

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/33/15

Title: 16th Infantry Battalion

February 1917



AWM4-23/33/15

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Flers	2nd to 10th Feb. 1917		<p>On the night of the 2/3rd February the 16th Battalion relieved the 14th Battalion, two companies occupying front line and two companies being in Bulls Road, Flers Alley and Snake Trench. Our line, as taken over extended from N20. 0.7.3. on left to N21 0.3.3 on right and was not a continuous line of trenches, but more or less a series of posts.</p> <p>The left Company's sector extended from N.20 07.5 to N20 06.5 and comprised 9 posts in all. Company Headquarters were in Cheese Road at N26 11.9 with an advanced Headquarters at Frits's Polly at N20 03.5.</p> <p>The right Company's sector, known generally as GOODWIN'S POST extended from N20 071 to N21 03.8 and was also a system of posts; 13 in all. Company Headquarters were at N20 07.0.</p> <p>Supports for both left and right Companies were in CHEESE ROAD.</p> <p>All relief work had to be done "over the top" as there were no communication trenches anywhere, and because of this fact, no passing was allowed to beyond CHEESE ROAD by day, which meant that FRITS'S POLLY and GOODWIN'S POST were cut off from all save telephone communication. The left Company's posts were all "night posts" only and by day the only observation was from an O.P. at advanced Headquarters at FRITS'S POLLY. The garrison of each post withdrew at dawn and occupied old German dug-outs at the POLLY, and only took up their places again at dusk. The posts at GOODWIN'S too were practically night posts but the garrison of each rested by day at the several posts.</p> <p>During our seven days occupation we did everything possible; which having regard to the severe frosts and the subsequent hard ground, to improving the posts along our front. We also did good work on a trench to connect up PATIGUS POST with FRITS'S POLLY. With the completion of this connection by trench all along our left Company sector could have been possible.</p> <p>It seemed to us that supports for our right Company in CHEESE ROAD were worse than useless, in case of a call, so we got them to work, and before our term had expired had made good accommodation for them from N20 07.9 to N20 09.7. Here they would be available at a moment's notice.</p> <p>Our left Company, which had a fairly comfortable time, did the whole period without relief, but the right Company, which on the night of the 4/5th was rather severely handled by enemy artillery, was relieved by one of the back Companies on the night of the 5/6th. The other back Company was lent to the 13th Battalion to relieve one of their Companies on the night of 5/6th and was with that Battalion until the Brigade relief night 9/10th.</p> <p>Enemy artillery fire was not heavy during our tour except on one or two occasions. On the night of the 4/5th GOODWIN'S POST and FRITS'S POLLY were both heavily shelled, and it seemed to be a habit with the enemy to put a number of shells into both CHEESE ROAD and the sunken road at FRITS'S POLLY every night. Generally very little or no damage was done. Enemy aircraft was very</p>	

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Flers	End to 10th Feb 1917		<p>busy over our sector every day we were in occupation; sometimes 5 or 6 machines being over at one time.</p> <p><u>Patrols.</u> We established and kept up connection with right and left Battalions, visiting them several times during every night. We also patrolled nightly between our right and left Companies. Several nights we pushed patrols as far out in front as possible, to try to get in touch with the enemy. An enemy working party was once located at about H20 23.7 and artillery fire was soon got on to it. Patrolling was not easy during our tour owing to full moon, and snow on the ground. White suits were used and found most effective.</p> <p><u>Casualties.</u> These in our own Battalion sector were light, but in the night of the 4/5th we had to send about 50 men (with an officer) to support the 13th Battalion who were attacking on our right. Casualties among this party were heavy.</p> <p>The Battalion was relieved on the night 9/10th by 47th Battalion A.I.F., and proceeded to huts at HAMETS.</p>	
Hamets Camp.	10th & 11th Feb. 1917		The Battalion took over Camp Fatigues from 14th Battalion and proceeded to reorganise.	
Hamets Camp.	11th Feb. 1917	10a.m.	The Battalion moved to ALBURY CAMP. Move commencing at 10a.m. and completed at about 2p.m. Relieved 48th Battalion on Corps duties.	
Albury Camp.	11th to 28th Feb. 1917		The Battalion carried on Corps Duties. Work consisted of Road Repair, Herbing, Railway work etc. Camp Improvement work consisting of raising duck boards, renewing duck boards, repairing huts and making latrines was carried out.	

Hoag Lt
Adjutant 16th Battalion A.I.F.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

16 Bn.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBURY CAMP BAZENTIN.	28th. Feb. to 16th Mar.		Engaged on Corps Roads duties in BAZENTIN area, Albury Camp. Training of Specialists was carried on with.	
<p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month).</p>				