

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/36/33

**Title:** 19th Infantry Battalion

October 1918



AWM4-23/36/33

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

19<sup>th</sup> Bn  
Oct 1918

Army Form C. 2118.

VOLUME 10 1918

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LONGAVESNES.	1		<p>Battalion in shelters in trenches east of LONGAVESNES. Advance Party left early to area 1/12 b. (Ref 62c) between HARGICOURT and VILLARET. Battalion marched out 7 AM; move complete 12 noon. Weather fine and bright. Men construct shelters for themselves. C.O.'s Bns. meeting at 5<sup>th</sup> Bde H.Q. 5 PM, when verbal orders were received for 19<sup>th</sup> Bn. to relieve 56<sup>th</sup> Bn AIF in front of ESTREES.</p> <p>Battalion moved up via BELLICOURT NAUROY, being guided thence to positions in relief. Night fine but bitterly cold. Bn. H.Q. in "chateau" Nauroy, shared with 56<sup>th</sup> Bn, which withdrew into support. Relief complete 3 AM.</p> <p>Total, 36 off. 537%r. Line, 19 off. 268%r</p>	
ESTREES.	2		<p>Companies holding line in front of ESTREES (see Disposition Report). Enemy attitude quiet, but alert, machine-guns being active from BEAUREVOIR LINE. Weather fine. C.O. visited Companies in morning. Bn H.Q. moved to ex-German dugouts in Nauroy. Enemy actively shelled the village, movement being observed from high ground in direction Beaurevoir.</p> <p>5 PM. Conference of C.O.'s Bns at Bde H.Q. with regard to operation for attack on Beaurevoir line.</p> <p>6 PM. C.O. explained plan of action to Company Commanders at Bn H.Q. I.O. and Engineers proceeded to Estrees to lay pump-off tape line.</p> <p>Night very dark with drizzling rain.</p> <p>Total 35 off. 538%r. Line, 18 off. 270%r. Acts 5%r. Battle cas. 1 off 3%r</p>	B
do.	3	3 AM	<p>Bn H.Q. moved from Nauroy to dugout in trench astride main Estrees road, shared with 20<sup>th</sup> Bn. Companies reported all in position on tape line. 5.30 AM.</p> <p>6.5 AM. Zero hour. Creeping artillery barrage from 400 yards ahead of J.O. line, working towards objective trench system and areas beyond. Left Companies (D and C) made good progress, the enemy's artillery reply being scattered, and were reported on objective shortly after 7 AM. The right Companies, A and B, however, encountered determined opposition.</p>	WAB

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ESTREES - BEAUREVOIR	Oct 3		<p>from enemy machine-guns in the Beaurevoir line, and house used as a machine-gun nest on the NE outskirt of Estrees. These companies were also held up by a thick belt of wire in front of the trench system, which, owing to the "ditching" of two tanks in the Hendenburg line and the putting out of action of two others, was quite intact. While held up by this wire, the enemy continually used his machine guns and flung hand grenades ("potato mashers") at the attackers, causing considerable losses, in wounded. "A" and "B" accordingly fell back to sunken road B26d, H3a.</p> <p>10.30 AM Our artillery concentrated on trenches each side of main road 300' and house at B27c 8.8. This was effective, and A and B, together with 19th on right, advanced and mopped up the trench system proceeding through narrow gaps in the wire. The enemy, whose demoralisation was completed by the second artillery shoot, offered no resistance. A and B companies subsequently took up a line on the slope of LA MOTTE VALLEY (see Dispositions). Weather fine.</p> <p>Prisoners taken in this operation numbered 280: Machine-guns 19: Minenwerfers 4: Bicycles 2: Flash signalling apparatus complete 1: Flare pistols 9. For other details, and times of various phases, see Appendix.</p> <p>Our losses were: Killed, 8%r: Wounded, 8 off: 102%r. Total strength, 27 off. 449%r. Line strength, 12 off. 169%r.</p>	13, 14
do.	4	6 AM.	<p>In accordance with orders companies were withdrawn early to sunken road near NAUROX, where they reorganised. The enemy briskly shelled Estrees doing material damage to the town. Bn HQ remained in dugout in trench near main road, Estrees. Captured material assembled and carried away. Weather dull.</p> <p>Total 27 off. 468%r. Line, 12 off. 169%r. Pets, 19%r. Battle cas. 1%r.</p>	WAB

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NAUROY.	5		Companies bivouacked near NAUROY. Bn H.Q. Estrees. Battalion in reserve to 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde for attack on Montbrehain, standing by in readiness to move up, at short notice, but situation cleared and battalion was not called upon. Fine, but cold. Total, 27 off. 468 <sup>off</sup> . Line, 12 off. 169 <sup>off</sup> .	
HERVILLY.	6	7 AM.	Battalion marched via Nauroy, Riqueval, Villaret and Hesbecourt to Her- villy Wood, arriving 1 PM. Bivouacked for night. Cold, windy day. C.O.'s Bus at Hesbecourt 5 PM. Battalion remained for night HERVILLY. Total, 27 off. 468 <sup>off</sup> . Line, 13 off. 169 <sup>off</sup> .	
	7	7 AM. 12:30 PM.	Battalion marched to TINCOURT. H.Q. and "A" Coy entrained and were conveyed to La Roch (Amiens), arriving 6 PM. Marched thence to VIGNACOURT where billeted. Very fatiguing march (20 kilos). Other companies and transport left Tincourt 9 PM, being conveyed direct to Vignacourt, arriving 6 AM. 8/10/18, after a cold night. Total, 27 off. 468 <sup>off</sup> . Line, 12 off. 169 <sup>off</sup> .	16
VIGNACOURT.	8		Battalion billeted in Vignacourt. Men rest. GOC 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde visited C.O. with regard to absorption of 19 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Total, 27 off. 468 <sup>off</sup> . Line, 12 off. 169 <sup>off</sup> .	
do	9	9:30 AM. 10:30 AM.	C.O. explained to Bn officers at Bn H.Q. policy of absorption of 19 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Bn. paraded and C.O. addressed officers and men. Dull & showery. Total 27 off. 468 <sup>off</sup> . Line, 12 off. 169 <sup>off</sup> .	
do	10		Dull, rainy day. Details of absorption proceeded with, and drafts to 19 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Bns. Allotted, "A", "B" and "D" companies respectively.	

WAB

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VIGNACOURT.	Oct. 10.		<p>"C" Company being distributed, by platoons, to the 3 battalions. H.Q. Details also distributed among A, B and D Companies for transfer. Officers transferred in accordance with schedule. For details, see Appendices.</p> <p>Strength at date of absorption:- Officers 27. Other Ranks 468.</p>	

DQ/WT.

TELEPHONE NO.  
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"THE DIRECTOR."

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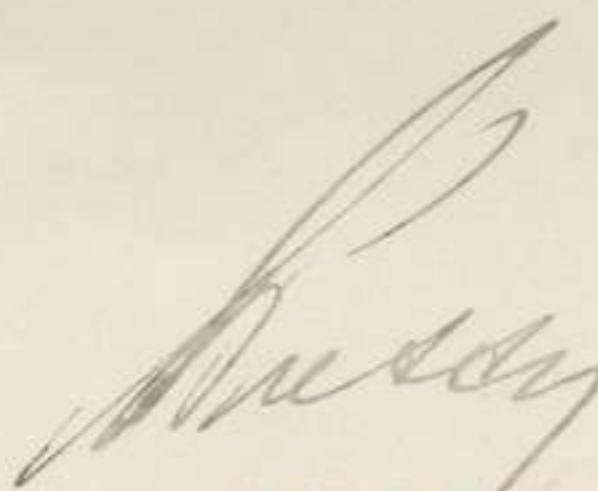
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21st January, 1921.

NOTE BY WAR MUSEUM LIBRARY.

Appendices missing. Not received  
with diary.



Chief Librarian.