

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/49/31

Title: 32nd Infantry Battalion

February 1918



AWM4-23/49/31

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

32ND BATTALION.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Harvey Lewis & Co.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Barwick

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 259

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front Line CAPAARD NEAR WARNEKON.	Feb.	1st.	Strength 50 opp 981 hrs. The Battalion relieved the 11 th Battalion A.I.F. on the front line on the night 31 st /1 st . Very quiet relief. Enemy is almost totally inactive and seemed to be wanting to fraternise but after being heavily fired at by our men discontinued. Our artillery and mortars quiet.	4 hrs to T.B.
	"	2 nd .	" 50 opp. 981 hrs. 2 Prisoners belonging to the 163 rd Reg. 17 th Reserve Div walked into our lines at 7am. This was the first identification of this Div opposite. Extremely quiet. Lt Col. Treasuer rejoined Batt from Training Battalion.	
	"	3 rd .	" 50 opp. 978 hrs. Enemy very active with heavy mortar work at 1-30 AM. on our right Coy sector. Day very quiet. The health and spirits are excellent and food good. Cap R.H. Robinson to second list (Staff Trainee British formation) Lieut C.D. Rust. to second list (sick)	3 hrs Casualties
	"	4 th .	" 50 opp. 979 hrs. Very quiet day. The Battalion carried out an inter Coy relief A Coy relieved D (left Coy sector front line) B Coy relieved D (right Coy sector front line). Relief commenced 6-30pm. Complete 9pm. Very quiet and orderly relief no casualties.	10 hrs from 43 rd Bde

1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE GAPHAARD NEAR WARNEKON	Feb	5 th	Strength 50 opp 979 ops. The whole sector very quiet again today. About a dozen munitions fired on the right Coy sector but no material damage	
"	"	6 th	Strength 50 opp 960 ops. Very quiet. The sector since taking over has been exceptionally quiet, especially munitions ^{ARTILLERY} fire. Heavy munitions fire on to right Coy sector	1% Casualty 18% to hospital
"	"	7 th	Strength 50 opp 955 ops. There was slight artillery activity today. The weather has been exceptionally good during this tour in the line. All ranks working at improvements on the Battalion sector but on account of shortage of manpower (approximately 400 for 1200 yards frontage) it is not possible to do all required.	10% to O.T.C. 10% to 16 th Bde 5 casualties.
"	"	8 th	Strength 49 opp 954 ops. The sector is still very quiet. An inter-Coy relief carried out without casualties. of A.W. Fraser transferred to 5 th Pioneer Batt.	10% to 5 th Pioneer
"	"	9 th	Strength 49 opp 956 ops. Our artillery cutting wire opposite Right Coy sector in conjunction with operations to be carried out by Division on the right at a future date. Enemy still inactive except for munitions fire at times.	10% from T.B. 10% from reinforcements Good many

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

MJ 20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 259

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.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE GAPPAARD NEAR WARNEKON	Feb.	10 th	Strength 49 off 953 ops. Our Artillery repeated the wire cutting as for yesterday. At 10 p.m. 3 rd Div on the right raised warning. Right Coy sent out fighting patrol to investigate result of wire cutting and result of trench mortar activity but nothing seen of enemy. Enemy retaliated heavily with artillery and trench mortars on our sector.	2 ops Casualties 1 op to hospital
"	"	11 th	Strength 48 off 967 ops. The enemy has increased his rifle fire on tracks behind our lines to a great extent and is causing a great deal of inconvenience to carrying patties. Our T.M. working with Ball observers picking up enemy positions and strafing. Capt C.L. Halkyard returned to Australia termination appointed.	4 ops Casualties 15 ops from hospital 1 op from T.B. 2 ops Reinforcements (good men)
"	"	12 th	Strength 49 off 967 ops. The enemy T.M. activity has become rather troublesome to front line Coys necessitating calls from our Artillery to silence them. Inter Coy relief carried out without casualties. Lt Col C.W. Treasney from Training Battalion.	[Signature]

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A800) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Form C. 2118/14

WAR DIARY

259
Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE GAPPAARD NEAR WARNEKON	Feb	13 th	Strength 47 off 964 ^{hrs} Very quiet. The weather has become bad and drizzly rain has been falling all day. Bad observation. Capt R. H. Robinson to second list (Staff Reserve British formation). Lt Col. Rust to second list sick.	3 ^{hrs} Casualties
	"	14 th	Strength 48 off 963 ^{hrs} At 4:30 am our patrols reported considerable movement in enemy lines. As a raid was expected all ranks "stood to" but nothing eventuated. Enemy MG fire has materially increased, sweeping overland tracks incessantly. Lt J. M. Nelson from second list T.B.	10 ^{hrs} from hospital 11 ^{hrs} to hospital
	"	15 th	Strength 48 off 963 ^{hrs} Everything quiet on both sides.	
	"	16 th	Strength 48 off 963 ^{hrs} Inter Coy relief carried out. Very quiet no casualties.	
	"	17 th	Strength 48 off 963 ^{hrs} The enemy MG fire has quietened to practically nil. Our 6" Newton Mortars have done exceptionally good work in quietening his "Mumps".	
	"	18 th	Strength 48 off 963 ^{hrs} Everything again quiet. Men are in good spirits and health but on account of long spell in the lines they are becoming stale.	

[Handwritten signature]

259 ✓

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE GARDIARD NEAR WARNEKON.	Feb.	19 th	Strength 47 off. 958 ⁹ rs. <i>Munmerufes</i> activity has increased on the sector again. Wire was cut opposite our Right Coy sector by our artillery during the day. In conjunction with a raid by our left Brigade defighting patrol attempted to raid opposite KIWIFARM to obtain identification but the wire was not sufficiently cut. and no progress could be made. Lt Griffen wounded. An inter Coy relief carried out quietly.	5 ⁹ rs Casualties
"	"	20 th	47 off. 953 ⁹ rs. A quiet day on both sides. Our artillery fires more than the enemy.	5 ⁹ rs Casualties
"	"	21 st	47 off. 946 ⁹ rs. Enemy slightly active on our Reserve Coy positions. The Battalion was relieved by the 58 th Battalion at 6 pm. Relief complete by 9.30 p.m. On account of bright moonlight relief rather difficult but no casualties. Marched back to Reserve Brigade Area in W. D. Longhem Camp. Men in splendid spirits after a tour of 21 days on the front lines.	1 of to O.T.C. 6 ⁹ rs to hospital

Handwritten signature or initials in the bottom right corner.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. ²⁵⁹

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

ORIGINAL CONFIDENTIAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reserve BRIGADE Area Wulverghem NEAR Messines	Feb. 22 nd	Strength 47 off 947 ^{hrs}	The Battalion rested during the day. Men cleaning clothing, equipment etc. Checking stores etc. A nucleus garrison remained in the Div Reserve Lines.	2% from hospital 1% Casualties.
	23 rd	Strength 47 off 962 ^{hrs}	All available men sent on working parties in the forward area. 50% Lewis gunners & Sigs training	17% from hospital 1% - Sub List 1% to Australia 1 - Casualties 1 - 5 th Div W.N.C.
	24 th	Strength 47 off 962 ^{hrs}	Do - Do - Do. 33% Officers & NCOs reconnoitered positions which Reserve Brigade moves to in an emergency	
	25 th	Strength 47 off 964 ^{hrs}	Do - Do - Do. Proportion of men bathed and issued with clean underclothing	2% from hospital
	26 th	Strength 47 off 953 ^{hrs}	Do - Do - Do.	11% to hospital
	27 th	Strength 47 off 955 ^{hrs}	Do - Do - Do. Practice in morning to Reserve Positions in case of attack	2% from hospital
	28 th	Strength off 9% ^{hrs}	Do - Do - Do. About 1/2 the men are out at night on working parties reaching Camp about 1 am brights	

Paul S. Col
CO. 32nd Battalion

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms C2118/14

18,000-12/17-8723

WAR DIARY

OF

32nd. Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

February 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

Relief of 32nd. Battalion by 58th. Battalion on night of 21/22nd. February 1918.

259

259

SECRET.

Copy No. 1

32nd. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.

ORDER No. 9.

Ref. Map Sheet 28 S.W. 1/20,000.

20/2/1918.

1. The 15th. Infantry Brigade will relieve the 8th. Infantry Brigade during the night 21st/22nd. February 1918.

The 8th. Infantry Brigade on relief will become Divisional Reserve.

The 58th. Battalion will relieve the 32nd. Battalion on the right centre sector of the Brigade front.

2. On completion of relief the 32nd. Battalion will move to WULVERGHEM Camp with Battalion Headquarters at T 5 a 1 5.

3. ADVANCE PARTIES. Advance Parties consisting of 1 Officer and 4 N.C.Os. per Coy. from 58th. Battalion will move into position tonight.

4. GUIDES. All Coys. will supply guides consisting of 1 N.C.O. per Coy. Platoon who will report to Lieut. BRADY at Drying Shed before 7 a.m. 21st.

5. ROUTES OF RELIEVING COYS
 Right Front Coy. via HUNNS WALK.
 Left " " " " TRAMLINE to R.A.P. thence
 overland track .

Support Coy. via PANNY C.T.

No movement will take place forward of MESSINES RIDGE before 5.30 p.m. with the exception of the Reserve Coy. who will be relieved during the afternoon.

6. NUCLEUS GARRISON. O.C. Reserve Coy. will arrange to relieve the Nucleus Garrison of the 58th. Battalion in MESSINES with the same strength.

7. COVERING PARTIES. Front line Coys. will supply covering parties during the relief.

8. STORES ETC. All Trench Stores, Maps, Log Books etc. will be handed over and receipts obtained.

Coys will hand over 80 Lewis Gun Magazines with Carriers complete per Company with the exception of "D" Company who will hand over 48.

A similar number per Company ~~per Company~~ have been taken over from the 58th. Battalion.

Receipts to be obtained and forwarded to Battalion Headquarters by 12 noon 22/2/18.

Tommy Cookers and Primus Stoves will be taken out by Coys. and handed in to R.Q.M. by 12 noon 22nd. Instant.

9. Limbers will be at Drying Shed to transport all Lewis Guns and Carriers to WULVERGHEM Camp.

10. OUTGOING ROUTES. "B" Coy. via HUNNS Walk.
 "A" Coy. Overland track to Battalion Headquarters. thence
 TRAMLINE.
 "C" Coy. PANNY C.T. and TRAMLINE.

11. COMPLETION OF RELIEF. Completion of Relief will be wired to Battalion Headquarters in Code.

A. Brady Lieutenant.
 A/ADJUTANT 32ND. BATTALION .I.P. PFD



- Copy No. 1. C.C.
- 2. "A" Coy.
- 3. "B" "
- 4. "C" "
- 5. "D" "
- 6. File.
- 7. War Diary.
- 8. Brigade H.Q.

32ND
AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTN.
No. *Civ/3B*
Date

