

**AWM4**

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

**Infantry**

**Item number:** 23/29/21

**Title:** 12th Infantry Battalion

**November 1916**



AWM4-23/29/21

## WAR DIARY

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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## VOLUME IX

Remarks and references to Appendices.

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1916 In field		
November 1st	Bn at BERNAFAY WOOD weather fine cold 700 on fatigue	Lm
2nd	Weather wet 5 officers +300 OR on fatigue	Lm
3rd	Weather wet Lieut Newton returned from England took over duties of Adjutant 5 officers +300 OR on fatigue	Lm
4th	Fine cold 31 officers 928 OR Fine cold 6 officers +300 OR on fatigue major ha	Lm
	Rapport returned from 10 Bn	
5th	Fine, cold & windy 12 officers +500 OR on fatigue, Lieut Smyan to Hospital Lieut Roper returned from School	Lm
	3 casualties on fatigue	
6th	Weather wet G.O.C. 3rd Inf Bde visited camp.	Lm
7th	Weather wet Left BERNAFAY WOOD at 3.30 pm for SWITCH TRENCH + GAP TRENCH. in support.	Lm
8th	Weather wet cold B Coy moved into front line to relieve 10 Bn in GREASE TRENCH + D Coy into BISCUIT TRENCH Lm 4 hrs into PILGRIMS WAY	
9th	Fine day quiet in line but very muddy lot of men gone away sick	Lm
10th	Fine day A Coy relieved B in GREASE TRENCH C Coy relieved D in BISCUIT TRENCH B + D Coys came back to switch trench	Lm

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12<sup>th</sup> Battt WAR DIARY  
3rd Inf Bde - or -  
A.I.F INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1916 Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	A strength 31 officers 922 O.R. Weather fine. Capt Andrew seconded as Staff Captain 3rd Inf Bde dated 20/10/16. B + D Cos moved from SWITCH TRENCH to PIONEER TRENCH at 5pm quiet in line A + C improved front trench now fairly dry. Same day A Coy relieved by company of 46 <sup>th</sup> Battn + IC Coy relieved by company of 47 <sup>th</sup> Battn CO 46 <sup>th</sup> took over our H. Qrs. relief completed sail of the Battn back at Bernafay Lm Camps by 3 am on 13 <sup>th</sup> .	Lm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Same day Left Bernafay Camp at 11 am for TRICOURT Camp all men billeted in huts	Lm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Same day Left TRICOURT camp at 9 am for BERNACOURT arriving at noon	Lm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Same day 400 men on fatigue remainder cleaning up billets	Lm
16 <sup>th</sup>	Same day 400 men on fatigue remainder coy training	Lm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Same should moved to BOURE at 1 pm 400 on fatigue Strength 32 officers 849 O.R.	Lm Operation Order 10/19 2

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1916. Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	31. Reinforcements received for week. Capt J C B. moore, Lieut R M W. Thirkell placed on supernumerary list. Lieut Baine struck off missing. Lieut Steurle returned from Hospital.	Lm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Fine snowing 400 on fatigue Lieut Campbell returned from School.	Lm
19 <sup>th</sup>	Raw cold day Left Baine at 1pm by motor Bus for <del>Rainneville</del> <sup>RAINNEVILLE</sup> arriving at 4pm	Lm operation orders Lm p 20
20 <sup>th</sup>	Fine day Company training lecture at night on march discipline	Lm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Fine day foggy Company training lecture in evening discipline.	Lm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fine day Company training lecture in evening on attack	Lm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fine day Coy training lecture in evening on French Organization.	Lm

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

7th Battalion  
A.I.F.  
Intelligence  
AIF

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1916		
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	Strength 31 officers 839 other ranks. Left L.H. Hughes struck off strength returned to Australia. Lm Coy training in morning. Battalion drill in afternoon. Weather wet. Coy training. Lecture by major Lm Smythe, on Contact aeroplanes.	Lm
25 <sup>th</sup>		
26 <sup>th</sup>	Wet morning. Church parades in bivouacs. Lecture by Col. Foot on responsibility of officers. Lm	Lm
27 <sup>th</sup>	Fine day. Coy training in morning. Demonstration in afternoon with Contact aeroplane. Lecture by "Col" Blamey, on attack. Lm.	Lm.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Fine foggy. Coys practising attack in morning. Battalion drill afternoon. Lecture by major Dyer. Lt. Dyer on building dugouts. Lm.	Lm
29 <sup>th</sup>	Fine day. Battalion carried out attack on trenches near Caronette. Mustard gas attack in afternoon. Lm	Lm
30 <sup>th</sup>	Left <sup>RAINNEVILLE</sup> Barneveld at 8.15 am & marched to Granville 10 miles. CH Elliott. Lt Col. Commdy 1st Bn.	Lm
	63 men evacuated with sore feet.	

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OPERATION ORDER *1019*  
By Lieut. Col. C. H. Elliott Commanding 19th Battalion.

IN THE FIELD 16/11/ 6.

- MOVE 1. The Battalion will move to BUIRE To-morrow 17th inst at 1500.
- STARTING POINT. 2. ROAD JUNCTION at E S.C.R. 50.45.
- ORDER OF MARCH 3. Headquarters, "A", "B", "C", "D". Companies will Fall in in MAIDSTONE STREET.
- TRANSPORT. 4. First Line Transport will accompany Battalion to BUIRE  
Brakesmen to report to T.O. at 1845.
- COOKERS. 5. Cookers to be ready to move off at 1845.
- BLANKETS 6. Both Blankets will be carried on the man.
- BAGGAGE. 7. Officers' valises and Companies' dixies will be stacked by the Church not later than 1000 for Transport by motor  
"B" Company will supply a Guard of 1 N.C.O and 3 men to mount over the baggage before being loaded and after being unloaded.
- BILLETTING PARTY. 8. Lieutenant Dadson with 1 N.C.O per Company, Bomb Platoon, Intelligence Platoon, Signallers and Pioneers will report to Brigade Headquarters at 1000.

*C. H. Elliott*

LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT.

OPERATION ORDER  
by Lieut. Col. C.H. Elliott Commanding 19th Battalion.

IN THE FIELD 19/12/18

*J.P.Y.O.*

**MOVES.** 1. The Battalion will move to "C" Area by Bus, to-morrow.

**STARTING POINT.** Starting Point D.22.B.3.1. Companies will stand to in Billets all ready to move from 1100 onwards owing to possible delay in arrival of buses. Lieutenant Gandy with two Battalion messengers will report to Brigade Headquarters at 1100.

**ORDER OF MARCH.** 3. Headquarters, "D", "C", "B", "A".

**EMBARKATIONS.** Place of Embarkation will be on Southern side of BUIRE RIVIERE road where Battalion will fall up in lines of Companies in four in rear of 10th Battalion.

The French Officers of the N.T.S. are alone responsible for the embarkation of Troops, and in no case are any orders to be given except by French Officers either as regards the embarkation or as to allotment of vehicles to the Troops.

On embarking, men are led in file. Companies following one another without intervals and all N.C.O's in the ranks.

**COOKERS.** 5. Cookers and all cooking utensils must be ready to move off sharp at 0745 with one brakeman per cooker.

**TRANSPORT.** 6. Transport will move independently under orders of Captain Burgess 11th Battalion at 0800.

**HACKS.** 7. All Hacks must be at Transport Lines at 0745 prompt.

**BAGGAGE.** 8. All Officers' valises will be stacked in front of BUIRE Church not later than 0730. One man per Company and N.C.O from "a" Company will mount Guard and load same. If there is room in the wagon they will go with it and guard same on unloading.

**BRAKEMEN.** 9. In addition to the Brakemen on Cookers, each Company will detail one man to report to T.O as such at 0730.

**BLANKETS.** 10. One blanket per man will be recalled, and tied up in bundles of 10, (rolled from ends), and parties will be ready to take them to a place notified later at 0700. Lieutenant Vaughan will be present at the Dump to count them and submit a Certificate to Headquarters.

**TENTS.** 11. All tents will be left laced up with flaps down.

**BILLETS.** 12. Company Commanders will ensure that Billets are left clean.

**GUIDES.** 13. Lieutenant Holymen with one man per Platoon will report to Battalion Headquarters at 1000.

*C.W. Newton*

Lieutenant and Adjutant.

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OPERATION ORDER No.1.  
By Lieut. Col. CH. Elliott Commanding 12th Battalion.

RAINNEFILE. 28/11/16.

INFORMATION.

1. 12th Battalion will attack a series of trenches three quarters of a mile South of the "A" in CARDONETTE (Map AMIENS 17 1/100,000) at zero on 29th November 1916. The objective consists of two trenches about 20 yards apart (called the first dual objective) and a third trench with strong points on either flanks about 50 yards in rear (called second objective)

ACTION OF ARTILLERY.

2. The position will be bombarded by the artillery to ensure that all wire entanglements are destroyed. At zero it will place an intense barrage 150 yards in front of the first objective where it will remain 3 minutes and then creep forward 50 yards each minute till it reaches the second objective where it will remain 3 minutes and then creep forward 50 yards each minute till it reaches a point 150 yards beyond the second objective where it will remain.

DISTRIBUTION.

3. "A" and "C" Companies with 2 L.M.G's each will be formed up at the "Jumping off" trench in sunken road "B" and "D" Companies and Battalion Bomb Platoon in trenches 100 yards in rear. Battalion H.Q. will be at the Haystack 150 yards in rear of the sunken road Reserve L.M.G. teams will be in the ranks of their Companies. "D" Company will detail one L.M.G. with team to report to Battalion Headquarters. 2 men per Platoon will be sent to Battalion Headquarters one hour before zero to report to R.S.M. as Ammunition Water and Ration party. Intelligence Platoon will be attached to "D" Coy.

FRONTAGE.

4. "A" Company will attack from Left enemy Bomb Post inclusive to Centre Bomb Post exclusive, "C" Company from Centre Bomb Post inclusive to 20 yards on Right ~~enemy~~ ~~Bomb~~ ~~Post~~ of Right enemy Bomb Post.

ORGANISATION FOR ATTACK.

5. Companies will attack on a Platoon Frontage in three waves extended to three paces interval. Company Bomb teams to capture Bomb Posts will accompany first wave 10 per cent of second wave will carry tools and 50 per cent of third wave will carry tools and 50 per cent Bombs to be handed to Bomb teams on reaching first objective. The first wave of each Company will advance at zero plus 3 minutes keeping close to the barrage. The second wave will move 25 yards in rear of the first. The third wave will move 40 yards in rear of the second. As soon as the first wave advances "B" and "D" Companies will move down the communication trenches and occupy the Jumping off trench commencing to dig communication trenches forward. One wave of these Companies and two teams from Battalion Bomb Platoon will be sent to help consolidate first objective directly it is vacated by first wave of "A" and "C" Companies, one wave will be sent forward at discretion of Company Commanders and one will not move without orders from Battalion Headquarters.

METHOD OF ATTACK.

6. First wave of "A" and "C" Companies will capture first trench and second wave the second trench of first objective. "Mopping up" parties detailed from second wave will remain to help third wave consolidate first dual objective, and first and second waves will attack second objective. Special attention will be given to the strong points. L.M.G's will bring fire to bear from the flanks of first objective and Company Bomb teams will be detailed to assist. Should the attack

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fail (the umpire will decide this) the first wave of "B" and "D" Companies with Battalion Bomb teams will be sent on to second objective and second wave of "B" and "D" Companies to first objective. Should the main trench of second objective only be taken a barrier will be erected just out of bomb range (30 yards) from strong point.

**ACTION AFTER ATTACK.** 7. When the second objective is taken the shell holes in rear will be at once cleared and held by patrols and one L.M.G per Company. Those that can be occupied at once will be marked by blue flags and those that must first be captured by red and yellow flags. If the enemy retires before our final attack he will be pursued with fire. Men are not to proceed past shell holes beyond second objective which will be linked up to form a forward firing line.

**BARRAGES** 8. Our artillery barrage will be represented by men carrying blue and white flags. Enemy barrage by men carrying red and yellow flags.

**ZERO HOUR.** 9. Zero hour will be communicated confidentially to Company Commanders (this will be 11 a.m.)

**COMMUNICATION** 10. Messages will be sent in duplicate by runners to Battalion Headquarters at the Hay stack. Signal Officer will arrange to instal telephone communication as soon as objectives are captured.

**CASUALTIES.** 11. Men detailed as casualties will at once sit down. Stretcher Bearers will evacuate wounded men to Battalion Headquarters.

Lieutenant and Adjutant.

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ROUGH PLAN OF TRENCHES

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