

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/39/21

**Title:** 22nd Infantry Battalion

May 1917



AWM4-23/39/21

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

263

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.)

6th Inf Bde AG

22nd Battalion

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAVREUIL	1/5/17		<p>Fighting strength 33 Officers 842 Other Ranks.                      Battalion in camp H10.C5.4. in Divisional Reserve.                      Note. Close order drill. Organization of attacking sections and waves.                      Battalion moved forward to the assault of the HINDENBERG LINE in accordance with attached orders in strength 21 Officers 618 other ranks, the remainder of the Battalion proceeding to the Divisional Details Camp. The R.I.M. and party went ahead early in the afternoon and arranged the distribution of bombs so that the loading of the carriers would be facilitated. Patrols also went in advance and made good No Mans Land at dusk taking their place in the assaulting waves as they advanced next morning. Markers for J.O. tape under 2nd Lieut J.M. HAMILTON reported to Brigade HQ.</p>	<p>57C N.W                      20.000                      ECOUST Ed. 3                      10.000</p>
G9a93.	2/5/17	7pm	<p>MAJOR A.R.L. WILTSHIRE. MC with runners reported to 185th Brit. Brigade on liaison. Battalion marched via VAUX (SUGAR REFINERY), and loaded with bombs and other material at about G9a93 (SUNKEN ROAD). At 1.30am the battalion advanced in waves in file to RAILWAY EMBANKMENT. At 3am the waves commenced to leave there and march on to their markers in No Mans Land on the J.O.T. At 3.25am the Battalion was in position ready to jump off, the men lying down. Evidently the movement was unobserved by the enemy but several chance shells caused a few casualties before the attack commenced.</p>	
U22d6.0 U23c2.0	3/5/17	3am 3.45am	<p>ZERO. Under cover of the barrage the attack commenced - the 24th Batty cooperating on the right and the 185th Brigade (British) at an interval on the left. The enemy barrage opened at 3.49am and a concentration of their shelling in that spot and very heavy machine gun fire kept the extreme left flank from reaching its objectives. After establishing posts and receiving severe casualties they were compelled to retire about 4.30pm.                      Capt J. H. SLATER and Lieut. S. SCAMMELL were killed hereabouts.</p>	

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22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

6<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
UZZd 6.0 U23c 2.0	3/5/17	4.1 am	First trench (O.G. 1) carried by remainder by 1 <sup>st</sup> wave. The wire was found to be well destroyed. Considerable opposition was encountered, and enemy bombing attacks at once developed from the left flank where no support was forthcoming from the Buckoh.	ECUUST ED. 3. 1/10000
		4.18 am	Support trench (O.G. 2) carried by 2 <sup>nd</sup> + 3 <sup>rd</sup> waves. The enemy was observed retiring via SUNKEN ROAD through U23c and took up a defensive position there. 18 prisoners taken and passed to 24 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. Attempts to establish strong posts 150 yards in advance (towards U22 central) were not successful owing to severe m.g. fire from left flank which was in the air.	
		5.25 am	Small parties, in all about 20 strong, reached 2 <sup>nd</sup> Objective in conjunction with 24 <sup>th</sup> Batta and held on until forced to retire, by reason of the British failure on the left flank, after fighting for an hour.	
			The consolidation of O.G. 1 & 2 was meantime being carried on with and bombing parties organized working to the left flank and the bombing fight fluctuated for hours. Blocks and strong posts were established at U28 & 3.9 in O.G. 1, and at U22d 3.4 in O.G. 2. Endeavour was made to connect these points by a sap but the work was not completed.	
			Batta HQ remained at U28d 4.0 throughout. This whole railway embankment was subjected to very severe shelling from the direction of QUEANT. Communication with captured trenches was through the SUNKEN ROAD through U29 central.	
			L.T.M. operated from U28 central against left flank enemy attacks.	
	4/5/17	4am	Battalion relieved by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion and returned in support to RAILWAY EMBANKMENT	

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22nd Battalion

6th Inf. Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
U28d.40	5/5/17	4am	Battalion relieved Hamby 2nd Battalion and returned to SUNKEN ROAD between NOREUIL - LONGATTE.	ECOUST Ed 3 $\frac{1}{10000}$
	6/5/17		Carrying parties to front line	
H10c54	7/5/17	10pm	Battalion relieved by 1st Brigade and returned to bivouacs at H10c54 casualties: Killed 4 Off 52 O.R. Wounded 10 254. Missing 2 96 Died of Wounds 5 Wounded/Missing 15 <u>16 Off 42 2 O.R.</u>	57c N.W $\frac{1}{20000}$ ALBERT $\frac{1}{40000}$
			<u>OFFICERS Killed.</u> Capt. J. H. SLATER, Lieut. S. SCAMMELL, Lieut. W. S. FILMER, J. R. GRIFFIN <u>Missing</u> " E. G. HOGARTH, Lieut. H. P. FRASER. <u>Wounded</u> " L. ELMIGER, Lieut. W. SPILLER, E. GORMAN, W. Mc BRAITHWAITE Lieut. G. H. BARTON, Lieut. A. W. SMITH, E. P. ARCHER, S. J. WICKS J. R. BENNETT, " E. S. COURT	
LE SARS	8/5/17	9am	Battn. arrived in camp at LE SARS	
MAMETZ	9/5/17	10am	" marched via MARTINPUICH to F4d. to camp	
F4d	10/5/17 11/5/17 12/5/17		In Camp. Refitting, reorganizing, training specialists	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

22nd Battalion (Erase heading not required.)

J. H. A. J. Bde

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ F4d	13/5/17	11am	Church parade. Capt. W. A. CULL (Wounded missing) now reported prisoner in Germany.	ALBERT
	14/5/17		Specialist and general training. Lewis gunners and signallers made up to strength and NCO's class commenced	40000
	17/5/17			
BOUZAIN-COURT	17/5/17	9am	Battalion moved to BOUZAINCOURT via LA BOISELLE - AVELUY and went into billets	
	18/5/17		Lt Col. D. M. DAVIS on leave Major A. R. L. WILTSHIRE M.C. assumed temporary command Work cleaning billets and general training	
	19/5/17		Specialist training	
	20/5/17		Church parade. Capt. W. H. BURNING rejoined from hospital Lt. H. L. JACKSON from O.T.C.	
	21/5/17		Specialist training, musketry, close order drill.	
	22/5/17		Route march & gas demonstration at Dionel Gas School	
	25/5/17		Battalion sports in the afternoon.	
	26/5/17		Church parade	
	27/5/17		Training parades	
	28/5/17		Marched to MILLENCOURT and practised a bombing attack on a set of benches Lt. L. T. M. cooperated	
	29/5/17		Marched to HENENCOURT - Brigade sports	
	30/5/17		Training	
	31/5/17			

Adyels Lane Major  
CO. 22nd Battalion

22nd BATTALION,  
HEADQUARTERS.  
1st MAY, 1917.

REF. OP. MEMO No. 27/17 DATED 23/4/17.

The following amendments and additions are made to Operation Memo No. 27/17 dated 23/4/17:

The Battalion will attack in 4 waves with 25 yds between waves. This distance will be maintained during the advance. The Battalion will be in position ready to advance at 30 minutes before ZERO.

The following distinguishing colors will be worn:-

- 1st wave - Yellow.
- 2nd & 3rd - White.

The 1st wave will carry and clean up enemy Front Trench at plus 16 pushing two special parties to the left vide para 6. Sections and Platoons will be re-organised in the trench after mopping up is complete and be ready to move to any spot on receipt of Orders.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th waves will pass over the 1st Trench keeping distance between waves but taking advantage of shell-holes and other natural cover for shelter from enemy fire. The 2nd and 3rd waves will take enemy Support Trench at plus 33, "C" Coy establishing Strong Post near U.23.c.0.4.

The 4th wave will pass through enemy Support Trench occupied by 2nd and 3rd waves following the barrage and occupy the 2nd Objective between U.22.b.8.5 and U.23.a.4.1. at plus 1.40. Special attention will be paid by them to the Sunken Road on their left and the establishing communication with 186th Bde. The 3rd wave (after the Support Trench has been taken and after the other wave of the attack have passed through) will form a line of Strong Posts about 150 yds North of this Trench.

Dumps. Two dumps will be established in the 1st Trench and two in the 2nd. Surplus Ammunition and 4 Bombs per man from 1st, 2nd and 3rd waves also that brought forward by the carrying parties for these waves will be deposited here

Dugouts will only be attacked with "P" Bombs under an Officer's instruction, as it is not desired to destroy any that may be suitable for our occupation. The 1st wave will take charge of Prisoners sent back from positions further ahead and supply the necessary escort to Brigade Headquarters.

A Left and a Right marker from each wave of "A" and "D" Coys and a Right marker from each wave of "B" and "C" Coys will report to Adjutant when the Battalion halts North of VAULX on its way forward. All carrying parties will report to Adjutant at same time and place.

Material to be carried for by Coy carriers is as under:-

1st wave - A Coy 12 men	}	10	men	per	Coy	to	carry	mats.
B Coy 12 men								
2nd wave - D Coy 12 men	}	10	"	"	"	"	"	mats.
C Coy 12 men								
3rd wave - D Coy 12 men	}	6	"	"	"	"	"	"
C Coy 12 men								
4th wave - A Coy 12 men	}	12	"	"	"	"	"	L.G. Magazines.
B Coy 12 men								

All entrenching tool handles will be tightly tied with string to the scabbards before leaving Camp.

Rations will not be carried in Section bags, but cut up and each man's portion placed in his haversack before 4 p.m. Water bottles to be filled before same hour and men warned to keep their contents intact as supplies will be uncertain.

Direction. Special men to be picked and made responsible for direction. W.Gs., Signalling Stores and Traversing mats will be drawn from Limbers at Coy Dumps.

Copy No. 1 Filed.	No. 19	24th Btn.	I.P. STEWART. Capt. & Adjt.
2 A Coy.	20	6th T.M.B.	
3 B Coy.	21	Major Wiltshire M.C.	
4 C Coy.	22	6th Bde.	
5 D Coy.			
6 - 17 Platoon Commanders.			
18 186th Bde.			

## SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 2/6/17.

**SPECIALISTS TRAINING.** Specialists as below will be trained by their respective Specialists Officers:-  
 Lewis Gunners.  
 Signallers.  
 Bombers & Rifle Bombers.  
 Scouts & Observers.

**RIFLE RANGE MINIATURE.** One Platoon always on the Miniature Range in the mornings  
 Daily Target practice with Lewis Guns  
 " Firing Lewis gun on the move.  
 " Rapid loading 15 minutes.

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**MONDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Inspection, reading of Orders and fitting of equipment.  
 10 " " 10.30 Physical Drill & Games.  
 10.30 " " 10.45 Gas Drill.  
 10.45 " " 11.30 Description & recognition of targets. Fire direction & Control.  
 11.30 " " 12 noon. Lecture on March Discipline.  
 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Route March.

**TUESDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Inspection, reading of Orders and fitting of equipment.  
 10 " " 10.30 Bayonet Fighting.  
 10.30 " " 10.45 Gas Drill.  
 10.45 " " 11.30 Judging distance & Visual training.  
 11.30 " " 12 noon. Lecture on Advanced Guards.  
 Practice co-operation with L.T. Ms., Vickers & L.G.'s.  
 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Advanced Guards.

**WEDNESDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Inspection, reading of Orders and fitting of equipment.  
 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Physical Drill.  
 10.30 " 10.45 " Gas Drill.  
 10.45 " 11.30 " Description of targets, fire direction & Control  
 11.30 " 12 noon. Bayonet Fighting.  
 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Construction, attack & defence of strong posts.

**THURSDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Inspection, reading of Orders and fitting of equipment.  
 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Rapid aiming & Muscle exercises.  
 10.30 " 10.45 " Gas Drill.  
 10.45 " 11.30 " Platoon Drill.  
 11.30 " 12 noon. Lecture on Patrols & Reports.  
 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tactical exercise, Patrols reconnoitring and Fighting.

**FRIDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to ~~10.30 a.m.~~ <sup>12 noon</sup> Route March.  
~~10.30 " " 10.45 "~~  
 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wood Fighting (Aveluy Wood.)

**SATURDAY.**- 9.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Inspection, reading of Orders and fitting of equipment.  
 10 a.m. to 10.30 " Rifle Exercises.  
 10.30 " 10.45 " Gas Drill.  
 10.45 " 11.30 " Recapitulation of Musketry.  
 11.30 " 12 noon. Lecture on Sanitation.

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*[Signature]*  
 Capt. & Adjt.