

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/6/24

Title: 6th Infantry Brigade

August 1917



AWM4-23/6/24

CONFIDENTIAL - ORIGINAL
6th AUS. INF. BDE. HQRS. WAR DIARY



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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 8 - Page 1.

Place	Date 1917.	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	AUG			
	1 st 4 th		wet day - little doing	WAB
	6 th		G.O.C. addressed all officers of the Bde. The latest German tactics + methods of meeting them + the importance of initiative on the part of junior commanders were the chief points dealt with. Definite establishment of intelligence personnel in a Bn laid down.	WAB I
	6 th		training carried on	
	16 th		Bde Major left on English leave - Major Donnelly D.S.O. carried out his duties	
	23 rd		The Bde with first line transport marched past General Birdwood as part of a Divisional march past.	WAB
	27 th		training carried on	
	29 th		Bde Major returned from leave	
			Commander in Chief inspected the Bde as part of a Divisional inspection and expressed himself as being very pleased with the clean tidy + workmanlike appearance of the men and with the arrangements made for the inspection. 24 th Bn marched past C in C.	WAB
			Major Donnelly left Bde HQS in attachment to 24 th Bn for regimental experience	
	30 th		Staff Captain left on short leave to Paris - Capt Heath carried out his duties in his absence - memo on rapid aimed fire by Brigadier sent to Bn Cds	II
General			A good deal of wet weather during the month, which hampered training. Training included night operations, 3 or 4 route marches weekly + 3 or 4 coy tactical exercises weekly. Marking + the attainment of proficiency in rapid aimed fire has given special attention, as was gas drill.	WAB
			<i>J. J. O'Connell</i> Cdg. 6 th A.I. Bde	

6th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

Brigade Headquarters
6th August, 1917.

C.O.,

1. In order to secure uniformity and efficiency the following establishment of Intelligence personnel will be maintained in each Battalion of this Brigade.

At Bn. Hdqrs. 1 Intelligence Officer
(Sniping and Scouting Officers if sufficient Officers are available and C.O. considers it advisable).

In each Coy. Twelve other ranks; selected for work as scouts observers and snipers.
(These are distinct from the Coy. Scouts for whose training the Coy. Commander is responsible.)

2. The training of the personnel given above is the responsibility of the Battalion Intelligence Officer. The men will be trained in all three subjects but the four in each Company best fitted for it will specialise in sniping - another four in scouting - the other four will receive special instruction as observers. It is recommended that these men live with their Companies and report each day to the Battalion I.O. for training.

3. When the Brigade is in the line Intelligence personnel will be withdrawn from Battalions to man those O.P's and Snipers positions in which the relief of the personnel on inter Battalion reliefs would lead to decreased efficiency.

These men will work under the Brigade I.O.

Similarly O.P's and Snipers positions which can more conveniently be kept under Battalion Hdqrs. control will be manned by further Intelligence personnel withdrawn from Companies working under the direct control of the Battalion I.O.

The remainder of the trained personnel, unless required for special patrols, will be left with and worked by their Company Commanders.

4. The training of the Intelligence personnel in each Battalion is to follow the lines of the courses given at the 2nd and 5th Army Scouts, Observers and Snipers School, and special attention is directed to S.S.135 Sections 18 and 19.

WMB
Major,
Brigade Major 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Copies to.-

21st Bn.
22nd "
23rd "
24th "

SIXTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
-----Brigade Headquarters,
30th Aug., 1917.

Lt. Col. B.O.C. DUGGAN, 21st Bn.
Lt. Col. A.R.L. WILTSHIRE, M.C., 22nd Bn.
Lt. Col. W. BRAZENOR, 23rd Bn.
Lt. Col. W.E. JAMES, 24th Bn.
Brigade Musketry Officer.

--- RAPID AIMED FIRE. ---

The memoranda recently circulated regarding the present method of holding the line by the enemy seem to indicate that our normal system of attack may require some revision or modification to suit the altered conditions.

At present there is little difficulty in effecting a lodgment in the enemy's first and second line systems, but the positions thus captured are usually subjected to an immediate counter-attack by well-placed troops, and it is therefore essential that our troops should be able to quickly develop rapid and sustained aimed rifle fire, and make the best use of the Lewis Guns.

Artillery and Machine Gun fire can only be relied on for assistance up to a certain point, and occasions must and do arise when victorious troops will have only their own fire to depend on for the repulse of counter-attacks. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that rapid aimed fire should be constantly practised and every endeavour made to improve the present standard.

I hold the view that in an offensive none but the most highly trained troops should be used, and no section of their training is more important than Musketry. When the moment comes to repel a counter-attack, or pursue with fire a beaten foe we should be so trained as to make the greatest use of our rifles. Much better to have at a critical point 100 men who can fire 15 rounds a minute than 200 who can only fire 7 rounds - they only offer half the surface ~~face~~ to the enemy's fire, eat half the rations and require half the cover.

Our methods of attack may vary from time to time as circumstances warrant; but the necessity always remains for developing to the fullest capacity rapid aimed fire in troops who are deputed to capture the enemy's defensive positions.

Not the least of the advantages of the tests, which it is desired shall be carried out forthwith, is the confidence which will accrue to all ranks by the knowledge of their improved capabilities in this branch of their training. Battalion, Company, Platoon and Section competitions might be held after reasonable notice and time given to practice.

Brigadier-General,
Commanding 6th Aust. Infantry Brigade.