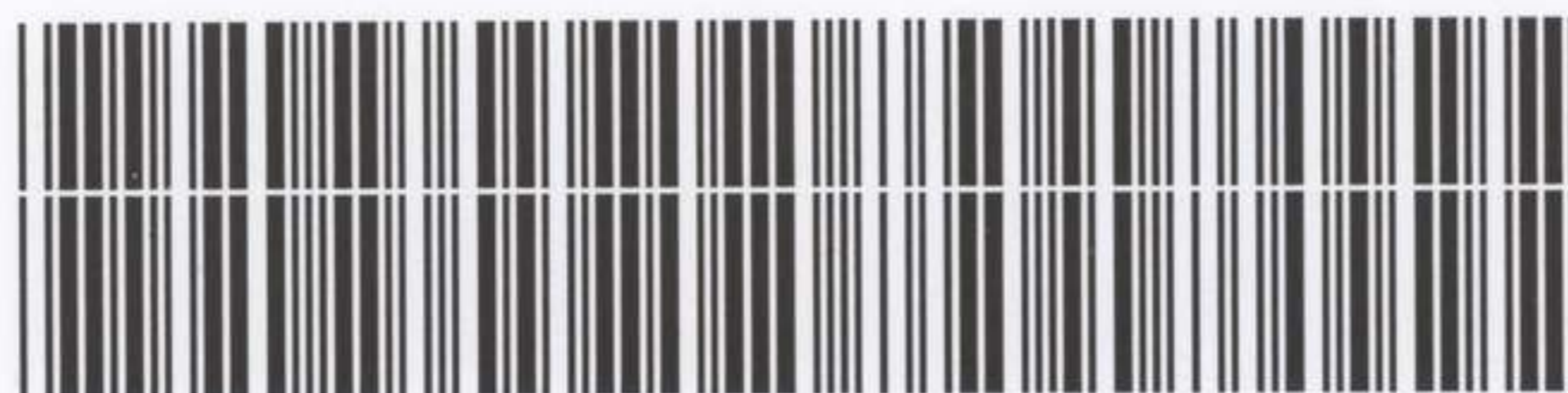
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/20

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

March 1917



AWM4-23/35/20

1/3/17

Salvage work during day. Disposition of Companies altered at 6 pm. B & C Coys moved forward to OLD FLEERS LINE. A Coy to Old RIGHT BOTTOM. D Coy remained at 7 ELMS

2/3/17

Rehearsed by 22 Bn at 6 pm. moved to huts at FRIECOURT 'C' CAMP.

3/3/17

Lt CONNELLY reported P.O. with 26 P.O.s.

4/3/17

Bathing & foot washing carried on.

5/3/17

Moved to No 8 Camp at BAZENTIN LE PETIT during morning. at 6 pm B moved to Reserve line FACTORY CORNER

A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

1917

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	5.3.17	1015	Battn moved from shelter wood camp and arrived at No 2 camp	
		1200	Buzantin - le - Petit at noon.	
		1730	Bn again moved to Factory corner in Support line. Disposed as follows:- HQRS. at Factory corner (N. 19. C. 9. 1) A Coy (30ff + 102 OR) D . (40ff + 480ff) in Her's Line P.T. Rempts (48 OR) . B Coy (40ff + 98 OR) at YARRA BANK C . (1 ff + 30 OR) . C . (30ff + 69 OR) at THE CUTTING	
		2107	Relief of 5 th Bn at Factory corner complete without casualties	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
6-2-16	6-3-17	11.30	<p>Aeroplane type XXI belonging to A flight, No 3 Squadron R.F.C. (Pilot Lt G. W. SHORT M.C., Observer - Lt Fraser) engaged by 3 enemy planes + was reported driven down at N. 19 8.75. Both officers wounded, the former, dying en route to C.C.S. Another of our planes forced down in enemy lines north of Le Barque. Bn relieved part of 3rd Bn on the left of Poole sector and whole of 7th Bn on right of Poole sector. Relief completed at 11.45 p.m. One other rank slightly wounded during relief.</p> <p>Patrols were immediately sent out and Centre company established contact with enemy at N 2 8 3 1/2. Scout W. J. Smith crawled out to within about twenty yds of enemy, but was observed + bombed, sustaining a slight wound.</p> <p>Our dispositions are as follows.</p> <p>D: Coy HQs at Quarry CHALK but (N 1 C 7 1/2 2 1/2). Front line held from N 1 a 54 (Extreme left of Bn sector) to N 1 b 8 1/2 1 (5 off + 129 or)</p> <p>A Coy HQs @ N 2 C 73. Front line held from N 2 C 1/2 9 1/2, through Knotty Pt KNOTTY Pt to TONGUE TRENCH (N 2 C 9 1/2 7) then SOUTH to N 2 d 1/2 2 1/2 (4 off 116 or)</p>	
		2345		

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	6.3.17		<p>B Coy Right Coy HQs @ N 8 a 8 4 1/2 Front Line from N 2 d 1/2 to N 8 a 8 1/2 2 1/2. (4 off + 100 or)</p> <p>Listening Post pushed out by B. Coy to N 8 2 15</p> <p>C Coy in Reserve HQs in Pige Tr. One Platoon @ BUCHANAN'S CORNER, 1 Platoon @ RYE TR. Two platoons at CHALK PIT in rear of D. Coy (4 off + 79 or)</p> <p>30 P.T. reinforcements at BRATER at LUISENHOF FARM.</p> <p>18 " " " " BANK TR.</p> <p>Bn HQRS @ N 18 d 56 4 7 1/2</p> <p>Bn. is now covering three villages of LE BARQUE. LIGNY-THILLOY. and THILLOY.</p>	

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	7/3/17		Fairly quiet. Very little enemy shelling but his trench mortars rather active	
	8/3/17		<p>About 2am. Lt W HARRIS was killed while with fighting patrol, reconnoitering enemy position at the BRICKFIELDS 2 ofr were wounded.</p> <p>2/LT HICKEY P.F. Promoted Lieut 8/3/17 AAC 151/5/55</p> <p>" JONES W.F. " " " "</p> <p>" GARTRELL A.E. " " " "</p> <p><u>Seconded list.</u></p> <p>CAPT BRUCE H.I. Seconded 23/2/17</p> <p>CAPT HARRISON. CH Seconded for duty as Staff Captain 7 Bde 8/1/17</p> <p>Lt WGD. FISHER Seconded 23/2/17 AAC 172/2/158</p> <p>" FAIRCLOUGH CM. " 18/2/17 " "</p> <p>" HILL JR " 26/2/17 " "</p> <p>" LEBLIE A.H. " 12/2/17 AIF list 148 2/3/17</p> <p>" AGNEW J.E. " 24/2/17 172/2/158</p> <p>2/Lt MAYES. W.H. Ceased to be seconded to 5th ALTM B and having been wounded replaced on seconded list dated 26/2/17. AAC 172/2/158</p> <p>" A.J.B. MACKENZIE. Seconded 1/3/17</p> <p>" FREWIN V.J. Seconded 22/2/17. Original posting 19th Bn. Transfer to 18th Bn approved dated 4/2/17 AAC 187/1/694</p> <p><u>TRANSFER</u></p> <p>2/Lt ROSS L.H. Transferred from 5th AAC @ 11/2/17 AIF list 148 of 2/3/17</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9/3/17	9.30 pm	<p>Fine clear day. Good observation. Some light falls of snow during afternoon.</p> <p>A fighting patrol of 1 Officer and 25 OR went out from each of three front line Coys, returning at midnight. No enemy patrols were encountered but there was considerable M. gun activity along whole enemy front, flares going up every few minutes.</p>	
	10/3/17		<p>Relieved by 20th Bn and then moved into Support position FACTORY CORNER and YARRA BANK. Ground very muddy and going heavy, delaying relief.</p> <p>Relief complete at midnight, without incident.</p> <p>Lt. DEMPSEY, accidentally wounded in hand by bayonet and was evacuated.</p> <p>3 OR wounded by Trench Mortar Bombs.</p>	
	11/3/17	9 pm	<p>Relieved by 31 Bn A.I.F. - moved to BAZENTIN. No 8 Camp</p>	
	12/3/17			

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BAZENTIN LE PETIT	12.10.17	3. PM	<p>During morning bathing parades were carried out at Div. Baths, Bazentin clean change of underwear & socks being available</p> <p>A Board of Enquiry met at Div H Qs to investigate nature of casualty to Lt. W Harris, reported wounded and missing, believed killed 7/3/17.</p> <p>President of Board. Major R. M. Sadler r/c.</p> <p>Members. Capt. W. R. C. Robertson & 2/Lt. H. Drummond.</p> <p>After taking evidence of three witnesses the Board adjourned in order to take the evidence of Cpl MOODY who was away from his company with a fatigue party.</p> <p>Sgt. Connolly relieved 17th In office in charge of road making party at Hot Cross Roads, taking with him forty O.R.</p>	

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BALENTIN
LE PETIT

LESARS

13317

3.15 am
6.50 am

Verbal order received from Brigade
 Bn moved leaving surplus gear for removal to Details Camp. BEAVER ROAD Camp. Bn moved via MARTINPUICH to original front line being disposed as follows. Bn H.Q. R.A.P. & D Coy in LESARS M 1608.2 A Coy in GILBERT ALLEY M 15 C 7.4 1/2 B+C Coys in Sunken Road M 15 but news received that line now in advance of LOUPART WOOD. 17th Bn was in front line two Companies being in GREVILLER TR and two in advance and to right of LOUPART WOOD. 19th Bn was in support at village of WARLENCOURT.

Reconnaissance was carried on during day.
 During afternoon Genl Birdwood paid visit.
 A+C Companies moved forward to WARLENCOURT and took over positions vacated by D+C Companies of 19th Bn which moved further on in support of 17th Bn whose front was moved more to the right. A Coy 18th Bn. M 10 a 3 to M 10 a 7. C Coy M 10 a 7. to M 10 b 2.4 Both Coys had fair shelter. Small dug-outs in embankment of road.
 Movement was completed at 10 pm

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LE SARRS	13/3/17		<p>Board of Enquiry met to investigate nature of casualty sustained by Lt C. J. Dempsey on the night of 10/11 March 1917. President Major R. L. Satter. Members Capt W. C. R. Robertson & Lt J. M. Harrison.</p> <p>Finding. — Lt C. J. Dempsey received an incised wound across the palm of his right hand caused by his hand coming into contact with a bayonet.</p> <p>Lt AGNEW J. E. returned from hospital, with 16 of R in Rpts & details</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE SARRS	14/3/17.		<p>Lt Agnew reported back from hospital, with seven men carrying parties supplies to more dumps to more forward areas. Reported that enemy had evacuated vicinity of PARKFIELDS. Search party successful in finding body of Lt Harris. No signs of enemy having searched pockets or clothing. Work of removing dumps forward and carrying rations etc to front line troops was actually carried on.</p>	
	15/3/17 1pm		<p>Burial of body of Lt W Harris took place, ceremony by Capt Higgins. Place of interment - MAP REF. GIVEDECOURT N 16 05.2 1/2. Order for 19th Bn to relieve 19th Bn in Support line, 19th to relieve 17th in front line night of 16/17 Nch.</p>	

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LE SARRS	16/3/17	3.40 pm.	<p>Order received from Brigade to move up one. 19th Bn to become RELIEF Bn to be relieved by 19th Bn in the line. A & C Coys of 18th Bn moved into WARLENCOURT to positions vacated by A & B Coys of 19th Bn. Day 18th Bn relieved D Coy 19th Bn in MALT TR. & B Coy 18th took over position in LOUPART ROAD to its intersection by MALT TR. vacated by C Coy 19th Bn. Bn HQ at M 11 a. o. s removal complete at 6.30 pm.</p> <p>4.43 pm Operation Order #90 received from Brigade at 4.43 pm. Company Commanders assembled forth with and arrangement of parties settled.</p> <p>8.30 pm C.O. 18th Bn arrived at LINE Bn HQ at 8.30 pm. followed shortly after by Capt W.C. Robertson, who was appointed O.C. Assault. The Acting O.C. 19th Bn placed at disposal of Lt Col Murphy (commanding the attacking party) his two Reserve Companies who were billeted in deep dug-outs in GREVILLERS. Advance parties of 18th Bn for reconnaissance purposes assembled at LINE Bn HQ. Mats and tapes arrived at Brigade Dump 12.5 at GREVILLERS.</p> <p>11.50 pm Word was received from Brigade at 11.50 pm that the operation had</p>	<p>Operation Order No 90.</p>

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GREVILLERS	16.3.17	11.50pm	been refused Divisional Consent. The assaulting, covering and carrying parties who were assembling in vicinity of the QUARRY in GREVILLERS were accordingly instructed to return to their respective billets. Companies reported "all correct" by 2 a.m. 17/3/17	
WARLENCOURT	17.3.17	8am.	<p>Informed by Brigade that enemy had evacuated BIEFVILLERS about 4am and that 19th Pz had gone through and were now in advance of the village. Visibility extremely good, considerable aerial activity - three of our plane shot down by enemy planes - all landing under control in our lines.</p> <p>Two Granaten werfer "16" No 4079 & No 617 captured by Pz Coy 18th Pz.</p> <p>Congratulatory message received from Lt Gen Birdwood expressing pleasure at capture of PARADISE RIDGE. Australian troops through PARADISE - town on fire in various places.</p> <p>1.30pm. New Boundaries received. Right Div Boundary. H 27 Cent. to I 4 Central Left Div. Boundary G 30 a 5.5 to G 24 d 4.9 to. H 9 Central. Inter Bde Boundary now of trees H 25 b Cent. along NORTH EDGE of MONUMENT WOOD (inclusive to Right Bde)</p>	

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WARLENCOURT	17/3/17	8 pm 9 pm	<p>Bgade) to H 15 d 6.0 along road to CROSS ROADS at H 16 c 2.9 then along road via H 16 c 90.95 to centre of BEUGNATRE to H 12 c 1.4 to H 12 central.</p> <p>Major R A Sadler M.C (second in command) detailed to attend Senior Officers School ALDERSHOT.</p> <p>Reflection noticed, apparently large fire in direction of BIHUCOURT</p> <p>Major Sadler left Bn HQ in order to catch train at ALBERT, 9 am following morning.</p>	
WARLENCOURT	18.3.17		<p>Morning fine, visibility good.. Salvaging operations actively carried on.</p> <p>Information received that villages of FARREUIL and BEUGNATRE had been occupied by 6th Bgde AIF. 19th Bn held line 1500 yards in advance of BIEFVILLERS.</p> <p>Changes in Officers. Major R A Sadler to Senior Officers School.</p> <p>Capt. M Bruce - Seconded 23/2/17 [AAG]</p> <p>Lieut. B J Blackett Restored from Supy. List dated 24/2/17 AIF List 152</p> <p>Lieut W L Appleby Resumed duty from Seconded List 2/17 AIF List 152.</p> <p>Lieut A Paine. To Supy List. 5/3/17 [AAG 139/355]</p>	

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WARLENCOURT	18.3.17		<p>Changes in Officers (continued)</p> <p>Lieut L.M. Badde. To Suppy List. 27/2/17 [E.A.A.G. 139/355]</p> <p>Lieut A.W. Irvine resumed duty from Seconded List</p> <p>24/2/17. A.I.F. List 152.</p> <p>Lieut R.H. Willis to Suppy List. 27/2/17 [E.A.A.G. 139/355]</p> <p>Lieut W.A. Mayes. Seconded for Duty with 5th ALT.M.O. 20/2/17 [E.A.A.G. 139/350] previously reported ceased to be seconded.</p>	
		9.30 pm	<p>Following message from Bde HQ. "British now in possession of PERONNE, NOYELLES, GOMIECOURT, BEUGNY, MOYENNEVILLE, MORY, ERVILLIERS, COURCELLES, BEUGNATREY, FREMICOURT."</p>	

WAR DIARY

13
55

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARLENCOURT	193.17 193.17		<p>Morning fine, visibility fairly good. Salvage work actively carried on. 8 new Klaxon horns found. Capt. Bolton Wood reported back from 4th Army School. Lt. R. H. Willis reported back from Hospital. Sgt. K. E. Potts arrived from 17th Recon Co 19 OR. ex Details & 58 OR from Training Camp which was at Bageux but now at Pecourt. Another Enemy French Mortar (the third) was taken possession of. During afternoon 40 OR from each Coy engaged in levelling ground and erecting tents, on right of BAPAUME RD. 93 Tents erected before nightfall. Order received from Brigade for P. Co. to occupy line H 21. A 1.5. H 21 central. H 14 d central. H 13 d central to be held as outpost line with P. Co. HQ at H 19 b 7.9. 5th Bgde in support to advanced guard occupying line H 19 b 1. SUGAR FACTORY. VRAUCOURT. More to be made at daylight on 20th Inst.</p> <p>7.15 pm Meeting of Coy O.C.s. Arrangements made. C Coy to be on RIGHT. B Coy on LEFT A & D Coys to be in support.</p>	

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WARLENCOURT BIEFVILLERS OUT POST.	20.3.17	6.15	<p>Weather cold & wet with snow storms during morning, cleared up during afternoon</p> <p>Pⁿ moved from WARLENCOURT, via BAPAUME to position in advance of BIEFVILLERS. Pⁿ H Q^s were established in old German dug-out at H 13 d. 7.1.</p> <p>C Coy took up position as N^o 1 Outpost Coy with line from H 21 central to Road at H 14 d 6.3 inclusive. Picquets were established at H 21 cent. (with 2 Sentry groups) and at H 20 b 9.8 (with 1 Sentry group). Coy H^o & Local Reserve at H 21 c 4.9</p> <p>B Coy was N^o 2 Outpost Coy. with line from H 14 d 6.3 (exclusive) to H 13 d central with one Picquet at H 14 d cent. (supplying 2 Sentry groups) another Picquet at H 14 c 4.8 also with 2 Sentry groups.</p> <p>D Coy. in support to N^o 1 outpost Coy. was located on ARRIVES RD H 20 b cent and at Embankment H 20 a 8.2.</p> <p>A Coy. in support to N^o 2 Outpost Coy. were in Quarry at H 14 d 3.5.</p> <p>During day work was actively carried on protecting position and building shelters. Iron and timber, from the many dismantled & destroyed dug-outs & gun pits in the vicinity, were plentiful.</p>	

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BIEFVILLERS OUTPOST.	21/3/17		<p>Fine & cold. visibility good</p> <p>7.30 am Coy in Support relieved outpost Coy at 7.30 am. Location of posts remained unchanged.</p> <p>2/Lt Ross reported back from Tunneling working party.</p> <p>G. O. B inspected position & visited posts</p> <p>Improvement of Shelters and dug-outs continued</p>	

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BIEFVILLERS OUTPOST	22/3/17		<p>Morning fine, visibility good. afterwards becoming overcast with snow storms during day.</p> <p>Lt. Blakett left to report to 61st Bn</p> <p>2/Lt R Henderson reported back from 6th C. B. Bn Oxford Eng.</p> <p>9th R rejoined 1st Bn - from tunnelling working party.</p> <p>2/Lts Ross, Connolly, Sellars & Moors now Lieut^s ^{dated 13/3/17} See A.I.F. List 158 of 27/3/17</p> <p>Lt Agnew evacuated & sick.</p> <p>Major Sadler reported back, his orders to proceed to Aldershot having been cancelled.</p> <p>Military Medals awarded to following 1100th men of 18th Bn</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1946</td> <td>Sgt R D Hunter,</td> <td>3621</td> <td>Lept E A Alsop</td> </tr> <tr> <td>277</td> <td>Sgt H V McLaren</td> <td>4682</td> <td>Pte C Foster</td> </tr> <tr> <td>392</td> <td>Cpl W A Patterson</td> <td>3845</td> <td>" J J Strickland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2441</td> <td>Cpl E H McPherson</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1946	Sgt R D Hunter,	3621	Lept E A Alsop	277	Sgt H V McLaren	4682	Pte C Foster	392	Cpl W A Patterson	3845	" J J Strickland	2441	Cpl E H McPherson			
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIEFVILLERS	23/3/17		<p>Visibility good weather fine & cold. P^o on relief by 17th P^o moved into village of BIEFVILLERS and occupied billets vacated by 17th P^o. Relief complete by 2.40 pm. Accommodation fair, in partially destroyed buildings. 2/Lt. Sowell reported to P^o from 15th Recon^o/18th. 51 E/R reported to P^o from Recon^o to 14th Brigade</p>	
BIEFVILLERS	24/3/17		<p>Fine & cold, visibility good. Much aerial activity. Visit from Lt. Gen. Sir Wm Birdwood. Lt Woodland took over Eugene's fatigue party, see Lt. Connelly evacuated sick previous day. 10.30 am P^o has a test "Stand to" at 10.30 am.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIEFVILLERS	25/3/17	2 pm.	<p>Visibility good, fine and cold. Much aerial activity 47 OFR reported to Bn from Details and 17 Rpts of 18th Test "Stand to" by Bn</p>	
do	26/3/17	2. am	<p>Cold and wet, sleety rain, visibility poor Brigade reported Papinme Town Hall had been blown up. Present 100 men to assist in removal of debris, work being continued by reliefs throughout the day, also on 7th Bde near Hqs which collapsed during the day. Officer from 14th Bn arrived with advance party of five. 8.30 pm 14th Bn officer instructed to proceed to village occupied by Cdr. Swan Hqs</p>	
			<p>AIF List 153. Lieut LC Robson to be adjt via Capt CH Harrison seconded for duty as Staff Capt 7 Inf Bde date 8/1/17</p>	
			<p>AIF List 155. To be Lieuts - 2/1. A & Gantrell date 8-3-17 W J Jones do 8 3 17 P J Hickey do 8 3 17</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIEF VILLERS	27.9.17	1 pm	<p>Officers & advance party from 16th Pⁿ arrived. Weather wet & cold, with occasional snow storms, visibility poor. Battalion, on relief by 16th Pⁿ, moved to No 5 Camp BAZENTIN LE PETIT. & were accommodated in the huts</p>	
BAZENTIN LE PETIT	28.3.17	10.30 am 8. am	<p>Weather fine frosty, visibility good, much aerial activity. Pⁿ moved to B. Camp FRICOURT - huts Lt Col Murphy, G.O. departed on leave to Britain. Lt Woodland with 93 of R rejoined Pⁿ from HOT CROSS RE working party</p>	
FRICOURT B CAMP	29/3/17		<p>Weather rainy & windy. Inspection of Gas Respirators etc by D.W. A.C.O. Lt Druyden reported back from Hospital. Lt Woodhouse reported back for duty from Pde H. Qrs. Work of taking lists of shortages and refitting carried on. Parade ground muddy & heavy owing to rain Men's packs brought up from Pack Store Albert.</p>	

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
B CAMP FRICOURT	30/3/17		<p>Weather cold and windy, occasional showers. During day whole Bⁿ bathed and were provided with change of underclothing at BECOURT baths.</p> <p>3.30pm. Bⁿ parade & inspection by Major R M Sadler</p> <p>Extracts from A.I.F. orders. List 156. 23/2/17</p> <p>2nd Lt W A Mayes seconded for duty with 5th A.L.T.M. Coy. Dated 20/2/17</p> <p>The undermentioned placed on Supp. List. —</p> <p>1st Lt A Paine. Dated 6/2/17</p> <p>1st Lt J H Cadle " 27/2/17</p> <p>1st Lt R H Willis " 22/2/17</p> <p>2nd Lt. Sewell left to attend 5th Army Officers School</p> <p>Capt. Lowther left to attend 5th Army Infantry School</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

1917

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BCAMP FRICOURT	31.3.17	1	<p>Weather fine & fairly clear.</p> <p>10.30am B^d provided Guard of honour, to Genl Dindwood at Bois d'Ar.</p> <p>Notified by Brigade that military medals ^{Crosses} had been awarded to - Capt. WRC Robertson Lt J P Hill Lt E. J. Davies.</p> <p>Genl Dindwood presented decorations to the following.</p> <p>Lt E. J. Davies. Mil. Cross. Capt. WRC Robertson Mil. Cross.</p> <p>28. Sgt TEVELEIN S.R. Meritorious Service Medal Pte COLLINS C.M. Military medal 2441. Sgt NIPPRESS E.H. do do 392 Sgt PATTERSON W.A. do do 3621 Cpl. ALSOPP E.A. do do 4680 Pte FOSTER C. do do</p> <p>2/Lt Henderson left to attend Lewis Gun School. LE TOUQUET.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ERICOURT CAMP.	31/3/17.		Lieut. Flockhart, Lt. Porter and 2/Lt. Hickman returned to Bn. with 40 O/R from partially trained camp BECOURT.	
<p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month).</p>				