

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/49/19

Title: 32nd Infantry Battalion

February 1917



AWM4-23/49/19

32nd Battalion,
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTAUBAN	1917 Feb. 1		Strength - 32 Off., 644 OR. Battalion engaged on Corps and Div. fatigues.	2 OR. from Hospital.
do.	2		do. Lewis gun course (Regimental) for Officers	Capt. VIVIER to Second list 3 OR. from Hosp. 2 " " "
do.	3		do. do.	2 OR. from Hosp.
do.	4		do. do.	3 OR. from Hosp. 3 " " "
do.	5		do. do.	8 OR. in OR M. B. Coy.
do.	6		do. do. Lewis Gun course completed. Practically all officers now have a good working acquaintance with the L. G.	
do.	7	12 (noon) 1.30 pm.	Left ADELAIDE CAMP at 12 (noon). Arrived FRICOURT CAMP.	2 OR. from Hospital.
FRICOURT	8		Company training. Close order and extended order drill. B Coy and C Coy instructed in use of Lewis gun.	55 OR. Reinforcements.
do.	9		Co. training continued. Artillery formations and extended order. Inspection of gas helmets. A and D Coes instructed in use of L. Gun.	Lieut. ROGERS from Supply list. 10 OR. Reinft. 2 " from Hosp.
do.	10		Co. training continued. Extended formations, route marches, forming up for attack. Bathing parade for 2 Coes etc.	Lieut. RUST C.O.F. and 27 OR. Reinforcements

R. J. B. [Signature]
Lieut. Col.
Comd. 32nd Bn. A.I.F.

32nd Bn AIF.

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FRIGOURT	1916 Feb. 11	1917	Strength - 34 off, 762 OR.	Training continued. Bayonet fighting, artillery formations, extended other work, route march.	24th GALLOWAY +28 OR. Relief. 10R. to Stop
"	" 12		do. 34 off, 762 OR.	Training continued on above lines. Gas helmets of reinforcements and others tested.	
TRONES WOOD	" 13	11:30 am. 4 pm	do. 35 off, 730 OR.	Physical drill and bayonet fighting. Left FRIGOURT at 12 (noon), arriving at TRONES WOOD ("B" Camp) at 4 pm. Feet washed and powdered at Pioneer baths en route, as arrangements could not be made for next day. Consider that feet should be treated as late as possible before going into the lines. Footbaths with	24th HARRY from OR. 3 OR. from Stop 34 OR. to Stop.
SUBSIDIARY LINE (Left Section).	" 14	4:30 pm.	do. 36 off, 729 OR.	Moved from TRONES WOOD at 4:30 pm, relieving 60th Bn in SWITCH and NEEDLE trenches. Relief completed by 6:30 pm. "A" & "C" Coies in NEEDLE and "B" and "D" Coies in SWITCH.	24th ALEXANDER and TREASURE CAP HUNN. to Decided last. 10R. from Stop
FRONT LINE SYSTEM.	" 15	5:45 pm	do. 36 off, 729 OR.	Relieved 57th Bn in front line system; "A" & "C" Coies in ZENITH and MOONSOON trenches with 9 L. Guns; "D" Co in MILLER'S SON, "E" Co in ROSE TRENCH. During progress of relief enemy bombarded "E" VALLEY, using tear and gas shells, interspersed with shrapnel. Gas helmets promptly put on, but 1 off. and 14 OR. were "gassed" (some very slightly), while 4 OR. were killed and 9 OR. were wounded by shrapnel. Officers acted very promptly; otherwise there would probably have been many casualties as the shelling was heavy. Fortunately some Coies had exercised their men in adjusting gas helmets just before leaving TRONES WOOD. R. H. Bradbury W. C.	

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FRONT LINE SYSTEM.	1916 February	1917 11.15 pm.	Strength - 37 off., 733 OR. Both our & enemy artillery normal. One plane very active - likewise enemy. Saps commenced by 57th Bn from salient in MOONSOON trench (IRVINE trench) from N 22 C 45.50 to N 22 C 10.75 completed and occupied by C & G at 11.15 pm., 2 bombing posts having previously been established at N 22 C 20.85 and N 22 C 15.80, and a L. Gun placed at N 22 C 08.70 at 9.30 pm. Our patrols active - no enemy patrols or working parties encountered.	40 R. killed 9 " wounded. 4th GRANT & 170 R. Relief.
do.	17		do. - 37 off., 733 OR. Show commenced this morning and became more pronounced at night, trenches and some dug-outs being flooded. Our artillery normal - practically no enemy firing. Our patrols active. Enemy mine at N 22 C 30.88, badly damaged. To the right, up to N 22 D 50.40 has gaps in places; other - mine partly strong. Weather misty slight rain. "A" & "C" Co's relieved by "B" & "D" Co's, respectively, without loss.	
do.	18		do. 37 off., 737 OR. (737). Our and enemy arty, normal. Patrols active. Our M.G. & L. Guns fired on working parties, dispersing some and accounting for at least two. Work of improving trenches, including newly acquired line, commenced on 15-2-17 continued, - including saps to front continued.	40 R. from strip.
do.	19		do. 37 off., 735 OR. Artillery of both sides normal. Sniping active. Relieved in front line systems by 31st Bn. Relief completed by 2 a.m. Work over subsidiary line from 31st Bn.	10 R. wounded 1 " in strip.
do.	20		do. 37 off., 735 OR. Artillery normal. Sniping still active. Supplied fatigues and cleaned up SWITCH and NEEDLE trenches. Relieved by 30th Bn - relief complete by 6 pm. Arrived TRONES WOOD (B Camp) 7-30 pm. R. W. Burnham Lt Col.	10 R. wounded 1 " fatigues.

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1917 TRONES WOOD (B Camp)	Feb 21		Strength - 37 off, 739 OR	Supplied Bde fatigues.	4 OR from stop.
do	" 22		do. 37 off, 738 OR	Members of Bde bathed at BERNAFAY Baths. Left on special leave for Edinburgh at 11.30 am.	1 OR wounded
do	Feb 23		Strength 37 off 750 OR	Supplied Bde fatigues	From Hosp - 11 OR - Rmpts 2 OR Death (gas shell) 1 OR
do	Feb 24	2p.m. 3p.m.	do 37 off 753 OR	do. Left B Camp TRONES WOOD at 2pm arrived at ADELAIDE CAMP - MONTAUBAN 3p.m.	From Hosp 3 OR
do	Feb 25		do 37 off 755 OR	Re-organising companies	do 2 OR
do	26	10 am 11 am	do 39 off 755 OR	Left ADELAIDE CAMP at 10 am. arrived at B Camp TRONES WOOD at 11 am. - supplied Bde fatigues	From Hosp 1 OR Reinf 1 OR - 1/2 REASSIGNED
TRONES WOOD B Camp.	27		do 38 off 773 OR	Supplied Bde fatigues	Sgt AH GALLOWAY killed - gas shell From Hosp - 10 OR " Rmpts 7 OR From Hosp 47th Bn 1 OR
do	28		do 38 off 776 OR	Supplied Bde fatigues - Bn received foot bath.	From Hosp 3 OR

R. B. Stewart
Lieut Col

A. R. White
Major
A.I.F. 32nd Bn