

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/58/3

Title: 41st Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/58/3

4th Battalion. A.I.F.

— WAR DIARY —

- January 1917. *Bn* in 'C' *Bn* billets providing
 1st. } Seventy per centum (70%) of strength
 2nd. } as engineering parties working
 3rd. } by day and night in the Battalion
 sector on repairs to parapets;
 drainage-works; and rection of dug-outs
 in Subsidiary line, under the Supervision
 of 11th S. Coy. Sappers.
- 4th. Relieved the 43rd *Bn* in the trenches
 relief completed by 11.30 a.m.
 48 other ranks rec^d as reinforcements.
6. 10th. Battalion in the line, passive resistance
 with constant nightly patrolling of no-
 man's-land by Scouts. Active sniping
 under the supervision of Sniping Officer.
 wire repairs and new entanglements
 erected in front of front-line breastwork.
 repairs to front parapet, duck-boards, &c.
 casualties - 3. O.R. killed
 5. O.R. wounded
- 10th. Battalion relieved by 43rd *Bn*, relief
 completed 10.30 a.m. *Bn* marched to
 'D' *Bn* billets. H.Q. situated 3. Rue
 Bayard. Mess billets. (School buildings
 and cotton factory) fair. San. arrangements fair.
- 11th. *Bn* supplied day and night engineering
 parties for work on front-line system,
 communication trenches and rection of
 dug-outs in subsidiary line, under
 supervision of 11th S. Coy. Sappers.
- 17th. Personnel visited Div. Baths & procured
 changes of underclothes during period out
 of the line.

(11th to 17th) 15th - 2 Officers, q. o. r. sent to Div. School for training in Bayonet Fighting, Bombing, Musketry, Sniping, Lewis Gun, Rapid Wiring, & Stokes Mortar.

17th Relieved the 43rd Bn in the line. Relief completed 9.30 a.m.

Battalion engaged in passive resistance, repairs to breastworks, erection of wire in front of line and behind gaps, lean-toes -

24th wounded 6 o. r. - Shell-shock 1 o. r.

24th Bn relieved by 43rd Bn relief completed 9 a.m. Bn marched to "C" Bn billets H.Q. to the Strasbourg. Meris billets (in factories & warehouses) good, sanitary to arrangements improving.

Bn provided engineering parties by day & night working in "A" Bn sector on drainage, repairs to Support line, & communication trenches, and erection

27th of dug-outs in subsidiary line.

29th Battalion relieved 43rd Bn in trenches.

to Relief completed 9 a.m. Repairs to

30th breastworks & communication trenches carried out.

31st Fighting Patrol of 2 Officers 18 o. r. left our trenches at 4 a.m. in an endeavour to attack an enemy listening post, ^{at I. 17. a. 1.6} which had been located by our scouts in front of Boche wire opposite No. 1. locality. When the patrol got to within 50' of enemy wire they were detected, and attacked by machine gun fire, bombs, and trench mortars, assisted by enemy searchlights. They withdrew hurriedly towards our wire under heavy fire from enemy front line. Some of the party

mined the gaps in our wire and had to be guided in by scouts who went out from our front line. The patrol suffered casualties consisting of one officer (Lt. J. Asche) killed, one officer (Lieut. B. B. Fuidlay) severely wounded, and 8 other ranks wounded. Owing to the heavy snow on the ground, the members of the patrol wore white Calico overalls, which did not prove too satisfactory especially when they were moving among the stunted tree trunks in no-man's-land. The patrol rather underestimated the vigilance of the Senny, as instead of crawling across no-man's-land, they simply walked in a stooping attitude, and were evidently soon detected by the Senny who waited for them to come fairly close before opening fire. When the fire opened the Bosche front trench was fairly heavily manned opposite the point where our patrol was operating. All our dead & wounded were brought back to our lines.

Weather. clear and cold with falls of snow and low temperatures ranging from 12° to 16° Fah. at night.

Health of troops good except for minor cases of colds and inflamed feet.

B. B. Fuidlay
31.1.17