

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/40/27

Title: 23rd Infantry Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-23/40/27

23rd BATTALION

WAR DIARY

Vol. XXXII

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. P. I

Confidential - Original

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1917	Hour	MAP. REF. SHEETS 28 & 36	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOCRE	DECEMBER			Saturday. Battalion Sports meeting held on ground near camp. Very successful. A Coy won the Battalion Inter-company cup. Programme of events attached as Appendix 'A'.	0 44	OR 848 App 'A' CDZ
WAKEFIELD HUTS	1					
"	2			Church parade on ground near 21 st BN camp in LOCRE. Lt Col Brazenor in charge of parade, comprising 21 st 23 rd 24 th Bns, 22 nd M.G. Coy. T.M. Bty & Bde details.		CDZ
"	3			Company training. Bn. played 2 nd Pioneer Bn in the first match of Brigade Football competition, winning by 9.11 (65 points) to 4.5 (29 points)		CDZ
"	4			Company training. H.Q. details held their Sports meeting		CDZ
"	5			Company training & football match in afternoon against 22 nd BN. After an exciting contest, 23 rd BN won by one point.		CDZ
"	6 & 7			Company & specialist training & organized games carried on as usual.		CDZ
"	8			Saturday. Brigade Sports held on same ground as our BN. Sports on 1/12/17 evidence of the benefits gained by our systematic sports & recreational training was given in the way this BN won the majority of the events, & winning the Brigade Cup. Sgt Phillips of the A.M.C. details, and Cpl Hutchison were the principal performers for this BN. The latter is a 16 th reinforcement.	458 871	CDZ
"	9			Church parade held in YMCA hut LOCRE at 9 am. 23 rd BN & T.M. Bty.		CDZ
"	10			Company training in morning. Recreational training in afternoon		CDZ
"	11			Batt ⁿ muster parade at 9 am. Voting on referendum question taken.		CDZ
"	12			Baths at LOCRE in morning. In afternoon, 23 rd played 24 th BN in final football match of Brigade competition, & won by 8.9 (57 points) to 7.11 (53 points).		CDZ

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Vol XXXII

P.P. II

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Ref Map Sheet 28	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOCRE	DECEMBER				0	000
WAKEFIELD HUTS CAMP	13			Company training & recreational exercises as usual		CD7
"	14			"Marching-out" parade. Operation order No (App "B") issued. Col. Brazenor left for a month's leave in ENGLAND		CD7 App. "B"
CANTEEN CORNER T26 C 5.1.	15			Marched to new position. Hut camp at "Canteen Corner" (Sheet 28) T26 C 5.1. route being via DRANOUTRE & NEUVE EGLISE. Major H.J. Smith took over	45	900 CD7 App. B
"	16			Church parade in CANTEEN. Operation Order No 88. App. B attached. Temporary command of BN.		CD7
"	17			C.O., Capt ^m Beith, Mess Galbraith, Hinchcliffe & Hill & I.O. reconnoitred "Position of Readiness - Warneton" WEST of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD. Company training as usual		CD7
"	18			C.O., Capt ^m Beith, Mess Galbraith, Hinchcliffe & Hill & I.O. reconnoitred "Position of Readiness - FREHLINGHIEN" at CHAPELLE ROMPUE. (Sheet 26) C7 C 55.15.		CD7
"	19			H.Q. details Xmas dinner held in CANTEEN. Specialist & Coy training. A Coy held Xmas dinner in Canteen. I.O. visited H.Q. of Brigades in line.		CD7
"	20			Usual training. C. Coy held Xmas dinner in Canteen.		CD7
"	21			Baths at PAPOT allotted during morning. C. Coy commenced work on defences in CORPS RESERVE AREA, SOUTH of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD		CD7
"	22			Battn. parade & inspection by C.O. C. Coy continued daily fatigue as above. D. Coy Xmas dinner.	47	901 CD7
"	23			A & B Coys occupied Corps Reserve area, relieving portion of 21 st BN. A Coy H.Q. at GO. RABEQUE Fm. B Coy H.Q. at PLOEGSTEERT. C & D. Coys on fatigue improving Corps Defences in same area		CD7
"	24			Do. Do. Transport held their Xmas dinner.		CD7

23rd BATTN
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WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol. XXVII
P.P. III

Army Form C. 2118.

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Par. II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date	Hour	REF. MAP Sheet 28	Summary of Events and Information	STRENGTH	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 DECEMBER					
CANTEEN CORNER T26C S. 1.	25			Usual fatigue parties on Corps Defences. Church parade for men remaining in camp. Holy Communion, Padre Durnford M.C. officiating. Xmas boxes & plum puddings (gifts of Aust. Comforts fund) distributed to every man.	0 ORs	CD7
"	26			Same fatigues on Corps Defence line. Remaining men working on earthwork protection to huts of Camp.		CD7
"	27 28 29			Working on Corps Defences		CD7
"	30			Do Do. Church parade for remainder of BN in Canteen	145 903	CD7
"	31			Do Do. Major Bateman returned from England & took over temporary command of Bn. from Major H.J. Smith. Capt. R.C.D. Dawson (Adjutant) went to London for medical examination for transfer to Indian Army.		CD7

TWENTY-THIRD BATTALION

Appendix A.

S P O R T S

To be held on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st., 1917

For each event, excepting Nos. 12 and 17, the winning company will receive 3 points, and the second 1 point. The Company gaining the highest number of points throughout the Battalion Sports wins the Battalion Championship Silver Cup.

1. **BOXING**.---Time and date to be notified. Light Heavy-weight, 12st. 7lbs.--Prize, Medal. Welter-weight, 10st 7lbs and under.---Prize, Medal. Light-weight, 9st 9lbs and under.--Prize, Medal. Feather-weight, 9st and under.--Prize, Medal.
2. **HOCKEY MATCH**.--Time and date to be notified. Teams of 11 men per company. Play, 15 min. each way.
FINAL HOCKEY, 9 a.m.
3. **OPEN RACE, 100 Yds.**--9.30 a.m. Prize, Medal.
4. **OBSTACLE RACE**.--9.45 a.m. Prize, Trophy.
5. **RELAY RACE**--10.15 a.m. Teams of 8 men per Coy. Flag to be carried unfurled and in line with the shoulder.
6. **TUG OF WAR**.--10.45 a.m. Teams of Captain and 10 men. Pull shall be 12 feet on either side of centre line. Best two of three pulls.
7. **GRENADE THROWING** -- 11 a.m. Prize, Medal.
8. **FINAL, 100yds Race, 11.15 a.m.**
9. **CROSS COUNTRY RUN, 3 miles**--11.30 a.m. Prize for fastest time, Medal. Teams of 8 men per coy. Time limit. 23 mins. Company with greatest number of men to finish within time limit wins. All competitors to run in boots.
10. **HURDLE RACE**--1.15 p.m. Prize, Medal 120yds.
11. **OPEN, 440 yards**--1.30 p.m. Prize, Medal
12. **OFFICERS' MULE RACE**--1.45 p.m. Trophy Every officer to enter A fine of Ten Francs to be imposed on any competitor failing to complete the course. Mules to be ridden without saddles, spurs, or whip. Competitors to stand at head of mules at starting point, and mount on lifting of barrier. Bridle to be held in the hand and not over the neck of mule
13. **HIGH JUMP** -- 2.15 a.m. Prize, Medal
14. **WHEELBARROW RACE**--2.30 p.m. Prize, Trophy
15. **FINAL, 440 yards**--3 p.m.
16. **FINAL, TUG OF WAR**--3.15 p.m.
17. **SLOW HORSE RACE**--3.30. Prize, Trophy. Horses to be nominated by officers and ridden by batmen. Batmen will not ride the horses nominated by their officers. Last horse to finish wins. Prize to be given to the batman of the officer who nominated the last horse. Prize also given to the rider of the first horse to finish.
18. A Prize will be given for the Best Sustained Character in Fancy Dress throughout the day of Sports

All Entries to be handed to Sports N.C.O. of the Company on or before THURSDAY, Nov. 29th.

Company Sports Committee are responsible that all competitors are on the mark up to time.

23rd Battalion Press.

Lt. W. ANDERSON, Sec.

Ref. Map Sheet 28, 1/40,000

14th December 1917.

- 1.- The 6th A.I. Brigade will move to Reserve Brigade Area on the 15th inst.
- 2.- The 23rd Battalion will move by Route March to CANTEN CORNER at T.26.c.6.1. on the 15th inst.
- 3.- Starting Point - Entrance Gates to LOCREHOF FARM at M.29.d.0.4.
- 4.- Head of Column will pass Starting Point at 11.50 a.m.
Coys. to be in position on LOCRE ROAD at 11.45 a.m.
- 5.- Order of March :- Band, H.Qrs., "C", "D", "A" Coys.
- 6.- The following minimum distances will be maintained on the march.-

Between Companies	100 yards
" Battn. & Transport	100 "
- 7.- DRESS :- Full Marching Order
Hats will be worn.
Water Bottles filled.
Box Respirators will be slung over right shoulder.
- 8.- Officers' Valises and Band Packs will be dumped in front of Battn. Orderly Room at 10 a.m.
Officers' Mess Boxes will be ready for clearance at 11.30 a.m.
Sergeants' Mess Boxes will be dumped near Guard Room at 11.30 a.m.
- 9.- BLANKETS - rolled in bundles of 10 (width of blanket) securely tied in three places and clearly labelled will be dumped near Guard Room at 9.30 a.m.
- 10.- O's C. Coys. will furnish to Battalion Headquarters by 11.30 a.m. a Certificate to the effect that their Coy. Lines are left in a clean and sanitary condition.
- 11.- ADVANCE PARTY of 1 N.C.O. per Coy. will report to Lieut. F.J. Jenkins at Battalion Headquarters at 9.30 a.m. on the 15th inst.
- 12.- A C K N O W L E D G E.

[Signature]
Lieut.
A/Adjutant, 23rd Battalion.

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15. Spare
16. Spare.