

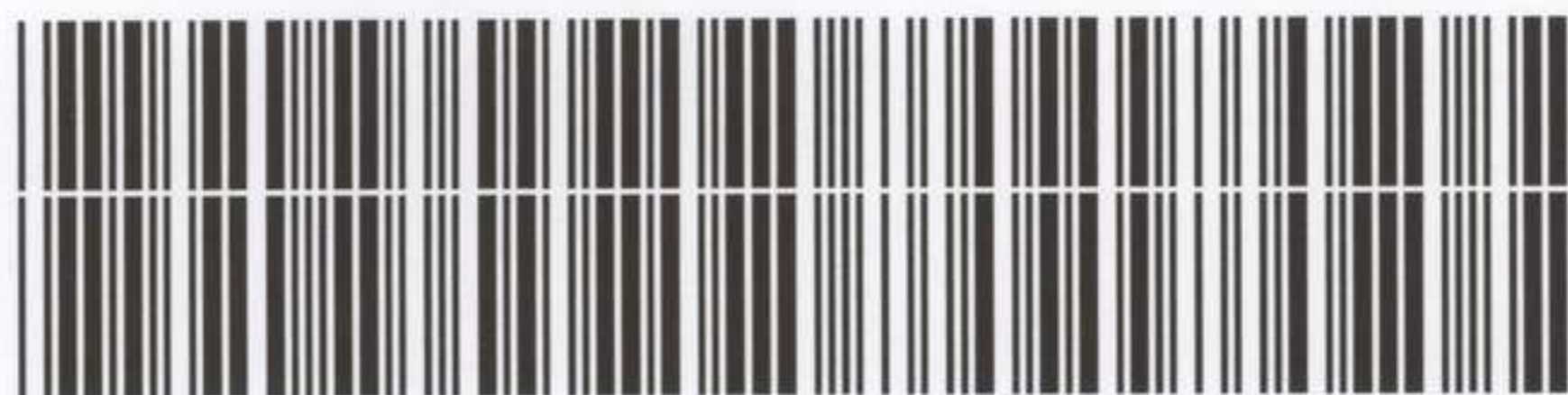
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/29/23

Title: 12th Infantry Battalion

January 1917



AWM4-23/29/23

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.

12th Battalion
3rd Inf. Bgde
A. I. F.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C 2118.

Vol. II.

Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Fields.	Jan. 2		Lieut. G. J. Gandy evacuated sick. Capt. O. A. Field A.A.M.C. attached to Battrn as R.M.O.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	3		Notified by Brigade that 40, Lt. C. H. Elliott had been awarded D.S.O. also M.C. for Lt. E. W. D. King.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	6		No. 501 Pte. C. B. Thorne killed in action. Capt. J. E. Newland returned to duty from 2 nd Bgde HQ.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
			Strength. 36 officers 892 O/R.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	8		Relieved at FLERS as 'B' Battalion by 52 nd Battalion. Relief complete by 1650. 2 casualties coming out of village. Returned to PERTH CAMP for the night. 'A' + 'C' Coy left LAUNCESTON CAMP for DERNANCOURT.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	9		11 th Bn, 12 th Bn entrained at QUARRY SIDING at 1230 for MERLTE. Marched thence to billets in DERNANCOURT. 29 men returned from hospital awaiting our arrival.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	10		2 nd Lt. F. Marriott arrived. 41 partially trained men absorbed into the battalion allotted to companies.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	13		Commenced training after 3 days rest & relaxation authorised by Div. Commander.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
			Strength 37 officers 896 O/R.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	14		Left DERNANCOURT for billets in BRESLE. Lt. G. J. Gandy returned from hospital.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	15		2 nd Lt. H. G. Jacot arrived with 14 reinforcements.	<u>C.M.M.</u>
	16		Lt. Col. C. H. Elliott granted 14 days leave to England. Major F. F. Giles takes over command during his absence.	<u>C.M.M.</u>

VOLUME XI

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12th Battalion
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Vol. II

Page 2.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1917. Jan. 17		Heavy fall of snow. 49 reinforcements arrived.	<u>CMM</u>
	19		Divisional Commander inspected "Companies in Attack." Strength 37 Officers 924 O/R.	<u>CMM</u>
	22		"Battalion in Attack." Criticisms on same by Brigadier.	<u>CMM</u>
	23		Reinforcement Officer, 2 nd Lieut. E. W. L. Lines arrived.	<u>CMM</u>
	24		Weather still bitterly cold. Left BAESLE at 1045 for FRICOURT 'A' CAMP. 1 casualty coming through ALBERT from bomb dropped by hostile land plane.	<u>CMM</u>
	25		Brigadier rode over from MILLENCOURT to inspect camp. Road party of 3 off 150 O/R supplied.	<u>CMM</u>
	26		Capt. J. A. W. Kayser returned to Battalion with 23 reinforcements. Strength 39 officers 901 O/R.	<u>CMM</u>
	27		Very severe weather, still no thaw. Last day of training.	<u>CMM</u>
	28		Moved to BAKENTIN-LE-PETIT, being relieved by 5 th D.L.I.	<u>CMM</u>
	29		Party of 6 officers + 400 O/R supplied for ANZAC Corps Railways. Generally cleaning up + improving of camp. Following appointments + promotions in A.I.F. Order recd. today:-	
			Capt. A. J. Boase transferred from 9 th to 12 th (dated 1/12/16) + promoted major (antedated 21/10/16)	
			No. C.O.M.S. F. E. Priddy No. Sgt. W. J. Kelly } promoted 2 nd lieutenants No. 19 Sgt. J. R. Taylor No. Cpl. J. Webster } dated 24/1/17.	
			Lieut. R.M. G.P. Potter seconded from 22/12/16. Lieut. O. J. Popper seconded from 29/1/16.	<u>CMM</u>

J. J. J. J.

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Page 3.

Army Form C. 2118.
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
In the Field	1917 Jan. 30 31		<p>Improvement of camp lines, latrines etc.</p> <p>Training during morning for the few men left in camp. Fatigue & working parties supplied amounting to 6 officers 460 O/R.</p> <p>Lt. Col. C. H. Elliott returned from leave & assumed command of Bn.</p> <p>The weather during the month has been most severe, the heavy fall of snow on 16th being still thick on the ground. The health of the troops has improved considerably during the month, especially so, considering the short time spent in the 'T' area.</p>	<p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten signature: J. H. Elliot Lt Col]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten text: 28.12.17. My. dco. 12th Bn.]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten text: Commandg. 12th Bn.]</i></p>

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19th. BATTALION.
SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

P.T. = Physical Training. R.E. = Rifle Exercises.
B.F. = Bayonet Fighting. R.M. = Route March.

Figures are number of minutes allotted to each exercise.

Day.		
1.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Fitting equipment. (30). Squad Drill (30) R.E. (30). P.T. (30). Squad Drill (30).
	Afternoon.	Squad Drill (30). R.E. (30). R.M. (60).
2-3-4.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Squad and Platoon Drill (60). Musketry (30) R.E. (30). B.F. (30).
	Afternoon.	Battalion Drill (30). B.F. (30). R.M. (60). <i>Platoon</i>
5.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Platoon Drill (30). Extended Order Drill (30). Company Drill (30). B.F. (30). Musketry (30).
	Afternoon.	R.M. (120) Marching Order
6-7-8.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Company Drill (60). Extended Order Drill (60). Musketry (30).
	Afternoon.	B.F. (30). R.E. (30). R.M. (60).
9-10.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Company in Attack (90). Musketry (30). B.F. (30).
	Afternoon.	Platoon Drill (30). B.F. (30). Battalion Drill (60).
11.	Morning.	P.T. (30). Company in Attack (90). Musketry (30). B.F. (30).
	Afternoon.	R.M. (120) Marching Order.
12-14.	Morning.	Battalion in Attack.
	Afternoon.	Company Drill (30). R.E. (30). R.M. (60).

L.M. Newton

.....Lieut. Col.
Commanding 19th Battalion.

10/1/17.

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12th. BATTALION. A.I.F.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.
OF INTELLIGENCE PLATOON FROM 17th to 20th JANUARY 1917.

DATE	TIME.	NATURE OF WORK.
17/1/17.	0900 to 0930.	Physical Training.
	0930 to 1000.	Platoon Drill.
	1000 to 1030.	Signalling.
	1030 to 1100.	Bayonet Fighting.
	1130 to 1200.	Musketry.
	1330 to 1530.	Location of Brigade Headquarters and Battalions' Headquarters etc.
18 /1/17.	0900 to 1200.	Road Reconnaissance.
	1330 to 1400.	Signalling.
	1400 to 1430.	Physical Training.
	1430 to 1500.	Platoon Drill.
	1500 to 1530.	Bombing.
19/1/17.	0900 to 0930.	Physical Training.
	0930 to 1000.	Judging distances.
	1000 to 1030.	Platoon Drill.
	1030 to 1100.	Skirmishing.
	1100 to 1130.	Passing messages.
	1130 to 1200.	Bayonet Fighting.
	1330 to 1400.	Prismatic Compass.
	1400 to 1430.	Signalling.
	1430 to 1530.	Intense Observation and Map Sketching.
	20/1/17.	0900 to 0930.
0930 to 1000.		Rifle Exercises.
1000 to 1030.		Bombing.
1030 to 1100.		Signalling.
1100 to 1130.		Passing messages.
1130 to 1200.		Skirmishing.
1330 to 1430.		Map reading.
1430 to 1500.		Bayonet Fighting.
1500 to 1530.		Platoon Drill.

C.M. Newton

BRESLE. 16/1/16.

.....Lieut. & Adjt
For C.O. 12th. Battalion.

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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING

TO BE CARRIED OUT BY LEWIS MACHINE GUN RESERVES.

DATE.	TIME.	NATURE OF WORK.
17/1/17.	0900 to 1000,	Lecture "Points to be noted during Training"
	1000 to 1200.	Description of Gun and names of parts.
18/1/17.	0900 to 1100.	Stripping (for cleaning) and care of Gun.
	1100 to 1200.	Mechanism.
19/1/17.	0900 to 1000.	General description and names of parts.
	1000 to 1030.	Characteristics of L.Guns as compared with Machine Guns.
	1030 to 1230.	Stripping and Assembling by Reserves. (Special attention being paid to names of parts)
20/1/17.	0900 to 1000.	Stoppages. (Describing stoppages and causes 1st, 2nd and X 3rd positions.
	1000 to 1130.	Mechanism.
	1130 to 1200.	Lecture. "Organisation of Lewis Gun Detachments"
22/1/17.	0900 to 1100.	Stoppages (Immediate action)
	1100 to 1200.	Aiming instruction, Triangle of error test.
23/1/17.	0900 to 1030.	Drill. 1st. stage.
	1030 to 1100.	Lecture "Tactical handling of Lewis Gun for Attack and Defence"
	1100 to 1200.	Stoppages and Magazine Loading.
24/1/17.	0900 to 0930.	Lecture "Points to be noted before, during and after firing" (Care of Guns)
	0930 to 1000.	Stripping for Stoppages.
	1000 to 1200.	Competition. Time Tests. Stripping.
25/1/17.		
26/1/17.	0900 to 1200.	Range practises and revolver practise for Nos 1 and 2.

G. P. Sandy
Lieut.
 Lewis M.G. Officer.

Bombers

Syllabus of Training

To Start 17 Jan'y 1917.

Lab

Wednesday 17/1/17	0900 to 0930.	Physical training
	0930 to 1000.	Lecture, various types of grenades and how to use them.
	1000 to 1100.	Practice throwing grenades.
	1100 to 1200.	Trench tactics
Thursday 18/1/17	0900 to 0930.	Physical training
	0930 to 1000.	Practice throwing grenades
	1000 to 1100.	Lecture various types of grenades + how to use them
	1100 to 1200.	Trench tactics
Friday 19/1/17	0900 to 0930.	Physical training
	0930 to 1000.	Practice throwing grenades
	1000 to 1100.	Employment of bombers in attack
	1100 to 1200.	Organization and execution of bombing attack
Saturday 20/1/17	0900 to 0930.	Physical training
	0930 to 1000.	Throwing grenades.
	1000 to 1100.	Various types of grenades, and how to use them and precautions against accident.
	1100 to 1200.	Trench tactics
Sunday 21/1/17	0900 to 0930.	Physical training
	0930 to 1000.	Practice throwing grenades.
	1000 to 1100.	Lecture, Employment of Bombers in defence & blockading of trenches
	1100 to 1130.	Bayonet fighting
	1130 to 1200.	Lecture, Care and storage of grenades.



Thursday 23.1.17.	0900 to 10 1200	Throwing live grenades.
Wednesday 24.1.17.	0900 to 0930	Physical training
	0930 to 1000	Practice throwing grenades.
	1000 to 1100	Description of German grenade.
	1100 to ¹¹³⁰ 1200	Supply of grenades in attack.
Thursday 25.1.17	1130 to 1200	Bayonet fighting
	0900 to 1200	Throwing live grenades
Friday 26.1.17	0900 to 0930	Physical training
	0930 to 1000	Practice throwing grenades.
	1000 0930 to 1100	Lecture various kinds of grenades & how to use them
	1100 to 1200	Employment of bombers in attack and defence.
Saturday	0900 to ⁰⁹³⁰ 1200	Physical training
	0930 to 1200	Summary of previous work.

Note Rifle grenades will take same course except that rifle grenades will be substituted for hand grenades.

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 OPERATION ORDER No. X
 By Major F.G. Giles Commanding 1Wth Battal.

IN THE FIELD 21/12/17.

Reference Map - Special Enlargement

INFORMATION The enemy's position which we are concerned consists of two lines of trenches, well constructed and with several deep dug-outs. HARE TRENCH running from X.2.C.5.4 to X.2.D.8.7. HARE SUPPORT from X.2.C.2.4 to X.2.D.6.8. STRONG POINT, HARE REDOUBT (X.2.D.8.8) ADVANCED POSTS. Bomb or M.G. posts X.2.C.7.1 and X.2.D.7.5
 COMMUNICATION TO REAR. Via BOSCH CUTTING.
 No defensive positions are known on the forward slope of HAYSTACK HILL on our sector except a probable M.G. position at X.2.C.4.8.
 A H.Q. dug out appears to exist at X.2.C central.

INTENTION It is intended to take by assault after artillery preparation - cooperating simultaneously with troops on our right and left - HARE TRENCH on a front from X.2.C.5.8 to X.2.D.8.8 (including HARE REDOUBT) - to consolidate and to hold.

INSTRUCTIONS ARTILLERY BARRAGES. At ~~2.30~~ 2.30 p.m. on a date to be named, artillery will commence a creeping barrage from X.2.C.6.0 to X.2.D.8.4 lifting by 50 yards per minute. The second lift, i.e. after 2 minutes, HARE TRENCH will be clear for entering but not HARE REDOUBT. After 3 minutes HARE REDOUBT will be entered by Bombers. After 4 minutes HARE SUPPORT will be clear. The barrage will then rest from X.2.C.4.4 to X.2.D.1.8 to ~~X.2.B.3.0~~ X.2.B.3.0 for two minutes, lifting to line X.2.C.2.8 - X.2.B.3.3 for one minute and then rest indefinitely on a line X.2.A.2.8 - X.2.B.4.4.

TACTICAL Attention is drawn to the use of bombers on enemy advanced posts on right of right Company and left of left Company. The importance of the right Company being strong in bombers for HARE REDOUBT who must be prompt after the third minute of barrage. The right Company must realise the importance of BOSCH CUTTING and the necessity for blockading at about X.2.B.3.0. Likewise the left Company must be prepared with its rifle grenades men against the supposed M.G. position at X.2.C.3.5 to cover the advance of the party which is detailed to go to that vicinity after the barrage is lifted from that line. The outpost line after the position is taken will be roughly X.2.A.0.0 through X.2.A.8.2 to X.2.B.3.1.

CONSOLIDATION The new front line will be dug on a line behind HARE SUPPORT from X.2.C.4.4 to X.2.D.4.8. Communication trench to the rear will be dug prolonging the enemy sap head at X.2.D.7.5 to X.2.D.10.2. A strong point will be started for rifle grenade men at X.2.C. central to cover BOSCH CUTTING. Signal officer will establish telephone communication.

JUMPING OFF X.2.A.10.9 - X.2.A.3.1.

DISTRIBUTION "A" Company and two H.Q. bomb teams will attack the right of sector, its left running on a line X.2.D.4.1 - X.2.D.1.4 - X.2.A.3.3. "B" Company will attack left sector from "A" Company's left line of attack to left of sector.

~~xxx~~ "A" and "B" Companies will attack in two lines of two waves each. Mopping up will be done by "C" Company in one line of two waves covering the full objective of the battalion.

"C" Company will not go beyond HARE TRENCH and REDOUBT, is responsible for consolidation there, acting as supports and constructing the communication trench from X.2.D.7.5 to rear (mentioned under "Consolidation").

~~xxxxxx~~ "D" Company will act as carrying Company. The Battalion Dump being at Battalion H.Q. (X.7.A.8.2 The Brigade Dump being at X.5.B.5.2. (Bombs, S.A.A. Rifle grenades) and (Rations and water) being the order of importance.

~~xxxx~~ TOOLS

O.R. in second wave of "A", "B" and "C" companies, other than L.M.G. and Bombers will carry alternately a pick or a shovel. The tools carried by the respective companies will be for their own exclusive use and those carrying them must know where they will be ultimately used.

CONTACT PLANES

The signalling officer must be prepared to light flares at 3 p.m. when the contact planes will fly over at the following points, X.2.C. central, X.2.D.8.1, X.2.D.5.8, X.2.C.4.8.

REPORTS

To battalion H.Q.

SPECIAL

Improvisations. Barrage will be represented by 8 men of the Intelligence platoon who will wave signalling flags for the given time on each barrage line. There will be two lines of eight. The new barrage line being in position and kneeling dormant until signal of the lift on which signal of the old barrage ceases and doubles to the rear of the second line, there to take up kneeling position in readiness for the third barrage line and so on until the last barrage line. The I.O. will be responsible for times and barrages once the action is commenced.

Marking out of ground in accordance with sketch. "A" and "B" are responsible for the improvisation of trenches. e c., of their own sector of all

enemy ground. "C" Company are responsible for the preparation of jumping off trenches.

"D" Company will arrange to have sandbags representing to contain the various articles they are supposed to carry. It may be possible to find ~~xxxxxx~~ empty petrol tins for the water in vicinity of RANGE FARM. The parties carrying should know what they are supposed to be carrying. "D" Company will have 1 M.G.O. and three men at Battalion Dump and at Brigade Dump who will have previous orders prepared so that parties will not be delayed. Improvised bombs for use by bombers in attack will be stones previously collected and carried in the

right proportion by the bomb teams. Indiscriminate picking up of the unlimited supply on the ground after advance is begun is undesirable"

*a. 6/1/42
B. 5/1/42
C. 1/1/42
D. New*

*(Lgd) R. M. Newton
Brady*

