

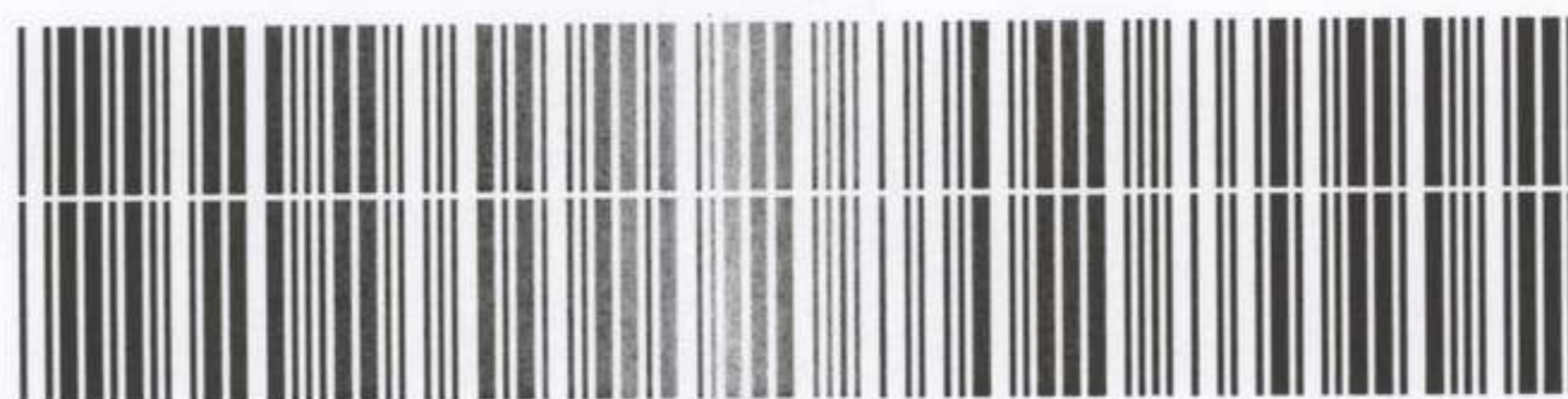
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/23/15

Title: 6th Infantry Battalion

February 1917



AWM4-23/23/15

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6th Bn A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

for month February 1917

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Reference map 57^c S.W. 541

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME XI	Remarks and references to Appendices
HIGH WOOD EAST Camp Reserve trench, Here Line	1/2		A + B Coys at HIGH WOOD EAST Camp and C + D Coys & Bn Hqrs at FLERS LINE trenches. Whole Bn acting as reserve to 8 th Bn A.I.F., who held front line. Time was occupied in improving FLERS LINE, in supplying working parties to improve front line & support lines. Much salvage was collected during this time.		Sq B 8.5 M 30 C 4.0
Front Line Posts	3/2	2000	A + B Coys & 2 platoons of C Coy. relieved 2 Coys of 8 th Bn. in Frontline - D Coy & 2 Pns C Coy. returned to HIGH WOOD EAST. and Site 2 Camp BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT Front Line consisted of series of 17 posts, disconnected but placed in old German trench. It was possible to visit left of the line by day, but impossible to visit right of line except by night. A fairly definite valley ran parallel to front line & behind it. This valley sheltered most of the support companies. During its tour of duty the Bn. was fully occupied in increasing accommodation, in deepening, improving & wiring support lines & in connecting up front posts & digging main communication trench and in being as offensive towards the enemy as possible. During its tour, Bn claims 14 enemy casualties caused by our snipers. One sniper obtained superiority over enemy early in tour.		M 24 B 8.8 Left Post & M 19 B 4.9 Right Post.

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G. B. AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
			<p>Enemy however was very active with trench mortars, firing mainly on valley in rear Front Post & on our extreme left Post, which by day was used as a sniping post that apparently annoyed enemy very considerably. This post was demolished entirely on two occasions by this trench mortar fire. Our artillery & T.M.'s invariably retaliated vigorously. Reliefs were arranged in following manner: - Coy had 2 platoons each in front line. These pls. were relieved nightly thus giving men only 24 hours duty at a time in front line. Weather was very cold & frosty & as post had no protection from weather, these short hours were considered necessary.</p>	
Front Line	6/2	2000	C & D Coys relieved A & B Coys in front line, A Coy remaining in close support & as additional reserve for working parties.	
Front Line	7/2	0200	Enemy patrol of 6 men dressed in white, came through the snow & attempted to bomb our right post. They were driven off by Lewis Gun fire, leaving one man dead in front of post. No identification could be obtained from the post body.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10/2	2000	<p>5th Bn A.I.F. made raid on enemy's lines opposite our left front. The raid was not entirely successful owing to heavy M.G. fire & bombing. Our Bn. received some of the retaliatory shelling of the enemy & consequently lost 3 killed including 2LT W.G.M. HENNESSY & several wounded. 2LT HENNESSY was subsequently buried with military honours at Site 3 Cemetery.</p> <p>During tour in front line Bn. had salvaged considerable quantities of war material, including rifles, equipment, picks, shovels, S.A.A. ammunition, bombs & quantities of clothing, thigh boots etc. from surrounding area & had almost completed FACTORY AVENUE communication trench & support lines & had done considerable work towards completing connection of Front Post. Accommodation, in addition to existing accommodation, for close upon a company of men had been made in Support area.</p>	SFC 5.8.
	11/2	2000	<p>Bn. was relieved by 5th Bn A.I.F. A & D Coys & Bn HQs proceeded to HIGH WOOD WEST Camp for one night and then on to Site 1 Camp, BAZENTIN - LE-PETIT. B Coy went on to ALBERT & C Coy after remaining in Site 2 Camp, BAZENTIN for one night proceeded to MEAULTÉ.</p>	Sg B 4.4 S8 & D 0.5

6th Bn AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/2	2000	<p>Bn. remained as stated until 23/2/17. In the interim, time was occupied in the following manner:— C Coy was engaged in supplying loading parties at sidings at MEAULTÉ area & B Coy was engaged in sweeping & repairing roads of ALBERT. A & D Coys supplied working parties to Bn. in front line for purpose of improving FLEERS LINE & of improving Firing & Support Lines, and to Brigade to complete digging & improving of new Brigade H.Q.s.</p> <p>Brigade front was extended to right so that Bde front extended from M 24 B 8.8 to N 20 C 5.5, 8th Bn. relieving 49th Bn. Bn. on right of Ligny-Thibloy Rd. N 13 B 4.7. Our Bn. H.Q.s moved up to FLEERS ^{relieving 52nd Bn.} A & D Coys went to SWITCH TRENCH & GAP EXTENSION & B & C Coys moved up to Site 1 Camp, BAZENTIN-LE-PETIT. Bn. was then supporting 8th Bn.</p>	<p>Geudecourt Map 57 57° SW 1. 1-10,000</p>
	25/2	0400	<p>Bn. received information that enemy was retreating from his front line positions. Our line went forward & occupied enemy positions.</p>	
	26/2	2000	<p>Bn. relieved 8th Bn. occupying BARLEY TRENCH from N 8 C 1.3 to N 15 C 10.95. A Coy was in front line, B Coy in our old firing line N 19 B to N 20 C. B Coy C Coy was in HAY RESERVE TRENCHES & D Coy was in PORK TRENCH</p>	57° SW 1.

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6th Bn AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Bn H.Q. was established at N20 A.O.O. Enemy was established in TILL TRENCH and still occupied THILLOY village. Policy of Brigade was to harass enemy & worry him & to keep in very close touch. 5th Bn was on our left and 15th Bde on our right. We established forward post close to BEAUFENCOURT ROAD and prepared to construct strong & occupy strong post forward of BARLEY TRENCH. Nightly we sent our strong patrols to patrol To man's Land to keep in touch with enemy. Patrols found To man's land dotted with enemy dug out all unoccupied. During the day enemy was sniping very vigorously from THILLOY & from TILL TRENCH. During the evening one of our patrols entered enemy wire in front of TILL TRENCH & bombed enemy party, causing at least 1 Casualty. TILL TRENCH obviously held in force & enemy showing no inclination to further retreat.</p>	57° SW 1
	27/2		THILLOY in hands of 3 rd Bde, on our left, thus relieving us of attentions of many enemy snipers.	
	28/2		Enemy sniping less active, though we lost 1 man killed by sniper.	
	28/2	2000	D Coy relieved A Coy in front line, A Coy occupying position vacated by D Coy.	

6th Bn ATF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	28/2	1800-2200	<p>A fighting patrol passed enemy position & bombed TILL TRENCH & returned safely with the information that TILL TRENCH was well occupied & strongly manned with MGs.</p> <p>During this period in the line Bn. carried out its policy of harassing the enemy, keeping in close touch with him, & improving our own position. Strong points were dug & occupied unknown, it is hoped, to the enemy. These strong points were situated at N 8 C 9.8 and N 8 D 2.5 and N 8 D 4.2.</p>	

C. W. Dalrymple
6th Bn