

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Infantry

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October 1917



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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.)

8th Aust. Batta

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATEAU SEGURD	1/10/17		Battalion in bivouacs & shelters. Preparations for taking over of front line being completed. E. S. 52-972 R. S. ³⁴ 34 - 406 717	
"	2/10/17		Troops resting throughout Day. Evening moved into Front line.	
Front Line.	2/10/17 to 5/10/17		See Appendix II attached.	
CHINA WALL	6/10/17		Troops resting in dug-outs. Refitting of clothing & equipment pushed forward. E. S. 38-808 R. S. 25-533	
"	7/10/17		Orders received to relieve 6 th Batta. A.I.F. at WESTHOEK Ridge.	
WESTHOEK RIDGE	7/10/17 to 9/10/17		See Appendix III attached.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RENINGHELST	10/10/17		Weather Wet. E. S. 37-810 R. S. 27-572	
	11/10/17		Weather wet. Reorganization carried on. Troops paid during morning. Lieut F. V. Tickle proceeded on leave to England. Honor List for operations of 20/9/17 made available as per Appendix I attached	
	12/10/17		Reorganization being carried on with. Capt G. E. Johnston resumed duty from 2 nd Png. Battalion.	
	13/10/17		Lathing parades carried out during day. E. S. $\frac{35}{804}$ R. S. $\frac{28}{686}$	
	14/10/17		Weather fair. General training throughout day.	
	15/10/17		Battalion moved as part of Brigade group to HALIFAX CAMP. Move completed without hitch & troops comfortably quartered in huts.	
	16/10/17		Training as per Syllabus. Lieuts F. Hickson & J. R. Blackman proceeded on leave to Paris.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HALIFAX CAMP	17/10/17		Weather Fine. Training carried on as per Syllabus. Enemy aeroplane brought down in vicinity of Camp. Battrn. inspected by G.O.C. Division.	
"	18/10/17		Training as per Syllabus E.S. 38-867 R.S. 28-649.	
"	19/10/17		Training as per Syllabus. Maps received & preparations under way for taking over Front Line.	
"	20/10/17		R.6. Church Parade held during morning. All equipment checked & parties sent forward to reconnoitre Forward Area. Lieut C. T. Montgomery, M/L killed while carrying out reconnaissance of Forward Area.	
"	21/10/17		Sunday. Church Parades held during morning. Preparations made for move forward on following day. G.O.C. Corps presented Decorations during afternoon to Members of Battrn.	
"	22/10/17		Moved from HALIFAX CAMP at 0900 to Infantry Barracks YPRES. Move completed without delay by 1030. Parties sent forward to WESTHOEK & Front Line.	
	23/10/17 & 30/10/17		See Appendix 4 attached.	
CHATEAU SEGUARD	31/10/17		Troops resting & in good spirits. All feet being specially treated	

- Jm Mitchell - Lt-Colonel,
Commanding 8th Battalion A.I.E.

LIST of HONOURS and AWARDS.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Major J.H.P. Eller.

Lieut L.G.P. Erey, M.C.

BAR to MILITARY CROSS.

Lieut. C.T. Mummery, M.C.

MILITARY CROSS.

Capt. J.E.T. Catron.

Lieut. R.B. Glamville.

Lieut. J. T. McGuire.

" J.R. Blackman.

2/Lt R. W. Brinsmead.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

507, C.S.M. G. Harris
3949 Sgt. W. H. Trevena
6836 Pte. A. M. Baddon.
2588 " M. R. Grinham.

1345 C.S.M. J. Breeze.
1720 L/cpl. J. Eales.
3084 Pte. H. Eccles.

MILITARY MEDAL.

1908 L/cpl. P. Brown
397 " R. H. Hooley.
3097 " B. Ferri.
2775 " R.V. Southwell.
2867 " A.G. Teggath
3105 Cpl. E.L. Gilmour.
1965 L/cpl. V. Winsor.
2778 Pte. L.A. Scouller
3010 L/cpl. A. Battye
1700 Cpl. A. Hall
575 Sgt. E. E. Jones
291 Pte. A.C. Green.
1384 Cpl. H. Nickol

3488 Pte. Tormey, L. C.
107 " Morris, C.
4273 " Mitchell, D.
1047 " Ryan, J.M.
3904 " Roberts, R.
1300 " Locke, L.
212 " Eva, J.
601 Sgt. Stewart, J.C.
3490 " Elliott, N.
5978 Pte. Callinan, D.
1217 Cpl. Carroll, O.W.
1804 Sgt. Adams, R.H.
3562 Sgt. McVear, F. W.

John Hall H. Col

NARRATIVE of OPERATIONS.

October. 1917.

CHATEAU
SEGURDand
ANZAC RIDGE

Battn. moved from bivouacs at 1730 and proceeded by half platoons at 100 yds. distance to ANZAC RIDGE where we relieved 2 Coys. of the 9th. Bn. A.I.F. Battn. H.Q. established at GARTER POINT. Relief completed without casualty by 2240.

" " 3rd.
and
FRONT LINE.

Battn. in Support on ANZAC RIDGE all day. Enemy Shelling heavy but erratic.

Battalion I. O. (Lieut. L.G.P. Errey, D.S.O., M.C.) laid tape in Evening for troops to form on for assault and also to guide same from Supports to Hopping Out Line.

Officers & N.C.O's. reconnoitred route and position during daylight, and guides were posted at numerous points of route to prevent Troops going astray. Disposition of Bn. whose objective was RED LINE, was-

FRONT LINE "A" Coy. (Left) "B" Coy. (Right)
SUPPORTS "C" " " "D" " "

with Bn. H. Q. at rear of Left Flank.

4th At 0100 (5 hours before Zero) Battn. commenced to move from ANZAC RIDGE to the Tape Line, immediately in rear of the Front Line.

The forming up on the Tape Line was successfully carried out and Battalion was in position to attack at 0226. 1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks were killed by Shell Fire during the move forward. The situation continued normal until 0530 (half an hour before Zero) when the Enemy put down a heavy barrage on, and in rear of, the front line, the troops assembled for attack coming under same. This was really one of the severest tests of the operations, as for half an hour the troops had to remain perfectly quiet, practically without cover, and endure extremely heavy shelling. Casualties were heavy, but troops stood their ground with great fortitude anxiously awaiting Zero hour. At Zero Hour (0600) our Barrage came down and Battn. went forward in grand style, getting out of Enemy Barrage after advancing about 150 yards. Heavy inflade fire (M.G.) was received from Right Flank.

Both ROMULUS and REMUS WOODS were very marshy and difficult for troops to advance through, being heavily wired. The attack was diverted round the flanks of these Woods after which the men had to again reform their line to cover the whole front to attack the ridge. A nest of Pill Boxes at J.4.b.4.9 put up a stubborn resistance with M. G's. and Bombs. They were finally out-flanked and rushed, the garrison being put to the bayonet. The ground in the vicinity of these Pill Boxes was of a scrubby and marshy nature. The Enemy's system of defence consisting of Pill Boxes and improved shell holes (all containing ample supplies of flares). As the two leading Coys. were engaged by nests of Pill Boxes and temporarily held up, they each converged around the nests outflanking and surrounding same, by so doing leaving room in the centre for "C" and "D" Coys. to advance through. As the nests were captured "A" and "B" Coys. again reformed and the Line went forward in the formation, viz-

"A", "C", "D" and "B" from Left to Right, the four Coys. in Line...

The Battn. reached the RED LINE at 0630 and as Barrage lifted advanced 100 Yards beyond same to a position of better command out of the Enemy's Barrage, just behind, and parallel to, the BECELAERE-WERVICQ ROAD, with points of Line just touching Road. The Enemy, who consisted of the 5TH PRUSSIAN GUARDS (Grenadiers) fought stubbornly and at most of the Pill Boxes continued fighting until our men got to close quarters, using Bombs and M. G's freely.

A hostile battery of 77's (4 guns) were in position on Road just in front of Line which this Battalion took up. Capt. J.C.M. TRAILL, M.C. of this Battalion, and a few men attacked the garrison and gun escort and after a hot fight succeeded in capturing the 4 guns and the survivors of the garrison, including 3 Officers.

In the Artillery Commander's Pill Box a big leather portfolio was captured containing papers of great Military Value. These were forwarded to Bde. H'quarters as soon as possible. The RED LINE was consolidated and in a position of defence by 0730, reorganization being proceeded with as much as possible. The following Booty was captured by the Battalion during the advance, as well as numerous other articles not enumerated.-

- 4. 77mm. German Field Guns.
 - 5. Heavy Machine Guns.
 - 6. Light " "
 - 1. Trench Mortar. -
 - 2. Bomb Machines.
- A large quantity of Ammunition and about 300 prisoners, including 11 Officers.
A large amount of Military Papers, Maps. Orders, Etc.

Our casualties were approximately 13 Officers and 188 Other Ranks.

At 0710 a large body of the Enemy were observed moving South from BROODSEINDE. Artillery were advised by visual signalling and dispersed same promptly. The BLUE LINE was carried by the 6th and 7th Battalions on schedule time.

At 1200 enemy were observed massing at DAME HO and CELTIC WOOD. Artillery were advised and responded promptly scattering them in all directions. Enemy shelling which had been very severe for some time eased down slightly at 1320. At 1330, enemy commenced to mass in large numbers in FLINT COPSE FARM. Artillery again effectively dealt with the situation, apparently inflicting heavy losses on the Enemy and preventing the counter-attack developing.

Bn. H'quarters had been established in RETALIATION FARM immediately the 1st. Objective had been carried and Coys. were promptly linked up by 'phone.

At 1510 S.O.S. Signal went up from Unit on our Right Flank, artillery responding promptly. Our Front Line reported Enemy massing at 1707 and Artillery laid down Barrage for 20 minutes. Attack failed to develop. At 1845 heavy Enemy Artillery and M. Gun fire was put down on our Forward Area and Enemy appeared to be attacking. S.O.S. fired from Front Line and Artillery responded. Attack again failed to develop. S.O.S's went up at 1915 - 1950 - 2020 and 2050 from different parts of our Front Line, but no attack developed.

5th Oct.

At 0030 Enemy commenced shelling heavily. At 0110 Two Lewis Guns from 1st. Pioneer Bn. reported and were placed in our own Line. Shelling heavy on both sides throughout the night, but eased down during morning. All wounded were cleared and water and rations got forward to Line during night.

Battn. was relieved during the afternoon by the 9th Battn. A. I. F.

Relief was completed by 1820 (in daylight) and Battn. proceeded to dugouts in CHINA WALL.

.....Lt-Colonel,
Commanding 8th. Battalion, A. I. F.

8th Battalion, A. I. F.

7-9th October, 1917.

Appendix III

NARRATIVE of OPERATIONS.

7/10/17. 1230. Part of Battalion moved from CHATEAU SEGWARD.
1330. Remainder of Battn. moved from CHINA WALL.
1600. Relief complete. 6th. Battn. moved out. 1 (one)
other rank wounded.
1740. Battn. to stand to (verbl from Brigade Major 3rd
A. I. Brigade) - Coys. warned.
1833. Stand Down - Sent to Coys.
8/10/17. 0630. Engineers party - 3 Off. 175 O. Ranks, moved to
work at WESTHOEK ~~XIDEX~~ CROSS ROADS.
1000. Working Party 2 Off. 50 O. Ranks sent to 3rd.
Brigade as Carrying Party..
1600. Warned to be on alert - Enemy attack expected.
1730. Heavy bombardment by us of Enemy Lines.
9/10/17. 0520. Heavy bombardment laid down on Enemy Lines.
0630. 3 Off. 200 O. Ranks. to Engineers.
1100. Representatives of 57th Battalion, A.I.F. arrived
to relieve. Relieving Unit notified at 1130 as
58th Battalion, A.I.F..
1400. Representatives of 58th Battalion arrived.
1650. First parties of relieving Battalion arriving.
1713. Relief complete - 2 Coys. of Tith Battn. taking
over.
1720. Unit moving out.
2030. Battalion embussed at SHRAPNEL CORNER.
2300. Arrived in Camp near RENINGHELST.

M. L. H. ..Lt-Colonel,
Commanding 8th. Battalion, A.I. F.

Appendix No 3

8th Battalion, A.I.F.

23-30th October, 1917.

Appendix 4.

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS.

Oct. 23rd.

Bn. moved from Inf. Barracks, YPRES, at 0915 and Proceeded by Route March to WESTHOEK RIDGE, relieving the 15th Bn. A.I.F. in garrison there. Relief was completed without casualty by 1150. A hot meal was brought forward from YPRES by First Line Transport and served to the men.

At 1600 Bn. again moved forward and took over Front Line from 14th Bn. A.I.F. Shelling from Hostile Artillery was very heavy, but relief was completed by 1950. Eight casualties. Disposition of Bn. as follows-

LINE - "C" on Left "D" Coy. on Right.

CLOSE SUPPORT "A" Coy.

LOCAL RESERVE at Bn. Headquarters, "B" Coy.

Enemy shelling continued heavy throughout the Night.

Oct. 24th

Morning a little quieter, but enemy artillery activity became very intense at 1430. At 1730 an Enemy Patrol was surprised and dispersed by one of our Advanced Posts, one prisoner of the 607th Regt. being taken. This prisoner was successfully escorted back through the Barrage and handed over at Prisoners of War Cage.

A practice Barrage by our Artillery was put down on DECLINE COPSE at 1800.

Officer Patrols patrolled our whole front during night encountering opposition from hostile patrols and M.Guns fire at DECLINE COPSE. A new Post was established by our forward Coys. during the night at D.17.b.8.4. Weather conditions very severe, the men in most cases having practically no cover, and mud knee deep everywhere.

Oct. 25th.

Situation comparatively quiet during morning, but artillery activity resumed during afternoon. During night one of our patrols captured prisoner of 49th Reg. who stated that he had been lost.

Appendix No. 4

- Oct. 25th. Communication very difficult owing to heavy enemy Barrages and persistent shelling of tracks. Shelling mostly with heavy calibre guns.
- 26th. 0540 Canadians attacked on our Left, one Coy. 6th Bn. doing minor operation on our Left Flank. 0547 6th Bn. reported objectives gained. Capturing 70 prisoners and 6 M. Guns. Engineers went forward and assisted to consolidate captured Posts. During the morning the advanced Posts of our Bn. succeeded in capturing 2 prisoners of the 13th Regt. During operation an extremely heavy Barrage was put down by Enemy on Batn. Sector. 1600 Canadians on our Left fell back, thus forcing the 6th Bn. A.I.F. to withdraw to original line. Patrol under 2/Lt P. LAY, M.C., reconnoitred DECLINE COPSE finding same strongly held by the Enemy. The Canadians on our Left seemed to be disorganized, a number of them wandering into our Lines. Heavy Enemy shelling continued throughout the day and night.
- 27th. Situation somewhat quieter. Front and Support Coys. heavily shelled during afternoon. Officers from relieving Bn. (6th Bn. A.I.F.) reconnoitred Line as far as possible. Battn. relieved during afternoon and evening by 6th Bn. A.I.F. Relief completed with one casualty by 1950. Battn. proceeded, Headquarters & 3 Coys to ANZAC RIDGE, and one Coy. to WESTHOLK RIDGE. Enemy shelled heavily with Gas Shells during night.
- 28th. Enemy shelled ANZAC RIDGE heavily during morning inflicting 7 casualties on "A" Coy. To avoid further casualties this Coy. was moved to WESTHOLK. Many men suffering from bad feet and severe weather conditions.
- 29th. Day was quieter, rations etc., getting through O.K. During night ANZAC RIDGE subjected to a very intense bombardment with Gas Shells, numerous direct hits being made with same on Bn. Hqrs.

- 3 -

Oct. 30th. Bn. was relieved by 9th. Bn. relief being completed by 1130. On relief Bn. moved into huts at CHATEAU SEGUAUD Area.

Total casualties for Tour-

	<u>Offs.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Killed - - -	1	21
Wounded - - -	2	60
Evacuated Sick - -		78
Gassed - - -	1	6
" remaining on Duty.	5	38
	<u>9</u>	<u>203</u>

W. Mitchell
..... Lt Colonel,
Commanding 8th. Battalion, A. I. F.

188



Appendix No. 14

10