

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/37/28

Title: 20th Infantry Battalion

November 1917



AWM4-23/37/28

20 Battalion No. 2

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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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HALFWAY HOUSE E. OF YPRES	November			
	1.		Engineer working parties supplied. Situation normal one other tank killed by shell fire.	
HALFWAY HOUSE E. OF YPRES	2.		The Bn. moved forward and occupied the front line system relieving the 27 th Bn. A.I.F. on the night of 2/3 Nov. as per Bde. order No. 125 and Admin memo. 126. The relief was completed by 10.30 p.m. The relief was completed without hitch, situation normal.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
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20th Nov. 1918

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRONT LINE SYSTEM.	November *3		<p>Situation Normal. Company positions made comparatively comfortable, during the night 3/4 November, as now work could be done by daylight owing to low flying enemy aeroplanes, who seemed to be continually looking for the exact location of our front line. These planes were engaged by Lewis & Vickers guns and Trench mortars in company support area and were able to gain little information. Two patrols went out consisting of 1 officer + 20 ORs. each ^{nothing seen of enemy}.</p>	
	4		<p>Situation normal one man slightly wounded by shell fire. Two other ranks slightly gassed. The usual patrols were sent out. The night patrol encountered a few enemy scouts on the road to the North of CELTIC wood, ^{the enemy} who fell back to their posts in an westward easterly direction.</p>	
	5		<p>Situation normal. Lieut. HATLEY evacuated ill. Advance parties of the relieving unit (17th. Bn. A.I.F.) reported to Bn. H.Q. The relief of the Bn. commenced at 8 p.m. as per Bde Order No. 126.</p>	

20th Bn. A.M.T.

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FRONT LINE SYSTEM.	5		<p>and was completed by 10.30 p.m. The 2nd Bn. then moved back to the Right Bn. Support position. The withdrawal move back was accomplished without difficulty. Company positions in the new line were very scattered and afforded little shelter, and the area was subjected to continuous steady shell fire, including shell gas.</p>	
	6.		<p>On the morning of the sixth enemy barrage came down about our area during the attack on PASSCHENDALE, there being a considerable demonstration on the part of our artillery on our sector. The Bn. casualties were 4 killed and six wounded. Lieut. LEWINS and a party of 70 men did six hours wiring work at TOKIO under an Engineer Officer. In the evening Lieut. FULTON with a party of 60 other ranks carried 17th Bn. rations from GARTER POINT to 17th Bn. H.Q. While engaged on this work Lieut. FULTON was killed by shell fire.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RIGHT B.N. SUPPORT POSITION	November 7.		<p>On the afternoon of the 7th. the Bn. was relieved by the 22nd Bn. A.I.F. as per Bde. Order No. 128 and amendment to order No. 128. The relieve was completed by 3.50 p.m. and coys. proceeded independently to camp in SWAN AREA. The last men getting about 5 p.m. Orders were received that the Bn. would move to STEENVOORDE the next day and a billeting party was sent ahead.</p>	
	8.		<p>The Bn. embussed from DE GROEN JAGER and travelled by bus to the vicinity of STEENVOORDE, where the Bn went into indifferent billets. Bn. H.Q. being situated at (Sheet. 27. K. 28 c. 0.8.)</p>	
STEENVOORDE.	9.		<p>The day spent in reorganisation and re-fitting.</p>	
	10.		<p>Training & reorganisation. Billeting party left for Waldon WALTON CAPPEL area. Preparations made for the move next day.</p>	
	11.		<p>The Bn. moved off by Route March, passing the</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALTON CAPPEL AREA	November			
	10		Starting point (Sheet 27) at 8 a.m. and reached the new Billets in WALTON CAPPEL area about mid-day. Billets found to be good but very widely scattered. A Syllabus of training for the week was drawn up.	
	12		Training as per syllabus including a large amount of Physical training and sports.	
	13		Training & C.O.s. inspection. class for junior N.C.O.s. commenced.	
	14		Training. Lieut. Genl. Bindwood visited STAPLE and presented medals & ribbons to the following members of the Bn.:-	
			MAJOR J.H. McDONALD. M.C. " W.A. HAILES D.S.O. CAPT. H.B. BARLOW M.C. SERGT. HICKIE. F.I. M.M. PTE. PIDDINGTON C.H. M.M. " NAYLOR. W.J. M.M.	The undermentioned officers marched in from schools. Lt. G. Hough (From Hospital) " S. Staunton " W.H. Elkington

NOV. 11-15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WALTON. CAPPEL	NOV 15 TH		Showery weather. Route March in morning. Football in afternoon. The following marched out: Lieut. H. McMillan to A1 ANZAC 2 nd Lt. R. Elliott. CORPS SCHOOL.	
	16.		Training as per syllabus in morning. Football in the afternoon.	
OULTERSTEENE	17.		Training as per syllabus in morning. Preparation for move on following morning. Capt Kent. on leave to Paris.	
	18		The Battalion moved off by route march. Passing the starting point. LONGUE CROIX at 9.35 am. Reached the new billets in OULTERSTEENE at 4 pm. Billets very good. Lieut ANTHON LIEUT. J.B. SMITH. Marched in	
WATERLANDS	19		Battalion moved off by route march passing starting point. Railway crossing south of OULTERSTEENE at 8.35 AM. Reached new billets. WATERLANDS. at 12.15 pm. Nissen Huts. Camp comfortable (over)	

20-10-17. H.I.I.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WATERLANDS	Nov 19		Battalion was billeted close to this area before proceeding to the Somme July, 1916. Lieut R.F. MARLAN to be CAPT from 17.10.17. Sergt. L. BALMANNO and Sergt. O.M. SHEPHERD promoted to 2 nd Lieut.	
	20		Training as per syllabus. Sergt. N.C. TOOGOOD and H.C. WINKWORTH of 18 th Bn. promoted 2 nd Lieut and taken on strength of this unit.	
	21.		Training as per syllabus advised Lt. W.E.S. PAYNE on regimental seconded list. (INVALID) undocumented officers struck off strength:- CAPT. A.R. BOLTON. WOOD. M.C. Died of wounds. 5/11/17. 2 Lt. D.R. FULTON. K. I. A. 6/11/17. Marched out on leave. 2 nd Lieut W. ELKINGTON. " in Lieut. J.M. MOORE. from seconded list. " " 2 nd Lt. W.P. CHESHER. " O.T.B. " " 2 nd Lt. M. BLAIR. " 7 th REIN. A.L.T. M.B.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22		Ordinary Routine Training as per Syllabus.	
	23		Training as per Syllabus. Lieut A. E. BANFIELD marched in from 1 st ANZAC CORPS SCHOOL Lieut W. A. JONES marched out to 1 st ANZAC CORPS SCHOOL.	
WATER LANDS.	24		Training as per Syllabus in morning. 1/2 holiday. Football matches played in afternoon	
	25		Church parades in morning. Football in afternoon	
	26		Training as usual Weather showery.	
	27		Showery. Training as per syllabus. Lt. Moore gazetted Capt. from 27.8.17.	
	28		Training in morning. 1/2 holiday. Football in afternoon. Lieut G. B. JENKINS marched in from O. T. B.	

210 Battalion A.F.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 29 th Nov.		<p>Capt. V B. Portman marched out on leave (England). Training was carried out as per Syllabus. The C.O. & Coy Commanders proceeded to the Forward Area for reconnoitering purposes. Weather Fine but Cloudy.</p>	
	30		<p>Lieut. N.R. Means marched in from A.F.F. Depôts U.K. Battalion marched out on all day Manoeuvres towards Neuve Eglise. Lt. A.R. Treacher returned from leave (England). An Enemy Aeroplane flying very low passed over the vicinity of the camp. Raining slightly during the day.</p>	

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 132

S E C R E T

Copy No. *9*

Brigade Headquarters,
18th November 1917.

REFERENCE - HAZEBROUCK 5a 1/100,000
Sheet 36 - 1/40,000
Sheet 36 NW1 - 1/10,000

1. The 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. Group, less 5th Field Ambulance, will move to STEENWERCK Area by march route on 19th instant in accordance with attached table.
2. 1st Line Transport will accompany units. Cookers will move in rear of companies.
mounted
3. Advance parties/will meet the Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters, HERRIS, at 8 a.m.
4. Guides will meet units on road at A.17.c.0.2.
5. Completion of move will be reported to Bde. Hdqrs., also correct location of Headquarters.
6. Brigade Headquarters will close at HERRIS at ⁹ a.m. and re-open at STEENWERCK A.17.a.0.1. (BLUE BALL VILLA), *at same hours.*
7. A C K N O W L E D G E.

W. P. MacCallum
Captain,

Issued through Signals
at 3.30 p.m.

Brigade Major, 5th Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | G.O.C. | Copy No. 12 | 5th Field Coy |
| 2 | Bde. Major | 13 | 15th A.A.S.C. |
| 3 | Staff Captain | 14 | 5th Fld. Amb. |
| 4 | Bde. Signal Officer | 15 | Area Comdt STRAZELLE |
| 5 | Bde. T'port Officer | 16 | do STEENWERCK |
| 6 | 17th Bn | 17 | 2nd Aust. Div. |
| 7 | 18th Bn | 18 | File |
| 8 | 19th Bn | 19/21 | War Diary |
| 9 | 20th Bn | 22/25 | Spare. |
| 10 | 5th A.M.G. Coy. | | |
| 11 | 5th A.L.T.M. Bty. | | |

M A R C H T A B L E

to Accompany 5th Aust. Inf. Brigade Order No. 132

Date	Units in order of march.	Starting Point Place	Time	Route	Destination	Remarks
19th Novr 1917.	20th Battalion	Railway Crossing due south of "C" in CULTERSTEINE.	8.35 am	Road junction half mile due east of BLEU - LE VERRIER - STEENWERCK.	WATERLANDS B.20.d.9.9. (approx)	
	18th Battalion	Road junction $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of second "R" in MERRIS	8.35 am	do	DE SEULE B.1.a.9.2.	
	19th Battalion	Road junction one mile S.E. of "L" in MERRIS.	8.50 am	ROUTE BOULIE - Cross roads S.W. of "L" in LE VERRIER. - LE VERRIER - STEENWERCK	HOLLEBEQUE B.13.c.0.0. (approx)	To follow in rear of 18th Bn.
	17th Battalion	Road junction S. of second "E" in MOULENACKER.	9 am	Cross roads $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.E. of 19th Bn starting point - thence as for 19th Bn	MINEGATE B.19.a.4.5.	
	5th A.M.G. Coy.	Cross roads at N. of MERRIS.	9.25 am	CULTERSTEEN thence as for 20th Bn	WACKLANDS B.13.b.2.8.	To follow in rear of 17th Bn
	5th A.L.T.M.B.	do	9.30 am	do	A.18.d.7.2.	
	5th Field Coy.	do	9.35 a.m.	do	WATTS, B.1.d.8.5.	
	Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sect.	do	9.40 am	do	A.17.a.0.1.	
	15th A.A.S.C.	Move independently			S.6.a. (Sheet 28)	

(a) Distances to be maintained are as laid down in para 2 of Bde. Order No. 131.

(b) Halts calculated 10 minutes to each clock hour.

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