

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/48/39

Title: 31st Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/48/39

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ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

31st. BATTALION A.I.F.

FOR

OCTOBER, 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

J. Grews
Capt 10.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Arthur
Lieut Col

31st. BATTALION. A.I.F.

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.

OCTOBER 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Major Operation. Ref. Map: Special Sheet - BELLICOURT. W. 1/10000.	Oct. 1.		<p>The night passed quietly until the enemy guns again opened fire at 2 a.m. on 1st. October. An operation order was received at 5.30 a.m. for an attack by the Division at 6 a.m. A little previously information had been received from the G. O. C. by the C. O. and dispositions had been made to send forward "C" Company on the left and "A" Company on the right. "B" Coy. was to advance on the left in support and "D" Coy. on the right.</p> <p>At 5 a.m. an Officer of the Tank Corps reported that he had two tanks on EAST side of NAUROY, and waited for orders. He was given instructions as per Brigade Order Series E.No.10. A company of the 30th. Battalion also reported and was put in in support.</p> <p>The success of the operation was known when it was reported that the right company was in touch with the 32nd. Battalion, and the left in touch with the 14th. Brigade. Casualties were very slight during the advance.</p> <p>The disposition at 1.30 p.m. were "A" and "C" Companies across sunken road in H.2.d. with platoons in support. "B" Coy. in vicinity of quarry at H.7. d.1.8, and "D" Coy. in vicinity of H.7.d.3.2.</p> <p>From 9-30 to 12.30 p.m. shelling and M. G. fire was exceedingly severe, and continued for three hours unceasingly.</p> <p>In mopping up the village of ETRICOURT 13 more prisoners were found, who had evidently become lost, and strayed into ETRICOURT for shelter.</p> <p>The Battalion remained in this position all day, and during the morning the C. O. made another inspection of the forward positions. The shelling was severe, and it was remarkable that no field guns were firing. A H. V. gun of 4.2 calibre fired approximately 50 shells at the SUGAR FACTORY.</p>	
BELLICOURT. Ref. Map: Sheet 62B 1/40000.	Oct. 2.		<p>It was notified that the Battalion would be relieved that night by the 18th. Battalion, 15th. Brigade, and an advance party was sent to a system of trenches at approximately MALAKOFF FARM to the NORTHWEST of BELLICOURT.</p> <p>The relief was completed by 3 a.m. and the Battalion arrived at its area at 6 a.m. The day was spent resting, and at 4.15 p.m. an advance party was sent to the NORTHERN portion of ROISEL. (K.11.d).</p>	
ROISEL. Ref. Map: Sheet 62C. 1/40000	Oct. 3.		<p>The Battalion left MALAKOFF FARM at 9 a.m., arriving at ROISEL at 12.15 p.m. Shelters were drawn, and the men were soon comfortably settled. The transport arrived at 4 p.m. from the HESBICOURT area.</p> <p>The C. O. (Lieut. Colonel FREEMAN, D.S.O.) was evacuated to Hospital, and the Acting C.O. Capt. R.C. ALAND. MC. assumed command.</p> <p>A Brigade conference of C. Os. was called for 2.30 p.m. and duly attended by the C.O.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROISEL. Ref. Map. Sheet 62 C. 1/20,000.	Oct. 4.		Battalion resting. Shortages were put in to make up supplies. Brig. General E. Tivey C.B., D.S.O., W.D. visited the Battalion during the day. Packs and blankets were brought up from rear. Battalion now situated in K.I.I.d. to the North West of ROISEL. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 5.		Battalion resting. Brigade Band gave a concert during afternoon. Warning order of a move received from Brigade. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 6.		Battalion resting. Move Order cancelled. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 7.		Battalion resting. <i>MP</i>	
VILLEROY - MOUFLIERES Ref. Map. sheet DIEPPE 16 1/100,000.	Oct. 8.		Battalion marched out at 8.15a.m. and entrained at PERONNE., leaving at 2.10p.m. for OISEMONT. Arrived at 10.30p.m. and marched to VILLEROY, where H.Qrs., A, B, & C Coy. are situated. "D" Coy. situated at MOUFLIERES. Billets very poor. <i>MP</i>	Appendix A
	Oct. 9.		Battalion resting. Billets were inspected by C.O. accompanied by the Adjutant and the Medical Officer. Some re-allotments were made and men are now fairly comfortable. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 10.		Battalion resting and cleaning up. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 11.		Battalion cleaning up. Weather showery. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 12.		Battalion is still resting, but the weather is very wet and miserable, and life in a village such as VILLEROY is anything but exciting. Rain fell all day and practically all night. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 13.		A Church Parade was ordered for today but owing to the rain this was cancelled. Rain fell all the morning, but after lunch the weather cleared and the sun came out. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 14.		Company parades were held this morning. A percentage of Officers and N.C.O's attended a lecture by Lieut. Garrett A.F.C. which was held at 30th Battalion H.Q. at 2.30p.m. All men in the Battalion were paraded in the afternoon for a dental inspection by Dental Officer attached to 8th Brigade H.Q. <i>MP</i>	
	Oct. 15.		Training was carried out as per Syllabus, <i>(Appendix)</i> but this was somewhat interfered with by the dull and showery weather. 4 Reinforcements joined the Battalion. A marque was erected in the centre of the Village for a recreation, reading, and writing tent. Weather still very unsettled. <i>MP</i>	Appendix B

WAR DIARY

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OCTOBER 1918.

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VILLEROY- MOUFLIERES Ref. Map Sheet DIEPPE 16 1/100,000.	Oct. 16.		Training was carried out as per syllabus. A lecture was given by the I.O. to 50% of the Battalion N.C.O.'s on May reading. Weather dull and threatening.																																					
	Oct. 17.		Training was carried out as per syllabus as far as possible. During the morning Companies were bathed and given a clean change at the Brigade Baths at NESTLETTE. The Brigade Band visited the Battalion in the afternoon and played outside the marquee from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. During the evening 8 Officers and 22 N.C.O.'s joined the Battalion from the 29th Battalion, which has been attached to the 32nd Battalion - thereby reducing the Brigade to only three (3) Battalions. Advice was received that the following Awards have been made by the Corps Commandant. <table border="0"> <tr> <td>No. 4632</td> <td>L/Cpl. Reddan J.C.</td> <td>"D" Coy.</td> <td>"M. M."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 4092</td> <td>Pte. Lawrie D.C.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 4828</td> <td>" Law V.E.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 3548</td> <td>" Thomson A.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 3014a</td> <td>" Whittaker N.J.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 4350</td> <td>Cpl. Baker H.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 3636</td> <td>L/Cpl. Sykes E.A.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 832</td> <td>" Collins H.A.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" 662a</td> <td>Pte. Gartner W.J.</td> <td>" "</td> <td>do</td> </tr> </table>	No. 4632	L/Cpl. Reddan J.C.	"D" Coy.	"M. M."	" 4092	Pte. Lawrie D.C.	" "	do	" 4828	" Law V.E.	" "	do	" 3548	" Thomson A.	" "	do	" 3014a	" Whittaker N.J.	" "	do	" 4350	Cpl. Baker H.	" "	do	" 3636	L/Cpl. Sykes E.A.	" "	do	" 832	" Collins H.A.	" "	do	" 662a	Pte. Gartner W.J.	" "	do	
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	Oct. 18.		Training was carried out as per syllabus. Weather shewed a slight improvement.																																					
	Oct. 19.		Companies were in the hands of the Company Commanders for kit inspection etc. During the afternoon advice was received that the Officers and N.C.O.'s who had marched in from 29th Battalion were to return to their Unit.																																					
	Oct. 20.		During the afternoon practice games of football were played on Battalion Sports ground. A Brigade Church Parade was ordered for 10.40a.m. but owing to the wet this was cancelled, and a voluntary Battalion service was held in the recreation marquee by the Padre at 9.45a.m. Leave is being granted to the men to visit BLANGY, and ABBEVILLE, but owing to lack of conveyance it is not possible to send men to the latter place. Advice was received that No 536 Sgt. FOSTER E.P. "B" Coy has been awarded the "D.C.M." - this N.C.O. is now attending a course at the O.C.B. in England.																																					
	Oct. 21.		Training was carried out as per syllabus for this week (appendix) - the weather was threatening, but did not rain during the day. One singlet and 1 pair socks issued to each man by the Q.M., gift from the Comforts fund.	Appendix. C																																				

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLEROY - MOUFLIERES. Ref. Map. Sheet DIEPPE, 16. 1/100000	Oct. 22.		Companies were in the hands of Company Commanders until 11.45 a.m. at which time there was a Battalion Parade to be held for an inspection by the Brigadier at 11.30 a.m. The Brigadier expressed himself as being very satisfied with the appearance of the men, but mentioned that there were little points regarding the fitting of equipment which needed attention. He referred to the Brigade Sports which were coming off, and hoped that this Battalion would win the Brigade Challenge Cup. To do this he said they would have to push forward with the training of the men to the utmost, as the other two Battalions were determined - one to keep it, and the other to win it.	
	23.		Games of Association and Rugby Football were played during the afternoon. The weather remains fine, but cloudy. Training as per syllabus was carried out. Football was played in the afternoon and Battalion teams picked. Hon. Capt. P. G. SPARKES (Q.M.) has been congratulated by the Corps Commander for good work during recent operations.	
	24.		No rain has fallen today, but the weather was very overcast. The night was fine. Training was carried out as per syllabus. In the afternoon a "Soccer" match was played by the Battalion against the 32nd. Bn. resulting in a win for this Battalion by three goals to 1. All scoring was in the first half, and both teams were fairly evenly matched. The 31st. Battalion team is shown in APPENDIX F.	
	25.		Lieut. G. S. DELLIT has all the athletes and boxers well in hand now, and training is proceeding very satisfactorily. Sergt. A. FRANKLIN is in charge of the Tug-of-war team. Today has been cold, and a very keen wind has been blowing. Training was carried out as per syllabus. The A/C.O. attended a meeting of Battalion Commanders at Brigade H. q. at 11. a.m. On his return it was learned that the Divisional Commander would inspect the 30th. and 31st. Battalions on Tuesday, 29th. inst. on this Battalion's parade ground. In the afternoon a representative team from this Battalion played the 30th. Bn. at "Rugger" on Brigade Sports Ground at RAMBURELLES. This was a very even and interesting game, and resulted in a win for the 30th. Battalion by 10 points to nil. The scoring occurred towards the close of the game. <i>appendix E.</i>	
	26.		The weather is overcast, but the rain seems to be holding off. Training was carried out as per syllabus. Seven Officers of the Battalion set out to attend a Machine Gun Demonstration at the Corps School at RUE, but owing to the lorry breaking down did not arrive there. In the afternoon a representative team from the Bn. played the 32nd. Bn. Australian Rules, but were	

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OCTOBER 1918.

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VILLEROY - MOUFLIERES. Ref. Map. Sheet DIEPPE 16.1/100000.	26		<p>hopelessly outclassed, and badly by 98 points to 9.</p> <p>During the day there were slight showers.</p> <p>No training today being Sunday.</p> <p>Church Services were held on Battalion parade ground at 9.30 a.m. for C. of E. and also O. P. D. The Roman Catholic service was held in the church at RAMBURES.</p> <p>About mid-day Lieut. Col. McARTHUR. D. S. O. (late C.O. 29th. Battalion) arrived, and is appointed to command this Battalion temporarily in the absence of Lieut. Col. FREEMAN.</p> <p>At 1.30 the platoon race over 100 yards was run off, but this Battalion platoon failed to shine, running last. In the afternoon the "soccer" team played the 30th. Battalion team on the Battalion parade ground. This was the final match in the Brigade. The teams were very well matched, and the game was an exceedingly interesting and exciting one. The final score showed a win for the 30th. Battalion by 3 goals to 2.</p> <p>A Battalion Parade was held at 9.0 a.m. and the A/C.O. inspected the parade. The men then returned to their billets and proceeded to treat their equipment with khaki blanc in preparation for the Divisional Commander's inspection on the 30th. inst. (date having been altered).</p> <p>Between 11 a. m. and 1 p.m. the Company cooks were being judged by Col. BRUCHE, A.A. & Q.M.G. of Divisional Headquarters. At 2 p.m. the Transport was judged by an Officer of the 18th. A.A.S.C., and the company drill competition ("D" Company representing this Battalion) was judged by Major LEGGE, 15th. Brigade, and two Company Commanders of 14th. Brigade.</p> <p>The results of these competitions were :-</p> <table> <tr> <td><u>COOKERS.</u></td> <td>31st. Battalion. 1.</td> <td>(Company points out of a possible 20 :-</td> <td>"A"</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>"B"</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>"C"</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>"D"</td> <td>17.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>TOTAL.</td> <td></td> <td>69.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>32nd. Battalion. 2.</td> <td></td> <td>67.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>30th. Battalion. 3.</td> <td></td> <td>56.5</td> </tr> </table>	<u>COOKERS.</u>	31st. Battalion. 1.	(Company points out of a possible 20 :-	"A"	19				"B"	16				"C"	17				"D"	17.5			TOTAL.		69.5			32nd. Battalion. 2.		67.			30th. Battalion. 3.		56.5	APPENDIX D
<u>COOKERS.</u>	31st. Battalion. 1.	(Company points out of a possible 20 :-	"A"	19																																			
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	28.		<p>The weather remained fine, the morning being especially sunny and pleasant.</p> <p>A Battalion Parade was held, and most of the morning spent in rehearsing for tomorrow's inspection. The C. O. expressed himself as being very satisfied with the work carried out by the Battalion.</p>																																				
	29.																																						

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

31st. BATTALION, A.I.F. (Erase heading not required.)

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VILLEROY- MOUFLIERES. Ref. Map. Sheet DIEPPE 16.1/100000	29.		<p>Advice has been received that the following awards have been made :-</p> <p><u>Bar to M.M.</u> 4250 Sgt. BAKER. T. C. "D" Coy. 509 Pte. PATTERSON. E. M. "B" 3636 L/Cp. SYKES. E.A. "D" <u>M. M.</u> 10a Sgt. NORMAN. W. H. "A" 1554a " McGHIE. W. "A" 4586 T/Cp. PARTON. J. "A" 3574 Pte. HARVEY. W. J. "B" 4874 " WOODCROFT. J.H. "B" 736 " McGANN. J. A. "C" 4054 " EVANS. H. de L. "C" 4870 " SMITH. F. W. "C" 4061 " WILLEY. F. J. H.Q. <u>M. C.</u> Lieut. A. E. HYNES. " J. M. NELSON.</p>	
	30.		<p>At 9.15 a.m. the 30th. and 31st. Battalions were formed up on the 31st. Battalion Parade Ground, the 30th. Battalion on the right and the 31st. on the left, with the transport in rear. Each Battalion had two companies in front and two in rear at 10 paces distance - all companies in line. The procedure was as follows :- The General salute was given as the G.O.C. 5th. Aust. Div. rode to his position at 10 a.m. The G. O. C. dismounted and inspected the front companies of both Battalions and then the rear companies. The transport was next inspected, all being mounted. After the inspections the Battalions marched past the G. O. C. in column of platoons and the salute was given by platoons. The Battalions then reformed with in their original positions, and marched about 50 yards in review order. The general salute was again given, after which the troops were closed up and formed into three sides of a square for the address by the G.O.C. The G.O.C. expressed himself very satisfied indeed with the appearance of the men, equipment and the transport. He was very satisfied with the way the men carried out a ceremonial parade, and said they were to be highly praised, seeing the opportunities Battalions had for such parades. He then went on to speak of the very good work which the Battalion had done in the operations since the 8th. August, and said that the people of Australia had just cause to be proud of the members of the A. I. F. He then touched on the situation of the belligerents, and reminded the parade that probably the Australians would be in action again in time to put the finishing touches on the Germans. He concluded his address by giving special praise to the R. M. O. and his staff, stretcher bearers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">W.C.</p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16

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VILLEROY - MOUFLIERES. Ref. Map. Sheet DIEPPE 16.1/100000.	30		<p>and runners. After the address the transport of both Battalions marched past in column of route, 30th. Battalion, leading. This ended the parade and Battalions and companies marched to their private parade grounds.</p> <p>The weather was sunny throughout the parade, with a keen light wind.</p> <p>In the afternoon a match (Australian rules) was played between 8th. Brigade H.Q. and 31st. Bn. H. Q. resulting in a good win for Brigade Headquarters by 48 points to 7.</p>	
	31.		<p>Battalion parade was held at 9 a.m. and close order work was carried out until 9.45 a.m. when the Battalion was marched to the vicinity of the Lewis Gun Range to hear a lecture and witness a demonstration by the Divisional Gas Officer. The lecture concerned mostly the effect of our gas projection attacks on the enemy, and also the different kinds of gases used by the enemy. The four gases most used by the enemy (Yellow Cross, Yellow Cross 1, Green Cross and Blue Cross) were vaporised in small wooden hutches, and each man was enabled to smell them. During the demonstration projectors were fired with the men standing behind the mortars, and the projector was also fired at the men, so that they could tell the sound of the explosion and the peculiar whirr of the projectile travelling through the air.</p> <p>In the afternoon a football match (soccer) was played between a representative team from the Battalion and Brigade Headquarters. The game was unfinished, the score being 1 all.</p> <p>The C. O. held a meeting of Officers and explained to them a simple tactical scheme which the Battalion would be doing on Saturday 2nd. November. The ground over which the operation would take place was shown to the Officers.</p> <p>During last night rain fell, and early this morning also since about 10 a.m. Later the rain ceased, but the sky remained dull.</p> <p>Advice has been received that His Majesty the King has made a posthumous award of the ALBERT MEDAL in gold to No. 3374 Sergt. COYNE. D. E., late "D" Company, of this Battalion. This award is made in connection with Sergt. Coyne's self sacrifice in May when in the line at VAIRE-SOUS-CORBIE, where he fell on a Mills' Grenade which had become "live", and thus saved the lives of the men in the post.</p>	

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APPENDIX

WAR DIARY

OF

31ST. BATTALION, A.I.F.

FOR

MONTH OF OCTOBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
A.	31st. Battalion Order No. 184 dated 7.10.18.
B.	Syllabus of Training for week ending 20.10.18
C.	Syllabus of Training for week ending 26.10.18.
D.	Personnel in Australian Rules Football Team.
E.	Personnel in Rugby League Football Team.
F.	Personnel in Association Football Team.
G.	Company Commanders' Reports for operations commencing 29.9.18.
H.	Intelligence Summary to 4 a.m. 1.10.18.
I.	Letter from G.O.C. 8th. A.I. Brigade dated 5.10.18.
J.	Quartermaster's Monthly Report.
K.	Transport Officer's Monthly Report.

SECRET.

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COPY No. 8

31st. BATTALION. A.I.F. ORDER No.184

Ref. Sheets 62C
and DIEPPE Sheet
16. 1/100.000.

7th. October 1918.

1. The 8th. Aust. Inf. Bde. Group will move from its present area by march route and train to the OISEMENT sub-area, entraining at PERONNE on 8th. October.
2. The 31st. Battalion (less transport, (which will move independently) will move from its present camp at ROISEL tomorrow, 8th. inst., in the following order :-
 Headquarters.
 "A" Company.
 "B" "
 "C" "
 "D" "
 STARTING POINT :- K.16.c.9.5 (Sheet 62c).
 TIME :- 0815.
 A distance of 100 yards between companies will be maintained.
3. All trench shelters will be returned to Q.M. Store not later than 5-30 a.m., and Officers' valises at 7-30 a.m. prompt.
4. "A" and "D" Company will each detail a picquet of 1 N.C.O. and four men for each end of the train to prevent troops leaving.
5. DRESS :- Full marching order, overcoats and blankets in packs; steel helmets to be strapped to pack. Felt hats to be worn, and S. B. Respirators carried.
 Unconsumed portion of day's rations to be carried.
6. Strict march discipline during march, entrainment and detrainment will be maintained.

Francis
 Capt.
 Adjutant 31st. Battalion. A.I.F.

- Issued at 1-30 p.m.
 Copy No. 1 to C.O.
- | | |
|------|---------------|
| 2 | Adjutant. |
| 3 | "A" Coy. |
| 4 | "B" " |
| 5 | "C" " |
| 6 | "D" " |
| 7 | Q.M. & R.T.O. |
| 8-10 | War Diary. |
| 11 | File. |

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31st. BATTALION. A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 20th. OCTOBER 1918.

DAY.	DATE.	9-10.	10 - 11.	11 - 12.
MONDAY.	14	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY. LECTURE BY PLATOON COMMANDERS. on OUTPOSTS.	SECTION DRILL. RIFLE EXERCISES. GAS DRILL.
TUESDAY.	15	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY.	PLATOON DRILL. RIFLE EXERCISES. GAS DRILL.
WEDNESDAY.	16	P. T. & B. F.	SECTION AND PLATOON DRILL. RIFLE EXERCISES.	MUSKETRY. LECTURE ON GAS.
THURSDAY.	17	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY. RIFLE EXERCISES.	PLATOON DRILL. GAS DRILL.
FRIDAY.	18	P. T. & B. F.	LECTURE ON ADVANCE GUARDS. PLATOON DRILL.	MUSKETRY. GAS DRILL & INSPECTION OF RESPIRATORS.
SATURDAY.	19	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY.	PLATOON DRILL. GAS DRILL.

SPECIALIST TRAINING IN ALL BRANCHES.
AFTERNOONS WILL BE DEVOTED TO RECREATIONAL TRAINING.

G. O. C. will inspect the Battalion at 11.30 a.m. on SATURDAY 19th. inst.

APPENDIX

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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

31st. BATTALION. A.I.F.

WEEK ENDING 26.10.1918.

DAY.	DATE.	9 to 10.	10 to 11.	11 to 12.	
MONDAY.	21.	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY. GAS DRILL.	SECTION AND PLATOON DRILL. LECTURE ON GUARDS AND SENTRIES.	CLASSES FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS & N.C.Os. 1. Field Sketching. 2. Message writing. 3. Location of position by prismatic compass.
TUESDAY.	22.	P. T. & B. F.	PLATOON DRILL. GUARDS & SENTRIES. GAS DRILL.	MUSKETRY.	INSPECTION BY G.O.C. at 11.30.
WEDNESDAY.	23.	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY. GAS DRILL.	PLATOON & COMPANY DRILL.	ROAD TRAVERSE FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS AND N. C. Os.
THURSDAY.	24.	P. T. & B. F.	COMPANY & GAS DRILL. LECTURE ON REAR GUARDS.	MUSKETRY.	LECTURE ON SELECTION OF POSITION AND SITING OF TRENCHES.
FRIDAY.	25.	P. T. & B. F.	MUSKETRY. BATTALION DRILL.	LECTURE ON TACTICAL HANDLING OF LEWIS GUN.	TACTICAL SCHEME WITHOUT TROOPS. ADVANCE GUARDS.
SATURDAY.	26.	P. T. & B.F.	BATTALION DRILL.	LECTURE ON GAS BY BATTALION GAS OFFICER.	TACTICAL SCHEME WITHOUT TROOPS. REAR GUARDS.

SPECIALIST TRAINING IN ALL BRANCHES FROM 10.00 to 12.00

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AUSTRALIAN RULES TEAM.

D

Lieut. S. TOWNS. MC.
C.S.M. F. LARKINS.
Sergt. A. FRANKLIN.
Cpl. H. WALLACE.
Pte. E. SING.
Pte. A. YOUNG.
Cpl. J. H. EVANS.
Sergt. R. GRANTHAM.
Sergt. A. C. BARBER.
Pte. R. DAVIS.
Pte. E. A. BARBER.
Pte. L. G. HISKINS.
Sergt. D. R. LANG.
Pte. H. BRENNAN.
C.S.M. A. T. HALSE.
Pte. R. W. KITCHEN.
Pte. D. BINGHAM.
Sergt. A. E. LOWE.

ERUGBY LEAGUE TEAM.

Pte. H. C. COCKING.
" J. BESS.
" N. PORCH.
" A. E. PORTER.
" A. RUSSELL.
" P. L. DIXON.
" A. SIMPSON.
" H. R. SANDERS.
CQMS. T. W. JOHNSON.
Cpl. F. A. CHAPMAN.
Pte. R. M. WILSON.
Sergt. C. P. DRYDEN.
Pte. E. KAUFMANN.

31st. BATTALION. A. I. F.

F

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL TEAM AGAINST 30th. BATTALION A. I. F.
-----Kick Off at 2.30p.m. 27/10/18.

<u>GOAL.</u>	Pte.	Brown	W.
<u>BACKS.</u>	Sgt.	Meacham	F. J.
	"	Maggs	S.
<u>H. BACKS.</u>	Sgt.	Dryden	C. D. P.
	"	Allen	F.
	L/C.	Perrins	
<u>FORWARDS.</u>	Lieut.	Joy	E.
	C. Q. M. S.	Hardie	J.
	Sgt.	Curtis	H. H. W.
	Cpl.	Harrison	E.
	Pte.	Green	A. S.

RESERVES.

G

Resume of Operations commencing
on 29th Sept. 1918.
52 c 40000
4 WIANCOURT 20000

On the morning of 29th Sept. 1918
C Coy at the head of the Battalion
passed B.H.Q. (L. 20 Sheet 62c) at
7.15 am. The Black Route was
followed. On reaching the sunken
road in L. 17 a 9 b (WIANCOURT 1/20000)
the fog was so dense that a
halt was made. At this
junction reports of progress
by the Americans were very
confusing. On the fog clearing
slightly the advance was
continued through BELLICOURT
to G. 10 b. 10. 76. While passing
through the village the Battalion
was subjected to M.G. fire
from the right flank. From
the outskirts of BELLICOURT
nothing could be seen of
any advanced troops &
the enemy were shelling
our position. C. Coy received
orders to take up a position
on the right of the road
occupying a frontage of
300 x with the left flank

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resting on a position 300 x from
the road. This was done with
nos 9 & 12 platoons in the front
line no 11 in support and
10 in reserve. The position
of the front line was from
G. 10. b. 4. 3 to G. 10. b. 2. 0.

At 11.30 am. a message was
received from Lt. Morpeth (liaison
officer with 32nd Bn)
timed 10.30 AM stating that
the 117th Americans were not up
& that the 32nd were pushing
on. This was forwarded to the
C.O.

At 12.20 pm. another message
from the same source was
received timed 11.30 am. Stating
that the 32nd Bn were crossing
WATLING ST. that they were
in touch with an English
Battalion & that they extended
south from NAUROY. This
message was forwarded to
the C.O.

At 12.34 pm. an order was
received from B.H.Q. to be
ready to move in 15 mins to
support 32nd South of NAUROY
two coys (A+C) in front one support

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gone reserve.

A Coy were to dribble across RIGUAL RAVINE followed by B Coy. This was successfully done. A Coy after dribbling across the ravine advanced as C Coy were to be right front coy after dribbling across the ravine the Coy advanced half right. Touch with A Coy was lost but was afterwards regained. The Coy advanced & took up a position in trench east of BILLIARD COPSE from G. 23 b. 9.0 to G. 24 a. 2.3. Here a message was received from B HQ to report to the C.O. at G. 18. c. 2.4. We remained in this position for about an hour awaiting orders. From here was observed what appeared to be a counter attack developing from the direction of ESTREES. Orders were then issued to prepare to meet same & C Coy was ordered to take up a defensive position in G. 17. d. & G. 24. a.

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A position was chosen behind two belts of wire & the Coy dug in the attack being awaited with confidence. During the night rain fell & the men felt the cold severely & had no rest. We remained in this position on the 30th. On that night we received orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice. Later in the night definite orders were received of the stunt to take place on the first. B Coy were ~~to be~~ left front company as before. In accordance with orders jumping off positions were taken up. No 9 platoon (Sgt. Barber) in reserve in trench at G. 18. c. 1.5. No 12 in support (Lt. Joy) in trench at G. 18. c. 25. 45. No 10 Platoon right front platoon in ^{open} G. 18 c. 25. 30 & No 11 platoon left front platoon in trench at G. 18. d. 25. 75. The boundaries were to be left WATLING ST Right Line parallel to WATLING ST. passing through S in SCREENS

H. 8. a. 15.00. The objective
was the Railway in H. 7. b.
The Company advanced at 5.45 am
on the 1st Oct. so as to be able
to reach the advance Coy (B Coy)
just forward of which the
barrage was to fall at 6 am.
Just as the company was in
position the barrage dropped.
The 56th Battⁿ advanced from
the north of NAUROY & opened
fire with rifles & MGs on
the Coy in mistake for Fritz.
The error was realised before
casualties were caused.
The advance was continued
with little opposition, the
56th Battⁿ overlapping
WATLING ST causing C Coy
to deviate slightly to the
right. On reaching the objective
the Coy dug in ^{on the objective} & two
prisoners were obtained ^{in this advance}.
The 56th Battⁿ advanced on our left past
the objective. I questioned two
of their officers who did not
seem to know what their
objectives were & as I understood
that this advance was only to
straighten the line so as to

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give a jumping off position for
a further attack, that no
good could be obtained by
advancing into our own barrage
I remained in position.

Orders were later received from
B. HQ to advance & join up with
the 56th Battⁿ but then the 56th
were retiring. I gave orders to
my two front line platoons
that if either flank advanced
they were to advance with them.
The 56th again advanced &
Lt. Skinner advanced with
them taking up a position
on the right of ESTREES in
the sunken road between
ESTREES & JONCOURT.

No 10 platoon then advanced
& took up a position on the
right of No 11 (Lt. Skinner).
Coy Hd Qrs were established
at H. 2. d. 25.00. No 12
platoon took up a position
in support in gun pits.
In H. 2. d. & No. 9 dribbled
across the ridge into
position in reserve at
H. 2. c. 8. 0.

During these last stages the Coy was subjected to fairly heavy artillery fire but no casualties were sustained. In the afternoon bombs were dropped by ^{hostile} aeroplanes without effect. ~~About~~ During the night Lt. Skinner took out a patrol & found the sunken road in H. 3. a & c to be unoccupied. About 3 am the next morning (2nd) the Coy was relieved by a Coy of the 18th Batty & took up a position in the QUENNE MONT TRENCH ^{AREA} where the Batty remained until the morning of the 3rd whence they moved to the ROISEL AREA.

H/10/18.

W. Wilson
Capt.
Cash.
P.C.

Report on Operations.

Ref. sheet-62^c

and WIANCOURT.

from 7.0 AM 29-9-18

till 10 PM. 2-10-18.

D Coy

At 7.15 AM. 29-9-18 under Orders from Br Hd Qrs. D Coy moved from position in L19 b in rear of Battalion as Reserve Coy. moving along the Black Road through VILLERET. At about 9 AM. just before reaching BELLECOURT a dense cloud of smoke & fog came over which hindered the advance somewhat. I received orders from the front of the Column to keep well blocked up to prevent losing touch. On reaching BELLECOURT

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G 11

there was much congestion - The 29th Bin passed through us. On reaching the outskirts of BELLECOURT, the fog lifted D Coy was on the Road at 9.10 to 4.5. + came under heavy shell fire + machine gun fire ^{from direction of NADROY} one man killed + 2 wounded. I then received orders to occupy a trench running through 9.10 b. The Coy occupied the trench without further casualties. at about 1 PM. I received orders from the C.O. to advance in rear of B Coy. On moving out of the trench the Coy was distributed

two platoons in front one platoon in Support + 1 platoon in Reserve moving in Sections in Artillery formation in a South Easterly direction. The Coy occupied a trench at 9.23. to 6.5 when I received orders to report to the C.O. at approx 9.24 a 7.8. Under instructions from C.O. I then moved the Coy to the trench at 9.24 a 6.8. with two platoons dug in along the Road running through 9.24 a. remaining there for the night at 6 AM 30-9-18. I received orders for B + H 2nd relieve C Coy of the

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(4)

of the 32nd Bn. I then took up
 a position from H13d16 to G18b52,
 with two platoons: one platoon
 in Support in Sunk Road at
 G18d66. one platoon in Reserve on
 Road at G18d34. here we were
 heavily Shelled inflicting 7 casualties
 (wounded) + numerous Gassed by
 a Gas shell bursting on the Road
 amongst the men. we were also
 under Heavy M.G. fire from the
 Sugar Factory + the Railway at
 H8C. we remained here for the night
 At 6 AM on 1-10-18 A Coy passed

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(5)

through D Coy + advanced under
 a Barrage to MILL Ridge. with
 D Coy in Support. D Coy taking
 up a position from H7d95 to
 H8c91. Throughout the whole
 operation the Enemy M.G. + Artillery
 were very active. D Coy Casualties
 were fairly heavy.

The Bn was relieved on the night
 of 2nd - 3rd Oct. 1918. D Coy moving
 out 10 P.M. as there was no relieving
 Coy.

4-10-18.

G.S. Dillit Lieut
 a/c D Coy
 31st 18

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H

Intelligence to form 10/18

OPERATIONS

Patrols were sent out from left and right companies. The left company attempted to reconnoitre the SUGAR FACTORY but patrol was not able to get very close owing to our shells. At 3.30 am situation was normal.

Enemy Shelling

Very intense and constant throughout night. Shelling was all more particularly SPRINGBOK VALLEY

G.17. a.

G.18. b.

H.13. a. 8.6.

Along road from G.18. a. 2.2. to G.24. a. 9.6.

4.2" both howitzer and H.L. from rear of fortcourt

No estimate sent to general of number of shells.

4.15 am

10/18.

P. G. Harvey Capt.
3rd Bn

I

SPECIAL ORDER

by

Brigadier General E. FIVEY, C.B., D.S.O., V.D.
Commanding, 8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
5th October 1918.

I desire to convey to all ranks my appreciation of the magnificent work done by the Brigade during the recent operations which resulted in the breaking of the famous HINDENBURG Line.

You entered the battle at a most critical time, and by your dash, skill and initiative carried out an advance which saved a very difficult situation.

For three days of hard fighting under severe weather conditions you displayed a spirit of courage and endurance beyond all praise, and you have added fresh laurels to the glorious record of the 8th Brigade.

E. Fivey Brigadier General,
Commanding, 8th Aust. Infantry Brigade.

WAR DIARY FOR OCTOBER 1918.QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.

During the month, the Battalion being in the rest area, every opportunity has been taken to re-equip the men. All technical stores have been checked, and any shortages have been indented for.

Kit inspections have been held, and all shortages made good. The Battalion is now complete in all winter clothing.

Blankets were fumigated and any unserviceable ones returned to D.A.D.O.S. and new ones drawn in lieu.

Transport was inspected and found complete in all mobilisation stores.

The Battalion cookers were overhauled and painted for the Brigade Competition which they were successful in winning.

Great attention has been paid to the sanitary conditions of the area and in the process now installed has met with approval from Division.

The fat returns have not been up to the average owing to a reduction in the fresh meat issue, which is only temporary.

A good supply of comforts has been issued by the A. C. F. and these have been much appreciated by the men.

Good supplies of both boots and clothing have been available, and all men requiring same have been equipped.

Great attention has been paid to the cooking, and everything has been done to give the men as many changes in diet as possible.

It has been impossible to make big salvage returns in this area.

4.11.1918.

P. G. Parker Capt.
R.Q.M. 31st. Bn. A.I.F.

KWAR DIARY FOR OCTOBER 1918.TRANSPORT SECTION.

On October 8th. the Transport proceeded with the Battalion by train to OISEMONT, and after detraining arrived at VILLEROY about 2-30 a.m.

The animals and men were billeted in two farms, the stabling being only fair.

A transport competition was held on the 30th. October in which this Battalion was second, being beaten by the 30th. Bn.

On the 30th. inst. the Battalion paraded for inspection by the Divisional Commander, who complimented the transport on its fine turnout.

The usual routine work was carried out during the month.



Lieut.
Transport Officer, 31st. Bn. A.I.F.