

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/58/15

Title: 41st Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/58/15

MAP REF 36 N.W.
28 SW.

WAR DIARY

Page I



Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part H.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

41st BATTALION A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ERQUINGHEM	1-1-18		Strength 47 Officers 782 O.R. Battalion organized as working parties, engaged in repairing trenches & wiring in sector between Pear Tree farm & Burnt farm (I 166 4.6 + I 204 5.4.)	
	2-1-18		General. Ground frozen hard. Visibility bad. System of sugar tickets for men on leave to England introduced.	
"	3-1-18		Battalion embussed at H4C 1.2. at 10 30 am. & moved to Kemmel huts in Locre area. The battalion was relieved by a battalion of 170 th Brigade. 57 th British Division. Strength 47 Officers 781 O.R. (10 R. S.O.S.)	
KEMMEL HUTS	4-1-18		Battalion carrying out training in accordance with syllabus. Supplying a working party of 90 men daily to repair roads etc in rear of the trenches. Battalion was relieved of these duties on 21. 1. 18	
"	6-1-18		Strength 48 Officers 939 O.R. (2/Lt W.M. McLean from Hospital 158 O.R. Reinforcement) Lt Mc Wood appointed Asst. Adjutant vice Lt K.A. Murdoch evacuated.	
"	8-1-18		Strength 48 Officers 944 O.R. (5 O.R. T.O.S.) Honors & awards as	Alex R. Plater Lt Col CO 41 st B

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HOUPLINES

WAR DIARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

41st BN A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KEMMEL HUTS.	8-1-18		per appendix attached. The following changes took place:- Lt. AP H Adair 2/Lt E C Todd 2/Lt H A T Ingram 2/Lt O C H Fook. (since K.I.A.) transferred to 25 th Battalion A.I.F. Capt. G Thomas from 9 th T.B. 2/Lt L Cardew 2/Lt D Brown from seconded list resumed duty.	
"	12-1-18		Strength 52 Officers 1003 O.R. (Capt R O'Brien. Capt McIlroy Lt D Gates 2/Lt Williams resumed duty. 59 O.R. reinforcement) General. An allotment of Baths at LOCKE, enabled to whole battalion to have a hot bath, and change of underclothes.	
"	14-1-18		Strength 52 Officers 1024 O.R. (21 O.R. from reinforcement) Lt RB Uin 2/Lt L.S. Dummer placed on supernumerary list.	
"	15-1-18		Major E T Sheridan seconded for duty with 3 rd Div. Reinforcement Wing General. During the months December & January, the 11 th Brigade organized a series of schools for Officers & U.Cs. All Officers & U.Cs in the battalion attended at least one school, which usually lasted a month.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

41st Bw AIF.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KEMMEL HUTS.	17-1-18		Strength 52 Officers 1039 OR. (15 OR. TOS) The following officers placed on supernumerary list Capt. P. F. Calow Lt. D. McCulloch Lt. G. H. Butler 2/Lt Lt Rogers 2/Lt B. A. Gripps 2/Lt W. D. Clark.	
	23-1-18		Strength 52 Officers 1043 OR. (4 OR. TOS) All Company Commanders, C.O. Intelligence Officer & adjutant visited line we are taking over. Sector consists of a number of posts & strong points from White farm C 5 A 1090. to Lys farm C 15 d 20.80; a frontage of about 3000 yards. Normally the front is held by three companies in the front line & one in support, but owing to the LYS river being in flood & invading the front line; on the right sector posts are withdrawn, and the front held by two companies with two in support. Sector quiet, but observation from Freilunheim so good, that no movement is allowed in or behind the lines during the hours of daylight.	
	24-1-18		Officers & NCO's make reconnaissance of front line. Fire alarm sounded for practise - piquets fallen in	

MAP REF HOUPLINES

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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41st Bn AIF

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KEMMEL HUTS	24-1-18		in 25 seconds. At 10 p.m. Alarm was sounded & in spite of rain, the battalion "fell in" in fighting order quickly, without confusion; the transport also harnessed up & "stood by." General. Weather not so cold. Showery & mud very bad everywhere. From the medical standpoint the health of the troops during the month has been satisfactory.	
KORTEPYP.	27-1-18		Forward party consisting of I. O. Numbers 1 & 2 Lewis guns, scouts & observers went by Mechanical Transport. as far as CHAPELLE ROMPUS, after drawing gumboots for all at Brigade H. Q. Brune Cays (B10A67) and at dusk entered line. The battalion moved to camp at	
LETOUQUET.	28-1-18		Kortepyp T26 & 85. The A Echelon entrained south of Kortepyp at 3 p.m. & detrained at Delemelle Farm C id. 4015 and carried out relief with 17th Battalion AIF without casualty. Relief completed by 8.30 p.m.	
	29. 1. 18.		The sector was divided into two "C" Coy on the left from White farm C 5A 28 to C 10 & 89 & "A" Coy from there to Southern boundary.	

MAP REF HOURLINES

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

41st Bn A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE TOURQUET.	29-1-18.		"C" Coy sector consists of 9 posts known as, from North to South, C. 51. C 48. C 46. C 45. C 44. C 43. C 42. C 41. C 107. "A" Coy sector has posts VIEUX LANE C 103a. C 103. C 102. C 101. C 161. D Coy in support to "C" Coy & B Coy in support to A. Coy.	
	30-1-18.		Visibility good and artillery active, but mostly in back areas. Trenches in wet condition. Patrols in no mans land found ground very marshy, but no signs of Germans this side of River Lys.	
	31-1-18.		Ground mist - poor visibility, artillery consequently inactive. Under cover of mist a good deal of work such as drainage & revetting was done. Trenches especially Ceil Trench & our Northern portion of Long avenue very wet and muddy. General weather good except for mist & not too cold.	

[Handwritten signature]

Alex R. Heron
Lt Col
CO 41st Bn A.I.F.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.Authority - A.I.P. List 279 of 1/1/1918

The following is a list of honours and awards which His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to award to members of this Battalion.

MILITARY CROSS.

Chaplain Rev Alfred Avery Mills

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

2359 Private J.A. BRSEN

725 L/Cpl J. REILLY

275 T/Cpl W.B. FICKFOOD

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Lieut-Col A.R. HERON D.S.O.

Major T.A. FERGUSON

Lieutenant K.A. MURDOCH

Lieutenant E.D. PRICE, M.C.

C/Lieutenant R. BREWER

1835 Sgt (Act C.S.M.) GOODWIN, R.

2285 Private W. HOWELL.

R. P. ... Captain.
For C.O. 1st Battalion A.I.F.

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"A" HOSTILE.

I. OPERATIONS.
(1) Artillery.

Time.	Calibre.	Area Shelled.	Direction.	No. of rounds.
Very active during 8 a.m. and 12 noon and again between 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.				
9.30 a.m.	77 M.M.	Gummers Farm (C.R.d. 33) Motor Car Corner (G.14a 90.90)	FRELINGHEIN.	30 (approx)
10 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 12 noon.	108 M.M.	"	T.B. 87° from G.10.c.40.70 approx 103° T.B. from G.36.70.10.	60 (approx)
11 a.m.		G.P.C. 36.70.10.	FRELINGHEIN.	10 (approx)
12.5 p.m.		Gasometer Corner. G.7.b.8.1.	T.B. 40° from G.10.c.40.70.	30 (approx)
7 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	77 M.M.	Gasometer Corner. Motor Corner.	FRELINGHEIN.	60 (approx)
On all occasions no damage done as far as we ascertain.				

MACHINE GUNS.

Normal. - Appeared to be firing on back areas. Machine Gun at DYK WORKS (G.11.c.60.70.) active. Gun apparently in G.17.c. troublesome.

T. MORTAR.

At 4.30 a.m. N.T.M. firing from FRELINGHEIN dropped 3 shells on Railway Line G.10.a.30.45.

PATROLS.

All.

SNIPERS.

All.

DEFENCES. Work is being done at G.6.b.95.15.

MOVEMENTS. At 4.30 a.m. two men were seen at dugout G.17.a.35.50. Small party of enemy carrying what seemed to be timber along trenches from G.6.b.50.30 to G.6.b.95.15 seen at 9.30 p.m.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Below normal. At 1.15 enemy planes crossed our lines and was driven back by our planes & M.G.'s.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Enemy balloons at 10.15 a.m. went up at A.T.B. of 77° from G.10.c.40.70.

29.1.1918.

Sgt F.W. McGIBBON. Lieut.
I.O. 41st Battalion.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR 24 HOURS ENDED 6 a.m. 29.1.1918.
41st Battalion.

1. OPERATIONS.

(1) Artillery. Anything of interest seen, as a result of our shelling.

Time: 6
Between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Our artillery engaged in G.B. work on Hostile 77 M.E. & 105 M.E. batteries shelling vicinity of GUNNERS FARM (C.18.1.3.3) & MOTOR CAR Corner (C.18.A.90.10) from direction of FREILINGHEIM & FME DELA VACHERIE (C.18a 60.60) Batteries silenced.
FRENCH MORTARS.
Our 6" NEWTON fired 4 rounds registration into SOAP HOUSE (C.18.1.70.10) at 3 p.m.
MACHINE GUNS.
Fired on Low Flying Aeroplanes at 1.15 p.m.

PATROLS. On account of flooded ground, no patrols left our lines.

SNIPERS. Nil.

AERIAL ACTIVITY.

At 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 p.m. & 3 p.m. Our planes crossed enemy lines and were engaged by A.A. & M.G. At 1.15 p.m. in conjunction with our M.Gs drove enemy planes back.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR 24 HOURS From 6a.m. 30.1.1918 to 6 a.m. 30.1.1918
"AERIAL"

OUR OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Fairly active. Appeared to be carrying out shoots with Planes. At 10.15 a.m. & noon our batteries silenced enemy batteries firing from behind C.18 a. centre.

M.G.'s. Active, firing between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. & 4 a.m. & 6 a.m. on targets apparently in FRELINGHEIN. Shots observed to strike Southern portion of FRELINGHEIN.

T.M. Nil.

Snipers. Nil.

AEROPLANES. Very Active. Over enemy lines all day apparently working for Artillery. Heavily engaged by M.G. & A.A. fire.

PATROLS. Report attached. Patrol reports M.G.'s at Brewery (C.17.a.2070)

SOAP HOUSE (C.5.c.70.30) very active. Very Lights fired from BREWERY. Water is lying in vicinity of POND HOUSE. (C.10.b.9005) down to River. T.M. active at LAUNDRY (C.5.c.7.6.) dropping shells in C.4.D.

ENEMY OPERATIONS.

ARTILLERY. Between 9.30 & 10 a.m. 77 M.M. Battery firing from behind TWIN FARM C.19.a.74. Dropped 30 rounds into MOTOR CAR CORNER (C.14.a.9090.)

At 10.30 105 M.M. firing from FRELINGHEIN put about 25 shells around GUNNERS FARM. Silenced by C.B. work.

At 10.15 105 M.M. Battery firing from behind C.18 a. centre dropped about 30 rounds about support line in C.9.d. Damage slight. silenced by our artillery.

At 4 p.m. a 77 M.M. fired about 10 rounds into front line in C.10.d. Shells coming from behind C.18 a. centre.

At 11 a.m. Motor Corner and DESPIERRE FARM (C.3.c.77) was shelled by 9 rounds of 77 M.M. firing from behind FRELINGHEIN.

At 12.30 p.m. 77 M.M. Battery fired 5 rounds into C.5.a. on W. side of river from direction of TWIN FARM. (C.13.a.74.) 5 rounds of 15 Cm fell near Gunners Farm at 3.30 p.m. from direction of FRELINGHEIN.

Between 3 p.m. & 3.30 p.m. 105 M.M. dropped 15 rounds in vicinity of DESPIERRE FARM (C.3.c.7.7.) Very little damage done from all these shoots.

It was noticeable that there was practically no shelling on GASOMETER & MOTOR CAR CORNERS between 6 & 8 p.m.

M.G.'s. At 11.5 p.m. M.G.'s observed very active behind Screened farm firing on our planes.

M.G.'s at SOAP HOUSE and BREWERY very active during the night.

T.M.'s. Activity below normal. About 8.30 p.m. L.T.M. fired 6 rounds in vicinity of KIWI Street C.4.B & d. No casualties - trench damaged slightly. T.M. apparently fired from Laundry (C.5.b.7.7.)

AEROPLANES. Very Active. At 11.15 a.m., 12.30 a.m., 2 p.m., ~~4.30 p.m.~~ 4.30 p.m. enemy planes were seen to cross our lines, evidently engaged in Photography or Artillery observation.

MOVEMENT. At 11.30 a.m. 2 men were seen leaving DURIEZ FARM C.5.D.3.9 and disappear in wood behind.

MISCELLANEOUS. Two enemy Balloons observed up behind TWIN FARM & CESSPIT FARM (C.6.a.95.55.) from C.3.d.6090)

Sgd F.W. MACGIBBON. Lieut.
L.O. 41st Battalion.

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Battalion, 41st.

Patrol Left.

Point. C.10.D.1590.

Time. 6.30 p.m.

Patrol returned.

Point. - C.10.b.80.85.

6.50 p.m.

Locality traversed.

To Red Tile House (c.10.b.80.40.) then to ESTAMINET House (c.10.b.90.30)
From there to C.10.b.80.10 on to POND HOUSE (C.10.b.90.05.) & back to
C.10.D.1590.

Object of Patrol.

1. Reconnaissance.

2. Find out whether CROWN PRINCE HOUSE, ESTAMINET HOUSE & POND HOUSE could
be reconquered.

Patrol's report in detail.

At 7.30 p.m. and every about every 20 minutes M.G. at apparently the BREWERY
(C.17a.80.70) fired bursts. On four occasions white very lights were sent
up from the same spot. The patrol found dugout accommodation & post at
Estaminet house habitable but ~~gates~~ two feet of water in POND HOUSE, and
other dugouts in vicinity. The ground is a sheet of water from about
C.b.70.40. to the River. There is water towards Crown Prince Farm but time
was not sufficient to visit it. 8 p.m. till 8.30 pm bursts of Machine Gun
fire from our gun on right of Battalion Sector could be heard striking
brick and iron in the Southern Portion of FRELINGHUIS. At 8.20 p.m. about
6 T.M. Shells fired from apparently LAUNDRY C.5.c.7.0. fell in C.4.d. A
machine gun at SOAP HOUSE C.5.c.70.20 gave the patrol trouble by inflade
fire.

Sgd. F.W. MacGIBBON.
I.D. 41st Battalion.

PATROL REPORT. 31.1.1918.

Battalion, 41st.

Patrol Left.

Point. C.10.d.30.70.

Time. 7.30 p.m.

Patrol returned.

Point. C.10.b.33.

9.45 p.m.

Locality traversed.

Patrolled eastern portion of C.10.b. square.

Object of patrol.

Ascertain condition of the farms as outpost.

About 8 p.m. a large enemy working party was heard opposite POND HOUSE
repairing trench. (C.11.a.6.3) Still working when patrol left at 9.30.

Information received too late to get artillery action. Action taken so it
will not occur again.

Two enemy Machine Guns firing constantly C.11.a.6.3. close to the canal.

One firing into C.Prince Farm (C.10.b.85) the other North of Pond House.

(C.10.b.90.05) Patrol fired on from this emplacement for 5 minutes.

Farm can be entered from Northern side only.

Three rows wire between C.10.b.80.05 & C.Prince Farm easily got through.

Locality of U.P. Farm ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ very wetery.

Sgd GEB J.A. HUGHES. 41st Battn.

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PATROL REPORT.
31.1.1918.

Battalion.

41st.

Patrol left.

Point.- G.4.b.6088

Time.- 7 p.m.

Patrol returned.

Point.- G.5.a.6.1.

Time.- 10 p.m.

Locality traversed.

Country between W of River in G.S.a. and northern part of G.S.G.W. of river.

Object of patrol.

- 1. Reconnaissance.
- 2. Examine bridges.
- 3. Examine Brickfields.

Patrol's report in detail.

At 7.15 p.m. met patrol of 44th Battalion 1 Off and 20 men at G.4.b.6088

At 7.45 p.m. challenged by post at WHITE HOUSE. 8 p.m. Coughing and sound of what seemed like shovels heard from UNKNOWN FARM. (U.S.G.43.15)

Ground about WHITE HOUSE and down to BRICKFIELDS (G.4.b.7.1.) dry and

Good travelling. At BRICKFIELDS ground slightly boggy near River and

practically impassable towards our posts in 4 b. centre which also has

plenty of wire. Examined on bridge believe it to be G.S.a.154. It appeared

practicable to cross by single file with care. It had transoms for

girders and cross pieces of about 6" by 4". There was an old tree lying

across the centre. Was driven off by one of our own Machine Guns firing from

somewhere north of reserve farm. This gun kept sweeping and had its course

of fire in BRICKFIELDS on W side of River.

At 9.40 sounds of hammering on wood heard from DURIE FARM (G.S.G.3.6.)

and LAUNDRY (G.S.G.76). Enemy machine guns on our left sector quieter

than usual. Those active were from Soap House & Laundry G.S.G.7.3. At 10pm

our artillery dropped barrage on right sector. No signs of enemy seen on our

side of river.

Sgd. F.W. MACGIBBON. Lieut.
I.O. 41st Battalion

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOR 24 HOURS ENDED 6 a.m. 31st January 1918.
"AERIAL" Battalion.

OPERATIONS.ARTILLERY.

At 11 a.m. our 18pdrs silenced enemy 105 M.M. Battery East of FREILINGHEIN.

6.30 p.m. our battery fired about 10 rounds into T.M. at C.5.c.67. T.M. did not fire during night.

At 10.30 a.m. HONS from C.3.a. were observed shooting East of PONT ROUGE (V.29.b. centre) Result not observed.

At 3.30 18 pdrs observed shelling TWIN FARM C.12.60.40 with shrapnel. These burst within effective range of the Buildings.

11. MACHINE GUNS.

Firing on set tasks throughout the night. No results observed except one gun firing short into the BRICKFIELDS (C.4.b.79)

111. PATROLS.

Two patrols operated on our front and brought in following information. 8 p.m. sound of work with shovels at UNKNOWN FARM V.29.d.42.15 Ground south of WHITE FARM (C.5.a.28) to BRICKFIELDS dry. River at about normal level. BRICKFIELDS impassable near our posts. Bridge at X.5.a.28.28 is passable. Hammering on wood heard from DURIEZ FARM C.5.d.40 & Laundry (C.5.c.76) at 6.40 p.m. M.G's at Laundry and Soap House active. Large working party heard at C.11.a.6.3.

IV. AIRCRAFT.

Active throughout the day. - Visibility poor on account of ground mist.

V.

HOSTILE SHELLING.

9.30 a.m. 105 M.M. Battery fired about 25 rounds into Le BIZET from direction FREILINGHEIN.

9.35 a.m. 77 M.M. battery fired 5 rounds from TWIN FARM (C.12.a.6040) into 21 trees (C.4.b.25.30)

10 a.m. & 10.35 a.m. a 105 M.M. battery fired 13 rounds from direction of FREILINGHEIN into 3.c.a. & C.3.a.

10.15 a.m. 180 p.m. battery dropped 5 shells into WARRINGTON Sector from direction of GWYLOH FARM (C.6.c.9.1.)

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. 31 shells from 105 M.M. battery firing from TWIN FARM fell in C.3.a.

1.30 p.m. 105 M.M. battery dropped 30 rounds into C.14.a. & b. from direction of FREILINGHEIN.

2 p.m. 105 M.M. Battery behind TWIN FARM fired 7 rounds into GUNNERS FARM & C.5.a. 25852

In all cases where observed no damage was done.

V.1.

ENEMY DEFENCES. M.G.'s.

Not so active as usual. Firing from DURIEZ FARM, LAUNDRY, SOAP HOUSE and ARCHES.

T.M.'s.

About 5 p.m. T.M.'s at C.5.b.43 and C.5.d.3.9. fired at WHITE HOUSE about 30 rounds. no damage done.

PATROLS.

No sign of enemy patrols.

V.11. AIRCRAFT.

Faintly active. Crossed our line at 9 a.m. (1) 9.30 a.m. (2) 12 noon (1) 4.35 p.m. (3) The T.M. Shoot at WHITE FARM was evidently the result of their observation.

6. MOVEMENT IN ENEMY LINES.

8.45 a.m. sounds of timber work in vicinity of GWYLOH FARM C.6.c.9.1 heard.

At 9.40 a.m. work heard at DURIEZ FARM C.5.d.40.30 LAUNDRY.

Alex R Heron
Lt Col
Col 41st Bn A.I.F

APPENDIX.

(3).

ENEMY INTENTION.

The BOSCH must have known from signs that a relief took place on night of 28/29th as last night and night before GASOMETER and MOTOR CORNERS were not shelled.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Enemy balloons up at T.B. bearing of 450 & 570 from C:10.e.40 75.

Sgd. F.W. MACGIBBON, Lieut.

I.O. AERIAL, Battalion.

31.1.1918.