

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/6/23

Title: 6th Infantry Brigade

July 1917



AWM4-23/6/23

Confidential - Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME 16

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

Vol 7 p1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAULENCOURT	JULY 1		Cloudy + cold. Church Parade held attended by GOC. Division	
BEAULENCOURT	2		Fine + sultry. Village fighting practised in LE TRANSLOY. Each Bn attacked in succession + were given opportunity to witness + criticize other Bns at work. Demonstration of a model platoon attack given under OAO arrangements attended by representatives from all regts.	
BEAULENCOURT	3		Cloudy + warm. Found advisable to recapitulate training. GOC inspected Bns in turn	
BEAULENCOURT	4		Cloudy + cool. Night operations carried out by all Bns involving the work of fighting patrols and a night advance	
BEAULENCOURT	5		Fine and cool. Practice carried out in open warfare attack	
BEAULENCOURT	6		Fine + cold. Dv. Tactical exercise, without troops, carried out in vicinity of BANCOURT. Night outposts in evening.	
BEAULENCOURT	7		Showery + cold. Route marches and moving into artillery formation	
BEAULENCOURT	8		Heavy rain storms at intervals throughout day. Church parade held. Conference of CIs on coming operations.	
BEAULENCOURT	9		Cloudy + cold. Dv exercise involving three Bdes and details carried out. Security for co-operation emphasized	

WAR DIARY

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Vol 7/12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAULENCOURT	JULY 10		Fine & cool. Day devoted to Company Training with view to remedying mistakes observed during Dr. Exercise	
BEAULENCOURT	11		Fine & cool. Bde training continued. Conference held at Dr. HQ in connection with Dr. Schemes.	Major's report on 9/7/18
BEAULENCOURT	12		Fine & cool. Bde exercise involving all Bns in the attack carried out. Col. receives C.B. from His Majesty King George in Beaumont Albert	
BEAULENCOURT	13		Fine & cool. Recapitulation, Bns training under COs. practised points observed during exercises which were weak.	
BEAULENCOURT	14		Dull & cool. Recapitulation continued. Special attention paid to specialisation. Representatives from all Bns attended demonstration at Anzac School.	
BEAULENCOURT	15		Wet & cool. Church parades held. Major W.F.N. BRIDGES reported for duty as A/Bde Major.	
BEAULENCOURT	16		Showery & sultry. Bde training continued. Lt Col. W.R. WATSON C.B. 10 24 Bn left for England to command 17 Bde. Major James, 24 Bn commanding temporarily.	
BEAULENCOURT	17		Fine & cool. Practised attack formations against VILLERS-AD-FLOS, the Bde being involved in village and wood fighting.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 7 / 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BEAULENCOURT	18		Showery & sultry. Line marches carried out by Bns with transport. Bns afterwards carried out advances in artillery formations. GSO I instructed BM, A/BM, Staff Capt and 2 nd in command in subject of writing orders	
	19		Major E.C. Plant left to take up appointment as GSO II 4 th Aust Div. Major W.F.M. Bridges 25 th Bn took over the duties of Brigade Major. Night operations involving firing up a jumping off tape and an advance of 750 yards was carried out by the Bde as a whole. Night was dark but maintenance of direction was good. Two fires, in line with the centre of the advance, on high ground in rear helped materially	with
	20		22 nd Bn carried out a practice bombing attack - to test the organization practised by companies as applied to a Bn. Result good - trench cooperation with Stokes mortars set up to the mark	with
	21		all Bns part units took part in an attack on a trench system supported by a section of tanks (represented by dummies) - Particularly useful lessons learnt	with
	22		Church Parades - General Bidwood afterwards presented medals + ribbons to a large number of the ^{rescue} men	with
	23		Bde took part in a dawn ^{rescue} attack by the Division - passing through the 5 th & 7 th Bdes when they had captured their objectives to attack a switch line.	with

WAR DIARY

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or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 7. Page 4.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
24			Bde moved to hutment camps near Aveluy by road Brig General J. Paton C.B. V.D. took command vice Brig General J. Gallibrand who left to England.	Order No 92
25 th			Conference of CO's at which it was decided that training for the next few days would be restricted to specialist training close order drill gas drill + PT + Bayonet fighting + route marches concluded by bathing parades in the river near Aveluy.	WMS
26 th + 27 th			Training carried on on the ^{above} lines	
28 th + 29 th			Bde Group entrained for the North. Bde Hqs closed at Orillers at 7 AM + opened at Wardrecque (E of Argues) at 9 PM on 28 th .	Order No 93
29 th			Disposition of Bde: 21 st Bn + 22 nd Bn Campagne; 23 rd Bn Bandringhem; 24 th Bn Wardrecque; 6 th M G Coy Wardrecque; 6 th A L Tn Bally La Baine. 6 th M G Coy Wardrecque available very little ground for training in this area. Reconnaissance showed that there is	WMS WMS
30 th			Conference of CO's at Bde Hqs. Training and other matters discussed	
31 st			Training carried on - Genl Smyth of General Birdwood went round the four Bns while they were lunching on the Bde Training Ground -	

J. Paton
Brig Genl
Cde 6th M Bde

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SECRET

COPY No.- 2

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO.92
=====Ref. ALBERT combined sheet 1/40,000
and 57c N.W. 1/20,000

23rd July, 1917.

1. The 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. will move by road on 24th July, 1917 in accordance with the attached March Table.
2. No restrictions as to halts but units will not close to lesser intervals than.-

Between Companies	...	200 yards
" Battalions	...	500 "
" Transport Sections	...	200 "
3. Transport (except Bde. Hdqrs.) will move brigaded under Capt. FARRELL, M.C. Bde. T.O. in the order 22nd, 24th, 21st, 23rd Bns. and 6th M.G. Company.
4. Advance Parties consisting of 1 Officer and 4 O.R's per Unit will precede units.
5. Medical Arrangements. 3 Horse and one Motor Ambulance will be detailed by O.C., 6th Field Ambulance - these will be allotted to Bns. for move. On completion of same these waggons will return to 6th Fld. Amb. From 24th until further orders this Ambulance will arrange for daily evacuation of sick.
6. Extra Transport. 1 Motor Lorry per Bn., 1 for M.G. Coy., 6th L.T.M. Bty. and Bde. Hdqrs. will report to Units for conveyance of Blankets.
One guide per Unit will report to Bde. Hdqrs. at 6 a.m. on 24th to guide Lorry to Unit.
Baggage waggons will report to Units on 23rd inst. On completion of move these waggons are to rejoin the 16th A.S. Coy.
7. Refilling Point. for 24th and until further orders will be at W.16.b. Rations will be drawn at 5 p.m.

A C K N O W L E D G E .

- Issued at
Copies to.-
1. Filed
 2. War Diary
 3. 2nd Aust. Divn.
 4. 21st Bn.
 5. 22nd "
 6. 23rd "
 7. 24th "
 8. 6th M.G. Co.
 9. 6th T.M. Bty.
 10. 6th Fld. Amb.)
 11. A.P.M., IV Corps.) For information.
 12. P.M. III Army.)
 13. Spare
 14. "

W. F. N. Bridges
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

MARCH TABLE ISSUED WITH BDE. ORDER NO.92

90

UNIT.-	From.-	To.-	Route.-	To pass Starting Point N.17.b.5.9. at.-	REMARKS.-
22nd Bn.	CAMP.	CABSTAND HUTS W.10.a. & DOG LEG HUTS W.15.a.	LIGNY THILLOY - OVILLERS-la-BOISELLE	7.00 a.m.	-
24th Bn.	CAMP	FALABONE HUTS W.10.d. & MIDLAND HUTS W.10.c.	-do-	7.30 a.m.	-
21st Bn.	CAMP	WELLINGTON HUTS W.12.b. & d.	-do-	8.00 a.m.	-
23rd Bn.	CAMP	-do-	-do-	8.30 a.m.	-
8th M.G.Co. & 6th T.M.Bty.	RIENCOURT-les-BAPAUME	OVILLERS HUTS.	-do-	9.00 a.m.	-
Bde. Hdqrs.	CAMP	OVILLERS HUTS	-do-	9.20 a.m.	-
Transport (Brigaded)	CAMPS	NEW LINES	BAPAUME & OVILLERS-la-BOISELLE		Head of column to pass "X" Roads N.11.a.7.4. at 9.30 a.m. Cookers join Units at Mid-day halt.

APPENDIX

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER NO. 93
=====

27th July, 1917.

1. The 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade Group will entrain in accordance with attached timetable.
2. Units will move independently from present Camps to No.2 Station, AVELUY, arriving at destination personnel 1½ hours and transport 3 hours before time fixed for departure of train.
3. An Officer will precede each unit to the Station and report to the R.T.O. He will take a complete Marching Out State showing the number of Officers, Other Ranks, Horses, 4 and 2 wheeled vehicles and bicycles to be entrained.
4. No troops or transport will enter Station Yard until R.T.O. is ready to receive them. Unit Commanders will take steps to prevent congestion in yard.
5. Capt. LLOYD, M.C., 24th Bn. is detailed as Brigade Entraining Officer. Capt. RODDA, 22nd Bn. is detailed as Brigade Detraining Officer. The 24th Bn. will detail 2 Officers and 150 O.R's as loading party and will report to Bde. Entraining Officer at 4.27 a.m. on 28th inst. They will work 2 shifts one half being accommodated in Camp at present occupied by 22nd Bn. This party will proceed to destination by last troop train leaving AVELUY at 12.27 p.m. 29th inst. The 21st Bn. will detail 2 Officers & 100 O.R's from the Coy. proceeding with train leaving at 8.27 a.m. They will report to Bde. Detraining Officer for unloading duties at destination.
- 5.4 Units in which mange has lately occurred will take the following precautionary measures when contact animals are entrained.--
 - (1) The animals at present being treated as "In contacts" be kept together and animals free of disease should not be put in same trucks.
 - (2) On arrival at destination the trucks in which "In contact" animals have travelled should be marked for disinfection. and the R.T.O. concerned so advised.
6. Units will entrain with Mobile Echelon Ammunition full.
7. All water will be drawn in Water Carts and chlorinated. Horses are to be watered before entrainment.
8. No personnel or stores will be allowed in brake-vans at each end of the train. Breast ropes for Horse trucks will be provided regimentally. Ropes for lashing vehicles will be found by Railway Authorities.
9. O.C. each Train will detail piquet to prevent troops leaving the train without his permission.
10. SUPPLIES.- 27th instant 6th A.I.Bde., 6th & 7th Fld. Ambulance & 2nd Aust. Div. Salvage Coy. Supplies for consumption on 28th inst. will be drawn from Refilling Point by 1st line transport. Supplies for consumption on 29th inst. will be drawn from ALBERT Railhead by Train Supply Waggons which will return to Company lines except those for 6th A.I.Bde. Hdqrs., 6th Bde. Sig. Section, 6th A. M.G.Coy., 6th L.T.M.Bty., 21st & 22nd Bns., which will proceed loaded to Units lines.
28th instant. 6th A.I.Bde., 6th & 7th Field Ambulance, 2nd Aust. Pioneer Bn. and 2nd Aust. Div. Salvage Coy. less Bde. Hdqrs., Bde. Sig. Section, 6th A.L.T.M.Bty., 6th A.M.G.Coy., 21st and 22nd Bns. Supplies for consumption on 29th inst. will be delivered by Train Supply Waggons to Units.

P. T. O.

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(Para. 10 Contd.)

ALBERT

Supplies for consumption on 30th inst. will be drawn from Railhead by the 56th D.S.C. Lorries and refilled at present refilling points into Train Supply Waggon which will then report loaded to Units and entrain with them.

6th Aust. Inf. Bde. Hdqrs., Bde. Sig. Section, 6th A.M.G. Coy., 6th A.L.T.M. Bty., 21st and 22nd Bns.

Supplies for consumption on 30th inst. will be drawn from ALBERT Railhead by 56th D.S.C. Lorries which will then proceed to rendezvous; to be notified later, and dump.

29th July.- 6th Aust. Inf. Bde. Hdqrs., Bde. Sig. Section, 6th A.M.G. Coy., 6th A.L.T.M. Bty., 21st and 22nd Bns.

Train Supply Waggon will refill and deliver to units for consumption on the 30th.

Supplies for consumption on the 31st for the Brigade Group will be drawn from EBBLINGHEM Railhead by the 56th D.S.C. Lorries and will be dumped at same refilling point as on 28th instant.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

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6. 23rd "
7. 24th "
8. 6th M.G. Coy.
9. 6th L.T.M. Bty.
10. 6th Fld. Amb.
11. 7th Fld. Amb.
12. 2nd Pioneer Bn.
13. 16th A.A.S.C.
14. 2nd Aust. Divn. Salvage Coy.
15. R.T.O., AVELUY.
16. G.O.C.
17. Spare
18. "

(Signed) R. H. NORMAN, CAPTAIN
Staff Captain 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Capt. Rodda
" Lloyd

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TABLE OF ENTRAINMENT - 6th A. I. BDE. GROUP -
NO.2 STATION AVELUY - JULY 28th/29th 1917
 (ISSUED WITH BDE. ORDER NO.93)

No. of Train.-	Units.-	Date.-	Time for Transport to arrive at Station as above.-	Train Departs at.-	O.C. Train.-	Remarks.-
1	Bde. Hdqrs., Sig. Sect. 6th M.G.Co., 6th T.M. Bty. 1 Coy. 21st Bn. & Cooker.	28.7.17	5.27 a.m.	8.27 a.m.	Capt. HOGG 6th L.T.M. Bty.	Supply & Baggage Wagons accompany Units.
4	21st Bn. less 1 Coy. & Cooker.	28.7.17	9.27 a.m.	12.27 p.m.	Lt.-Col. DUGGAN.	-do-
7	22nd Bn. less 1 Coy. & Cooker.	28.7.17	1.27 p.m.	4.27 p.m.	Lt.-Col. WILTSHIRE	-do-
10	23rd Bn. less 1 Coy. & & Cooker.		5.27 p.m.	8.27 p.m.	Lt.-Col BRAZENOR	-do-
13	24th Bn. less 1 Coy. & Cooker.	28th/29th	9.27 p.m.	12.27 a.m.	Lt.-Col. JAMES.	-do-
16	Pioneer Bn. less 1 Coy., 1 Cooker, 4 G.S. Waggon	29.7.17	1.27 a.m.	4.27 a.m.	Lt.-Col. ANNARD.	-do-
19	7th F. Amb., 1 Coy. 22nd Bn. & Cooker, 16th A.A.S.C., 1 Coy. Pioneer Bn. & 4 G.S. Waggon	29.7.17	5.27 a.m.	8.27 a.m.	Lt.-Col. BLACK	-do-
22	1 Coy. 23rd Bn. & Cooker, 1 Coy. 24th Bn. & Cooker, 6th F. Amb. & Salvage Coy.	29.7.17	9.27 a.m.	12.27 p.m.	Lt.-Col. MOSELEY	-do-

APPENDIX