

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/24/23

**Title:** 7th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/24/23

# WAR DIARY

or

7th. BATTALION A.I.F.

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.)

Reference Map.

ALPERT (Combined Sheet) 1/40,000

556

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP. MAMETZ.	Jan. 1st. 1917.		Complimentary message from Lt.-Gen. Sir W. R. Birdwood K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., etc. to all ranks. Compliments of Season received and sent to various people in BDE., Division and abroad. STRENGTH. 38 Officers. 855 O.Rs.. (5) Officers to Hospital. 17 O.Rs. to Hospital. (1) O.R. placed on Supernumery list. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	
MELBOURNE "A" Camp. MAMETZ.	Jan. 2nd. 1917.		Bn. Resumed training as per Bn. Order 259. Lieut. R. McG. Stewart to be Captain vice Swift promoted dated 1st. Sept.. 2nd. Lt. L. H. Kelly to be Lieut. dated 1st. Sept. 1916 both A.I.F. List No. 131. 2/Lt. H. J. Wright to be Lieut. dated 19/12/16. A.I.F. List No. 129. The following Officers were placed on Seconded list. A.I.F. List No. 131. Lt. A. E. Bunbury wounded 5/11/16. Lt. H. H. Young, sick 11/11/16. Lt. F. R. Tubb M.C. 16/11/16. 2/Lt. W. E. Scott wounded 9/10/16. 2/Lt. W. J. G. S. Poole sick 27/11/16.. 2/Lt. A. J. G. Cox sick 2/12/16. STRENGTH. 38 Officers. 871 O.Rs.. (4) O.Rs. to Hospital. (20) O.Rs. Reinforcements.	
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP. MAMETZ.	Jan. 3rd. 1917.		Capt. R. McG. Stewart and 3191 Sgt. C. H. McCardell proceeded to 4th. Army School. The following reports received from 4th. Army School.:- Capt. J. Bowtell-Harris M.C. (A keen Officer, has worked well throughout. 880 C. S. M. Carey J.. A good intelligent W.O. Has worked well and taken a great deal of interest in his work. Has shown common sense and ability. Training as per B.O. 160 carried out. STRENGTH 38 Officers. 876 O.Rs.. (3) O.Rs. to Hospital. (7) O.Rs. from Hospital. (1) O.R. Reft..	
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP. MAMETZ.	Jan. 4th. 1917.		Training carried out as per B.O. 161.. 2/Lt. R. J. Graham. 2/Lt. W. R. Booth. 2/Lt. C. L. Dobbin. 2/Lt. F. B. Goulton and (5) N.C.Os. passed school at 1st. Aust. Divn. School. { STRENGTH. Including (2) Officers (7) O.Rs. attached } (Without attachments 36 Officers. 871 O.Rs.) 38 Officers. 878 O.Rs. { (1) Transfer to Bn.. (1) O.R. to Hosp. }	
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP. MAMETZ.	Jan. 5th. 1917		Training as per Bn. Order 162 carried out. The partially trained men under 2/Lt. Salthouse completed musketry course. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 866 O.Rs.. (5) O.Rs. to Hospital.	

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1/40,000.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP MAMETZ	Jan 6th. 1917.		BDE. Order No.1 received from BD E. Bn. Operation Order No.51 issued. Bn. to move with BDE. group from MAMETZ to BUIRE on 7th. inst.. "C" Coy. proceeded to VIVIER MILL as fatigue party to carry shell s. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 865 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. transferred to 8th. Battalion.	
MELBOURNE "A" CAMP. MAMETZ. & BUIRE. BUIRE.	Jan. 1500 7th. 1917.		Bn. moved as per Bn. Operation Order No.51 and arrived at BUIRE at 1500. The march was excellent considering the bad state of the mens feet. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 858 O.Rs.. (9) O.Rs. to Hospital. (2) O.Rs. from Hospital.	
	Jan. 8th. 1917.		Inspection kits, mens feet. Bn. also made use of the baths at BUIRE. Lieut. F.R. Tubb M.C. to be Captain vice Hamilton. Dated 27th. October 1916. A.I.F. List 133. STRENGTH. 37 Officers 893 O.Rs.. 2/Lt. H.F. O'Neill reported for duty from seconded list. From Hospital (33) O.Rs.. Reinforcements (3) O.Rs.. (1) O.R. to Hospital..	
BUIRE.	Jan. 9th. 1917.		Inoculation carried out by R.M.O. for those who had not been inoculated with T.A.B.. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 887 O.Rs.. (8) O.Rs. to Hospital. (2) O.Rs. from Hospital.	
BUIRE.	Jan. 10th. 1917.		Medical inspection and inoculation carried out by the R.M.O.. Bn. engaged in improving and cleaning billets. Temp. appointments in M.C.Os. made. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 887 O.Rs.	
BUIRE.	Jan. 11th. 1917.		Inspection by Maj. Gen. H.B. Walker C.B.D.S.O. of the partially trained men. Reminder of Bn. engaged in improving billets.. BDE. Order No.2. received. BDE. to move on 14th. inst.. Major C.H. Swift having returned from leave resumes command of the Bn.. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 885 O.Rs.. No.478 Sgt. C.P. Clowe and 904 Sgt. C. Robinson attached to 2nd. Training Bn. are placed on Supernumery list.	

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1/40,000.

57D S.E. & 62D N.E. 1/40,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE.	Jan. 12th. 1917.		Bn. training resumed. Training as per syllabus issued, carried out. Bn. Operation Order No. 52 issued. Bn. to move with BDE. group from BUIRE to WARLOY on the 14th. inst.. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 874 O.Rs.. (11) O.Rs. to Hospital.	
BUIRE.	Jan. 13th. 1917.		Training as per Bn syllabus carried out. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 874 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. to Hospital. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	
BUIRE. WARLOY	Jan. 14th. 1917.	1330	As per Bn. Order No. 52. Bn. moved from BUIRE to WARLOY arriving there at about 1330. The march was an excellent one indeed.. Lt-Col. C. H. Jess D.S.O. having returned from BDE. resumes command of the Bn. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 874 O.Rs..	
WARLOY.	Jan. 15th. 1917.		Bn. Training resumed. Training syllabus of the work to be carried out from 15th. Jan. to 23rd. Jan. was issued. 2/Lt. W. J. S. G. Poole restored to establishment from Seconded list, A.I.F. List No. 135 2/Lt. O. C. Rodriguez to Supernumery list dated 13/7/16. A.I.F. List 135.. 2/Lt. A. L. Salthouse seconded for duty with 2nd. Training Bn. dated 10/1/17. A.I.F. list 135.. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 865 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. transferred from 6th. Bn.. (10) O.Rs. to Hospital.	
WARLOY.	Jan. 16th. 1917		Training as per syllabus carried out. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 885 O.Rs.. (14) O.Rs. from Hospital. (6) O.Rs. Reinforcements.	

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Reference Map. *Albert, bombed Sheet*  
1/40,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARLOY	Jan. 17th. 1917.		Lt-Col. C. H. Jess D.S.O. and Capt. H. E. Bastin left for leave to England; Major C. H. Swift resuming Temp. Command of the Battalion. Capt. F. H. Tubb V.C. is acting as Adjutant. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 886 O.Rs.. 1 O.R. Wd. with Div. Salv. Coy. 1 transfer. 3 from Hospital	
WARLOY.	Jan. 18th. 1917.		Battalion commenced work at 0930 on Parade Ground returned to billets at 1130 for kit inspection. Route march took place from 1400 to 1600. 3 Officers and 4 W.C.Os. attended aeroplane Contact School. Received memo from BDE. asking for recommendations for Croix de Guerre, Medaille Militaire for (1) Officer and (2) W.Os., W.C.Os. or men. After due deliberation Capt. H. E. Bastin was strongly recommended for Croix de Guerre. Sgt. Milgate for Croix de Guerre and Col. Smith "D" Coy. for Medaille Militaire. STRENGTH. 37 Officers 874 O.Rs. Transfers (2) O.Rs. To Hosp. sick (11) O.Rs. From Hosp. (1) O.R.	
WARLOY	Jan. 19th. 1917.		Battalion carried out Coy. in attack and feet inspection. G.O.C. Brigade inspected transport, bicycles etc.. C.O., Adjutant and O.C. Coys. attended lecture on Court Martial by Col. Foote at School room WARLOY. Weather very cold. Ground covered with snow. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 901 O.Rs.. 12 O.Rs. from Hospital. (9) O.Rs. Reinforcements. 2/Lt. K. M. Purbrick was detailed to take up duties of TOWN Major at COMFAY.	
WARLOY	Jan. 20th. 1917.		Battalion took part in BDE. stunt. C.O. and Adjutant made a reconnaissance over the ground early. Battalion attacked in four waves by two Coys.. 1 Coy. as moppers-up and 1 Coy. as carriers. Three Coys. were put through respirator drill and lachrymatory gas. List No. 136 A.I.F. Orders dated Sept. 1st. - 2/Lt. W. Hamilton and 2/Lt. A. J. G. Cox to be Lieutenants. Advised per BDE. Major Ulrich that Col. R. B. Purbrick attending school has been granted a commission and will come back to us as a 2/Lieutenant. 2/Lt. McKinnon late Sgt. in the 8th. Bn. attending same school as Purbrick received commission in the Battalion. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 903 O.Rs.. (2) O.Rs. from Hospital	
WARLOY	Jan. 21st. 1917.		Sunday. Protestant Church Parade. Chaplain Captain Booth officiated. There was no sermon; the ground was frozen hard and it was too cold.. Col. Self and Ptes. Jones and Davis reported to BDE. and received ribbons for their respective decorations from the Corps Comdr. Lt-Gen. Sir W. R. Birdwood K.C.S.I.; K.C.M.G. etc.. STRENGTH 36 Off. 907 O.Rs.. (7) O.Rs. to Hosp.. (9) O.Rs. from Hosp.. (2) O.Rs. Rfta	

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Reference Map. *Albert Combined Sheet*  
1/40000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WARLOY	Jan. 22nd. 1917.		Battalion completed Bomb throwing and respirator drill. A rifle grenade S.O.S. signal was fired in view of the whole Battalion. 2/Lt. W. J. S. G. Poole evacuated to Field Ambulance. Notification received that 2/Lt. W. G. Pollock is in Hospital in AMIENS. BDE. Order No. 3 Bn. Operation Order No. 53 issued. BDE. moves to ALBERT tomorrow 23inst.. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 908 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. from hospital.	
WARLOY  ALBERT	Jan. 23rd. 1917.	0830  1215	Bn. moved to ALBERT as per Bn. Operation Order No. 53 at 0830 via HENANCOURT and MILLENCOURT. Weather intensely cold. 2/Lt. H. Nixon proceeds to Musketry School. 2/Lt. O. G. Reynolds and Sig. Russell went ahead yesterday to arrange billets. Numerous enemy aeroplanes circled above us as we marched into ALBERT and the sky was dotted with shell bursts. Battalion billeted O.K. at 1215.. ALBERT is shelled intermittently. Two Northumberland Fusiliers Officers (Advanced party) of the 50th. Div. inspected our billets. They come here on the 25th. inst. from MAMETZ. We are relieving the 50th. Div.. Sgt. F. Fuller returned and is attached to Bn. as Pay Sergeant. New Pay Books will be issued to all shortly. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 907 O.Rs.. (2) O.Rs. Transferred. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	
ALBERT	Jan. 24th. 1917.	0015	Major C. H. Swift delivered lecturettes on coming programme. The front line consists of seven outposts. We will probably be in the forward area for two months. The BDE. is to be at BAZENTIN. Lt. L. H. Kelly returned from leave. 2/Lt. O. G. Reynolds sent for ward to BAZENTIN as Billeting Officer. A.I.F. Orders No. 133 show Lt.-Col. C. H. Jess D. S.O., Rev. J. Hearne M. C., Col. H. E. Elliott C. M. G., Sig. Sgt. H. Wraight D. C. M., L/Cpl. S. R. Thomas D. C. M. recipients of decorations. Mentioned in despatches Col. H. E. Elliott C. M. G. late C.O. 7th. Battalion. Lt.-Col. C. H. Jess D. S.O. Capt. A. Gates D. S.O., Col. F. Milgate and Pte. H. Rice.. BDE. Order No. 4 received. BDE. will move to relieve the 151st. BDE. and will come under the orders of the 111 Corp.. Order of March :- M. Gns., T. M. Btty., Mining Platoon, 8th., 6th., 5th., and 7th. Bns. BDE. H/Os.. BDE. H/Os. close at ALBERT 1000 on 25th. inst. and reopen at S. 13. B 1. 6. and again reopen at Advanced H/Os. at S. 6. A 2. Bn. Operation Order No. issued. Bn. to move at 0015 via LA BOISELLE to BAZENTIN. Charlain Captain J. D. Murphy proceeded on leave to England. STRENGTH. 36 Officers. 907 O.Rs.. (2) O.Rs. Transferred. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	

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ALBERT FRICOURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 25th. 1917	0915 1330	Received fresh orders occasioning alterations. We moved from ALBERT at 0915 via BECOURT and FRICOURT CIRCUS to FRICOURT FARM CAMP leaving behind two platoons of "A" Coy. and two platoons of "B" Coy. under Capt. W. J. Hopkins as unloading party at MEAULTE and E 16.D 5.7.. "B" Coy. under Capt. J. Bowtell-Harris M.C. for fatigues under O/C Sanitary Section. Capt. J. Bowtell-Harris M.C. preceded us with Colonel Foote who arranged the billets taking over from H/Ors. 50th. Div.. In the huts O.K. at 1330. Occasional shells are falling around. 2/Lt. J. Fowler and 2/Lt. F. B. Gaulton, 2 N.C.Os. (1) cook and 27 men were sent to report to BDE. to be used as Pushing Party on the Light Railway. STRENGTH. 36 Officers 903 O.Rs.. (4) O.Rs. to Hospital.	
FRICOURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 26th. 1917.		Intensely cold, coldest day in France for 22 years. Lt. R. I. Hilliard returned from leave in Paris (4) days. The guns boomed all night. 2/Lt. O. G. Reynolds returned from BAZENTIN. Notification received To. hospital sick 2/Lt. W. J. G. S. Poole 22/1/17.. 2/Lt. W. G. Pollock 22/1/17. Lt. W. D'Altera 12/1/17. STRENGTH. 36 Officers 904 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. from Hospital. Lt. E. K. Carlile reported for duty 20th. Reinforcements.	
FRICOURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 27th. 1917.		Bitterly cold day. The guns kept going all through the night. Early this morning they went like fury. Everything is frozen. The morning meal was delayed owing to the difficulty of melting the ice. Sent in recommendations for decorations as follows, Capt. W. B. Campbell, 3160 L/Cpl. C. E. Moloney, 4490 L/Cpl. L. Fryburg, and No. 11 L/Cpl. L. Grant. STRENGTH. 37 Officers. 905 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	
FRICOURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 28th. 1917.		Very cold and windy. Received memo stating that further leave is cancelled. 2379 Sgt. F. Laird "C" Coy. proceeds to Base Depot at ETAPLES as instructor. 2/Lt. V. R. Dickinson and 2/Lt. A. Deane returned from School. Sgts. D. Phillips and J. G. Daniel reported to Div. H/Ors. this morning, candidates for commissions. Sgt. D. Phillips was sent to Cadet College. 2/Lt. R. B. Purbrick recently promoted from Col. at Div. School reported to us this afternoon STRENGTH 37 Officers. 900 O.Rs.. (6) O.Rs. to Hospital. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	

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FRI COURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 29th. 1917.	2200	2/Lt.O.G.Reynolds sent to report to A.D.M.S. 1st.Div. to take over duties as BDE. Trench Feet Officer. A new system in being tried (French). Powder, (Camphor and talc.). An enemy aeroplane flew over us at 2200 and fired a M.G.. 2/Lt.W.G.Pollock returned from hospital. STRENGTH. 38 Officers. 900 O.Rs.. 2/Lt.R.B.Purbrick promoted from Col.. (1) O.R. from hospital.	
FRI COURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 30th. 1917	2100 0100	Lt.L.H.Kelly, 2/Lt.G.Anderson, 2/Lt.W.Lane and 10 N.C.Os. left for 3rd. Course 1st. Div. School TIRAN COURT. An enemy plane flew over at 2100 and also at 0100. Several bombs were dropped. STRENGTH. 38 Officers. 901 O.Rs.. (1) O.R. from Hospital.	
I COURT FARM CAMP.	Jan. 31st. 1917.		L/Col.T.H.Hicks 2584 proceeded to Corps Signalling School. Training carried out as per Bn. Order No.235. Para.6. 27/1/17. Snow fell last night.. STRENGTH. 38 Officers. 901 O.Rs.	