

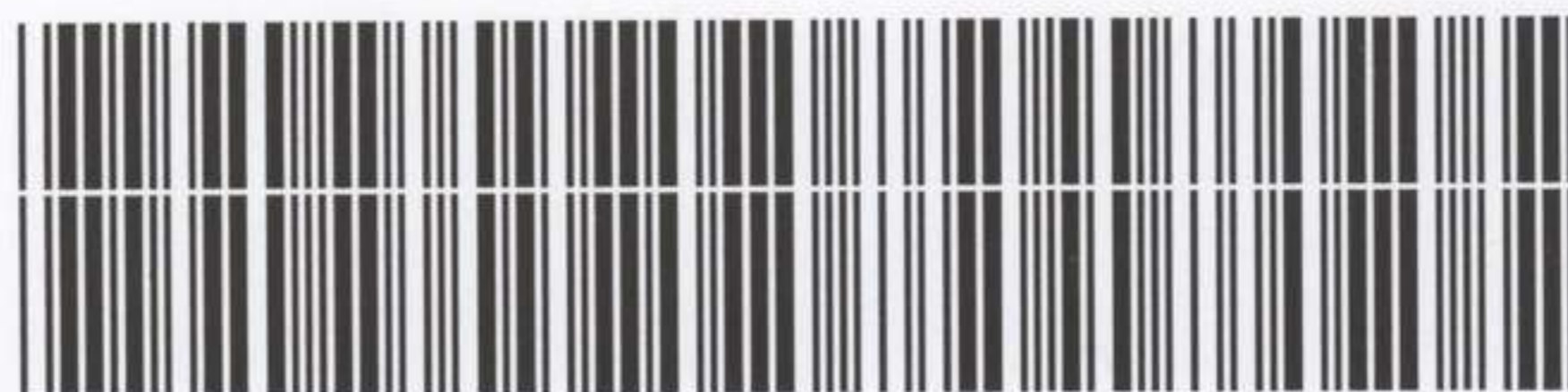
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/35/23

Title: 18th Infantry Battalion

June 1917



AWM4-23/35/23

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

18th. Battalion A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONTAY.	1/6/17.		Battalions ordered to parade at a rendezvous, between CONTAY & RUBEMPRE at 10.30 a.m. From this time they carried out independant training on the lines laid down in S.S.143 "Training of Platoons for Offensive Action" Lunch was taken to ground.	
		3 pm.	At 3 p.m. the brigade was drawn up on the side of a hill while the 5th. A.L.T.M.B. carried out a demonstration with Stokes Mortars on a supposed trench system in full view.	
		5 pm.	On return to village, Brigade Major lectured to N. C. O's & Platoon Comdrs.	
			(The original of above appears on the same sheet as entries for previous month and will be found with the diary for that month.)	

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CONFAY	1/6/17		At 5.30 pm the program for Bde sports was commenced, with the preliminary rounds of the Boxing Contests.	
	2/6/17		<p>AIF List received containing following -</p> <p>2nd Lt. FREWIN V.J. to be Lieut dated 12.5.17.</p> <p>To be 2nd Lieutenants dated 14.5.17.</p> <p>1703 CSM J.A. Holdsworth</p> <p>1735 Sgt WCR Smith</p> <p>1946 Sgt RD Hunter</p> <p>3766 Sgt F.J. Brown</p> <p>3000 Cpl A E Johnson.</p> <p><u>Seconded</u></p> <p>Capt NH Hobbs MC.</p> <p>Lt BP Woodland } " HT Flockhart } dated 3/5/17. " G Wilkins } " RE Dryden } " KF Potts } 3/5/17 " R Woodhouse } 5/4/17</p> <p>Lt JE Agnew seconded for duty with 5th T B. 1.5.17</p> <p>Lieut BW Hickman transferred to 5th MG Coy. 28/4/17</p>	

WAR DIARY.

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CONTAY 2/6/17

Lieut AA MENARY reported Dow. is SOS. 4.5.17.

500 Sgt L. J. CORRIGAN joined No 2 O.C.B. 5/5/17.

List 180 of 27/5/17 contains the following -

Lieut AE GARTRELL resumed duty from Seconded List 9.5.17.

Lieut W. R. PORTER

" H. K. SOWELL

" M. C. DRUMMOND

} reported KIA are SOS dated 3.5.17.

List 181 of 29.5.17 contains the following -

Lieut J. P. HILL M.C. resumed duty from Seconded list 11.5.17.

2/Lieut CE. ETHERIDGE is taken on Strengths from Rfcts (Cadet Pln) 18/5/17.

Seconded

Lieut A. R. SHEATH. Dated 1.5.17.

" W. S. MOORS. " 6.5.17.

Training continued in morning.

9.30am Finals of Bde Boxing Chps at 9.30am. Pte WILKS. won Middleweight Chp.

12.30pm Battalion marched out to Bde Rendezvous to witness Brigade Horse Sports & Show. Lieut Iromes mount won contest for best Heavyweight Changer in Brigade: Lieut Irome won Greta Green Race; Dr Soley on Lt Beddies horse won 6 furlong Trot.

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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																														
CONTAY	3/6/17		<p>Lieut FREWIN proceeded to 5th Army Musketry Camp. Capt AR BOLTON-WOOD M.C. reported to 20th Bde for temporary duty. Capt WRC ROBERTSON M.C. } reported back from leave Lieut L.H. ROSS</p> <p>Brigade sports were concluded in afternoon on field near CONTAY. 18th Battalion won Tug of War, Officers 100 yds Cpt (LT. REDGRAVE) scoring greatest number of points in afternoons work.</p> <p>Advice received from 5th Bde & promulgated in BuRos, that the following decorations had been awarded for operations of 3/5 May 1917.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Bar to M.C.</u></td> <td style="width: 33%;">M.C.</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Military Medal</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut E.L. DAVIES M.C.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>DCM</u></td> <td>2659 Lt Cpl STANGER J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>M.C.</u></td> <td>2362 Sgt EA ELDRIDGE</td> <td>5137 Pte WHITLOCK W.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lieut W J GRAHAM</td> <td></td> <td>5621 - LARKING W.F.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" A.W. IRVINE</td> <td></td> <td>4792 - GRAHAM J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J.M. HARRISON</td> <td></td> <td>19 - McCRAE L.O.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1330 - SKELTON J.B.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>257 - JACKSON A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2796 Lt Cpl SEMPLE H.G.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>5914 Pte KNIGHT A.L.</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Bar to M.C.</u>	M.C.	<u>Military Medal</u>	Lieut E.L. DAVIES M.C.	<u>DCM</u>	2659 Lt Cpl STANGER J.	<u>M.C.</u>	2362 Sgt EA ELDRIDGE	5137 Pte WHITLOCK W.	Lieut W J GRAHAM		5621 - LARKING W.F.	" A.W. IRVINE		4792 - GRAHAM J.	J.M. HARRISON		19 - McCRAE L.O.			1330 - SKELTON J.B.			257 - JACKSON A.			2796 Lt Cpl SEMPLE H.G.			5914 Pte KNIGHT A.L.	
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CON TAY

3/6/17

Advice received that Medaille Militaire had been awarded to No 5159
Pte CROMACK. C. (KIA 3/5/17).

4/6/17

Training resumed on a syllabus laid down with the object of giving
one weeks collective training according to S.S.143.

All Brigade training for the week to be carried out on a common
ground between CON TAY and RUBEMPRE.

Concert held on Sports Ground, preceded by fancy dress show.

5/6/17

Training Continued. C.S.M Paddock, Army Gymnastic Staff, commenced
the instruction of 8 selected N.C.O's in the latest methods of bayonet
fighting. ~~FCMS on Ptes~~

Notification received that the following were mentioned in Field
Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's despatch - (9th April 1917)

Lt. Col G.F. MURPHY

Capt J.B. LANE

Lieut W.J. GRAHAM.

L. C. LUCAS.

-2579. Pte

E.A. POLKINGHORNE.

CONTAY 5/6/17

Advice received that the following awards had been made
Distinguished Service Order Lt Col G F MURPHY.
Military Cross. Lieut. (now Capt) S. BEDDIE.

6/6/17

Bot Respirator Drill, etc carried out in Coy billets.
Half Holiday from noon. - Cricket match against 19th Bn.
Distribution of recently-won awards made by Lt Gen Sir Iwan
Birdwood at WARLOY, - to the following -

<u>Riband</u>	Lt Col G F MURPHY D.S.O.	2059	LCpl J Stange	MM
	Lieut EL DAVIES MC - Bar to MC.	5137	Pte W Whitlock	-
	Lieut W J GRAHAM MC.	5621	Pte W F Larking	-
	Lieut AW IRVINE MC.	4792	Pte J Graham	-
		19	Pte R Macrae	-
		257	Pte A Jackson	-

The following were also presented with ribands won previously
Capt AR BOLTON WOOD MC. Sgt R L Fidge MM + Croix de Guerre

The following was presented with medal
Pte AK Lanne.

CONTAY

7/6/17

Training Continued. 2/Lt BROWN returned from L G School

8/6/17

Training. Inspection of Antigas Equipment carried out by
Bde Gas N.C.O. Capt E J McNABBS returned from leave.

9/6/17

Training. Lt Col J. M. HARRISON M.C. returned from leave &
Lt Col W. S. MOORS from hospital.

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
COMTAY	10/6/17		Lieut W.S. MOORS. returned to Hospital. Lieut L.C. ROBSON ^(Capt) to ROUEN for the purpose of examining Base Records & visiting Aust. Records Sec. ROUEN & LRAE JOHNSON ^(Capt) .	
	11/6/17		Lieut A.W. IRVINE M.C. on leave. Training continued the Syllabus being arranged with a view to providing preliminary instructions in anticipation of field firing practice.	
	12/6/17			
	13/6/17		Transport ordered to move to BAPAUME, ahead of the battalion	
	14/6/17		Battalion entrained at PUCHEVILLERS, at 8.45am, debarring at BAPAUME & moving hence to tented Camp near the town (Location Sheet 57c. 14.21. d.7.6) Transport alongside Battalion, Bde HQ & remainder of Bde situated near BIEFVILLERS. 2nd Aust Div ^{thus} completed relief of 5th Aust Div in reserve to IV Corps.	

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NR BAPAUME	15/6/17.		While in BAPAUME area, working party daily employed on HUN DUMP. Strength one complete Coy. Great opportunities in the area for recreation, cricket, tennis etc being possible.	
	16/6/17.		Lieut A R. SHEATH, on leave. Capt S BIEDDIE MC. from leave	
	17/6/17		4/Lts. WCR SMITH, CEETAERIDGE, FJ BROWN, JA HOLDSWORTH to 1st Anzac Corps School Lt Robson back. Church Parades near Base Headquarters	
	18/6/17		Training continued, hours of parade being arranged as follows. Early morning 5 am - 6.30 am. Morning - 8 am - 11.30 am. Syllabus provided	
	19/6/17		for general work and preparatory work for field firing.	
	19/6/17			
	20/6/17		Baths at BAPAUME at the disposal of Bn - 60.0 men put through. Lieut WALTERS & GARTRELL & 78 men from B Coy proceeded to THILLOY	

WAR DIARY

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VI BAPAUME			on instructions from 5 th Bde for the purpose of constructing a Field Firing Range, taking tents & 1 kitchen	
	21/6/17		Today Lorry at disposal of battalion at BAPAUME. - whole battalion put through, clothes disinfected & camp aired & cleaned.	
	22/6/17		Lt Col MURPHY D.S.O. & 2/Lt JOHNSON on 4 days leave to PARIS.	
			Working party from THILLEY arrived back about 5 pm.	
		10.34 pm	Received verbal order from 5 th A.I. Bde to "Stand to Arms"	
		11.25 pm	"Stand down" from Bde. Proved to be merely a test.	
	23/6/17		Officers Gymkhana, organised by 2nd Aust Div, held near BANCOURT	
			CAPT S. BEDDIE M.C. won 6 furlong trot.	
			Capt A. PAINE from 5 th Army School.	
	24/6/17		2/Lt R.D. HUNTER on leave. Church Parades on near Bde HQ.	
			Lt GARRELL to 5 th Army Inftry School 9 men returned from Rest Camp, ST VALERY	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NR. BAPAUME	25/6/17.		<p>Field firing commenced on range near THILLOY, at 6. am & continued till 12 noon, one Coy & a half being put through.</p> <p>A.I.F. RO's contain the following during past month.</p> <p>List 186 - Extract "London Gazette" of 25.5.17.</p> <p>1896 B. Cpl. D.G. Buchanan awarded Bronze Medal for Mil. Valour (Italy)</p> <p>Extract "London Gazette" of 1.6.17.</p> <p>Mentioned in Sir D. Haig's despatch.</p> <p>Lt Col G.F. Murphy, Capt Lane, Lt Graham, Lt Lucas, 2539 Pte Polkinghorne.</p> <p>Extract "London Gazette" of 5/6/17.</p> <p>Lt Col G.F. Murphy awarded D.S.O.</p> <p>Lieut J. BEDDIE - M.C.</p> <p>List 187 Lieut A. PAINÉ to be Captain dated 21.5.17.</p> <p>Lieut C.M. FAIRCLOUGH 18.5.17 } To Supy list.</p> <p>P.F. HICKEY 26.5.17 }</p> <p>W.H. MAYES 26.5.17 }</p>	

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

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			<p>List 192. Capt W.R.C. ROBERTSON MC. to be Major via BRUCE SOJ. 1.6.17. Lieut. C.T. DOWER restored to establishment from Supy list & see for duty as S/C AIF Depots in U.K. 9.4.17.</p>	
No 12 Camp BAPAUME	26.6.17		<p>Lieut. L.C. ROBSON on leave to England. 2/Lieut A.E. JOHNSON to be Adj/Adjt. Lt Col. G.F. Murphy D.S.O. & 2/Lt A.E. JOHNSON returned from leave to Paris.</p>	
	27.6.17		<p>List 194. Lieut C.T. DEMPSEY placed on Supy. List dated 10.6.17. Lieut. L. SELLARS. left Battalion to proceed to 5th T.B. England</p>	
	28.6.17		<p>Training continued.</p>	
	10			
	30.6.17.			