

**AWM4**

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/29/20

**Title:** 12th Infantry Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-23/29/20

12<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Inf Bde  
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Vol 1

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.~~

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
In detail 1/10/16	Battalion moved into left Sector of Hill 60. B & D. in front line, C Coy in LARCH WOOD. A Coy in Battersea FARM relief completed by 10pm 10 <sup>th</sup> Bn all clear.	Operation Order No 16 1/10/16 Lm
2/10/16	Met in afternoon, enemy quiet work progressing in front line, METROPOLITAN LEFT, BENS HAN ROAD, COMPANY TRENCH	Lm
3/10/16	Weather still wet, work progressing. very little shelling MAJOR MULLEN left Bn to command 10 <sup>th</sup> Bn temporarily. Patrol went out from trench 44 under Lieut Laming to examine	Lm
4/10/16	enemy wire reported gaps in several places	Lm
5/10/16	Weather very wet trenches in bad state quiet afternoon	Lm
6/10/16	Weather fine our artillery shelled enemy trenches heavily & only got a few shells in return	Lm
7/10/16	Weather fine enemy quiet. Strength 29 off 975 OR. Received 88 reinforcements	Lm
8/10/16	G.O.C 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde & G.O.C 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde went through our sector works progressing favourably. enemy quiet	Lm
<del>8/10/16</del>	Patrols under Lieut, Hollman, Vaughan sent out towards the SNOUT near cutting to capture prisoners for identification no patrols left enemy lines	Lm
9/10/16	Weather fine G.O.C's 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Brigades through lines 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn relieved us by 2230 entrained at Asylum EXPRES at 2400 <del>1 killed</del> 5 wounded	Operation Order No 17 9/10/16 Lm
10/10/16	Weather fine Battalion arrived at SCOTTISH LINES at 0300 Bn resting all day	Lm

12th Bn  
2nd Inf Bde  
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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
In Sued 11/10/16	Weather fine Battalion found all Divisional Duties inspection of arms + equipment requisitions for clothing etc made out. Capt Andrew left Bn to take up duties on Staff Lm	
12/10/16	Weather fine Bn marched into billets at near GOEDWAERSVELDE. Capt Appleby rejoined Bn	Operation Order Lm 1018 dated 11/10/16
13/10/16	Weather fine left GOEDWAERSVELDE at 0800 + marched to billets at ARNEKE. Strength 30 Officers 950 OR + reinforcements joined	Lm
14/10/16	Weather fine left ARNEKE at 0730 + marched to EPERLECQUES	Lm
15/10/16	Weather fine left EPERLECQUES + marched to billets at NORDASQUES. CAPT VOWLES to school at WISQUES	Lm
16/10/16	MAJOR MULLEN returned to duty with Bn. Coys doing training on Bde training area in morning route marches in afternoon	Lm
17/10/16	Fine day Company training in morning on parade grounds + at Bde training area in afternoon rained in afternoon	Lm

12th Batta  
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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Invaded 18/10/16	Fine day Company training at Bde training area in morning D+C Coys doing musketry on 50 yd range	Lm
19/10/16	Met day Ballot taken on Referendum on Conscription in Australia Coys doing training near billets	Lm
20/10/16	Fine day Coy training in morning A+B doing musketry in afternoon C+D route marching strength 130 officers 952 o/r	Lm
21/10/16	Left NORDASQUES at 0730 marched to AADRUICO & entrained for PONTREMY at 10.19 am arriving at 6 pm	Lm
22/10/16	Fine cold day Church parade in morning	Lm
23/10/16	Left PONTREMY at 0900 arriving at rendezvous at noon & got into Motor Buses and were conveyed to Buire arriving at 1820	Lm
24/10/16	Left BUIRE at 9am & marched into camp near FRICOURT at noon	Lm

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12<sup>th</sup> Batta  
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
In field 25/10/16	Weather wet, Lieut <sup>3a</sup> Sheppard returned from Hospital	Lm
26/10/16	Weather Cold + showy Battalion on fatigue between MAMETZ + MONTAUBAN cleaning road	Lm
27/10/16	Wet + muddy, Strength 31 officers 945 OR	Lm
28/10/16	CO lectured Bn re Barrages + modern methods of attack	Lm
29/10/16		
30/10/16	Left FRICOURT camp at 0900 arrived at BURNAFAY WOOD CAMP at 1300 transport arrived at 1300	Lm
31/10/16	Weather wet + muddy 200 men on fatigue at LONQUEVAL	Lm

1. 11. 1916  
Kilburn  
Barrage 12<sup>th</sup> Bn

OPERATION ORDER No. 16.  
By Lieut. Col. C. H. Elliott Commanding 18th Battalion.

IN THE FIELD 1/10/16.

- MOVE.** 1. The 18th Battalion will relieve 10th Battalion in FRONT LINE TRENCHES to-night the 1st. inst.
- TIME.** 2. Companies will be ready to move at 1800 and move as soon thereafter as it is dark enough to avoid observation "A" and "C" Companies will move when relieved by 9th Battalion.
- FATIGUES.** 3. Spare men of "A" Company at THE DUMP will move as soon as it is dark to BATTERSEA FARM. These men in charge of an Officer from "A" Company will report at 8100 at the corner of KNOLL and OBSERVATORY RIDGE ROADS to Lieutenant Stevenson or representative.
- RATION & WATER.** 4. Fatigue parties for rations will report to Transport at JACKSON STREET DUMP at 8100. Quartermaster Sergeants of "B", "C" and "D" Companies will draw ration and water Fatigue parties from "C" Company.
- BOMBERS.** 5. One team of Battalion Bombers will report to O.C. "D" Company by 1730.
- LEWIS M. GUNS.** 6. "A" Company's Lewis Machine Guns on relief will be taken into FRONT LINE. One Gun on right of "D" Company under orders of O.C. "D" Company. One Gun on left of "B" Company under orders of O.C. "B" Company.
- TRANSPORT.** 7. Transport will call at TRANSPORT FARM to convey any baggage required to JACKSON STREET DUMP. Officers requiring valises to be sent up will arrange for loading of same at TRANSPORT FARM and unloading of same at JACKSON STREET DUMP. If there is not sufficient accommodation on limbers to transport above they will make a return journey for balance.
- WATER CARTS.** 8. Water Carts will be taken to JACKSON STREET DUMP where they will be met by the necessary water parties
- REPORTS.** 9. Companies will report immediately on the completion of the Relief to Battalion Headquarters in MARSHALL WALK.

*B. J. J.*  
Captain and Adjutant.

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OPERATION ORDER No. 16. 117.  
by Lieut. Col. C. H. Elliott Commanding 12th Battalion.

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IN THE FIELD 9/10/16.

- M O V E. 1. The Battalion will be relieved by 8th Battalion tonight 9/10th and will move into rest at SCOTTISH LINES.
- ROUTE. 2. The Battalion will move to YPRES ASYLUM and from there to BRANDHOEK by rail and to SCOTTISH LINES by March route.
- ORDER OF MARCH. 3. Companies will move independently on relief to ASYLUM by platoons.
- S T O R E S. 4. TRENCH STORES, LOG BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS and all documents or information to incoming units will be handed over and receipts obtained and duplicate handed in to Battalion Headquarters when reporting relief complete.
- W O R K. 5. Each Company will hand over statement showing works in progress, strength of parties etc.
- R E P O R T. 6. Companies will report on completion of relief in CODE to Battalion Headquarters.
- G U I D E S. 7. 4 guides per Company under Lieut. Field will report at ASYLUM at 2000 tonight to meet relieving units.
- W A G O N S. 8. The following limbers will be available .-  
1 per Company.  
1 L.M.G. Section.  
1 Bombers 1 Signallers.  
1 per Headquarters.  
Maltese Cart will take all A.M.C. luggage.
- ADVANCE PARTY. 9. 1 N.C.O per Company will report to LIEUT. MITCHELL at SIG. OFFICE at 1300 to act as Billetting party. Lieut. Mitchell will act for HEADQUARTERS.
- L I N E S. 10. All trenches, dugouts, etc, will be left clean and tidy
- EQUIPMENT. 11. No equipment etc is to be left behind.
- BAGGAGE. 12. All Officers' baggage etc, must be at JACKSON STREET DUMP (except "A" Company) by 1800 tonight.

*B. J. Anderson*  
Captain and Adjutant.

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OPERATION ORDER No. 18.  
By Lieut Col. CH Elliott Commanding 18th Battalion

IN THE FIELD 11/10/18

- M O V E. 1. The 1st. Australian Division will move to the ST OMER AREA for training. 18th Battalion will move tomorrow 18th inst. to billets in the STEENVORDE AREA.
- R O U T E. 2. Through RENINGHELST to cross Roads (L 35 D 1.2.) thence to Main Road L 31 C thence to STEENVORDE.
- O R D E R. 3. Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", "D" .
- TIME TABLE 4. Reveille 5-30 a.m. Pack and clean up. Breakfast 6-30 a.m. Fall in on Battalion Parade Ground 8 a.m. File arms, - take off equipment, finish cleaning up ready to move off at 9 a.m.  
One Officer per Company will be detailed to supervise  
One Marker per Company to report to R.S.M. Cooper at 0755.
- BAGGAGE. 5. Officers' baggage will be stacked ready for transport at end of Officers' lines by 0800. Transport Officer will see to the collecting of same at stated time.
- DRESS. 6. Full Marching Order with blanket and W.P. Sheet. Water bottles to be filled and lunch will be carried.
- COOKERS. 7. Company Cookers and Water Carts will be taken. Horses will call for same at 0845.
- ADVANCE PARTY 8. Lieut. Gandy and 8 N.C.Os per Company will report at 3rd Brigade Headquarters at 0750. They will be taken by Bus.
- TRANSPORT. 9. All wagons to be loaded at SCOTTISH HUTS will be present by 0815. Remainder of Transport will be present by 0845.
- BLANKETS. 10. "B" Company will tell off a party of 1 N.C.O and 6 men to report to Q.M. at 0800 to load G.S. Lorry which will call for spare blankets.
- STEEL HELMETS &c. 11. Box Respirators marked with Owners' number Rank, name, Company and Battalion and Steel Helmets will be handed to Q.M. by 1800 today. "D" Company will tell off a Guard of 1 N.C.O and 3 men to report to an Officer of 11th Battalion to guard these when sent to RENINGHELST SIDING.
- SICK PARADE. 12. There will be a Sick Parade for special cases at 0645 tomorrow morning.

*Ch Elliott*

Lieut. & a/Adj. t.