

**AWM4**

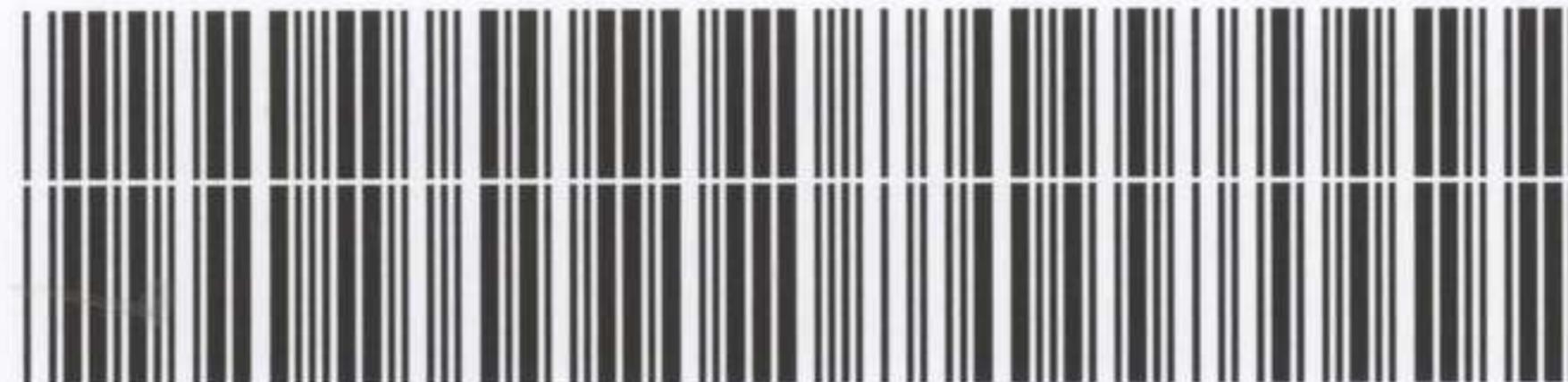
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

**Infantry**

**Item number:** 23/68/10

**Title:** 51st Infantry Battalion

**December 1916**



AWM4-23/68/10

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.

Sheet 1b  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME VII	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLERS	Nov 30th	1916	Reconnaissance of front line trenches by Coy Comds. Continuation of working parties.		RL
"	Dec 1st	"	Continuation of working parties. One D. Blanket per man returned to Batt dump at BUIRE. Orders to relieve 52nd Batt in front line received		RL
"	2nd	"	Relief of 52nd Batt completed by 8-20 P.M. Casualties nil. Disposition:- 1 Coy + 2 Platoons in front line 2 Cos + 2 Platoons in support Batt Hdqrs in BULLS ROAD. System of maintenance in front line, see Appendix A Front line trenches are revetted & duckboarded in places. Condition of trench generally good. Communication trench (GROVE AVENUE) good for 200 yds from firing line, communication from there to support trenches in overland. HAY AVENUE communication trench which will ultimately link up GROVE AVENUE with FLARE AVENUE is at present in course of construction	APP. A	RL
"	3rd	"	Work of revetting & duckboarding firing line & GROVE AVENUE proceeded with		RL
"	4th	"	Very clear day enemy aeroplanes flying low over our position directed his artillery fire on to front line by dropping flares. Trench was breached in several places Casualties 3 O.R. killed + 6 O.R. wounded. Companies in firing line were relieved by those in support. Relief completed by 7-30 P.M. Casualties nil		RL

VOL II

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118. 463

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Sheet 17

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FLERS	Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	1916 "	Order for relief by 12 <sup>th</sup> Batt., on night of 5/6 <sup>th</sup> received. Work in firing line & GROVE AVENUE continued.	Rb
"	5 <sup>th</sup>	"	work as above continued. The Batt. was relieved by 12 <sup>th</sup> Batt., relief completed by 8-10 P.M. Casualties nil. During tour ordinary routine of trench warfare was carried on. Enemy shelling on front line trench was slight. Continuous barrage by enemy Artillery was kept on line of CHEESE ROAD.	Rb
BUIRE	6 <sup>th</sup>	"	Batt. entrained at QUARRY SIDING 2 A.M. arrived MEAULTE 6 A.M. detrained & marched to BUIRE arriving at Billets 9.30 A.M.	Rb
"	7 <sup>th</sup>	"	Medical inspection by M.O. for signs of trench foot. Regt. Aid Post arranged.	Rb
"	8 <sup>th</sup>	"	Cleaning, Bathing, Parades.	Rb
"	9 <sup>th</sup>	"	Coy Training & Short Route march	
"	10 <sup>th</sup>	"	Voluntary Church Parade, Short Route march	Rb
"	11 <sup>th</sup>	"	{ Company training & Short Route marches.	Rb
"	12 <sup>th</sup>	"	{ Reinforcements arrived, Company training & Short Route march.	Rb
"	13 <sup>th</sup>	"	Company training & Short Route march.	Rb
"	14 <sup>th</sup>	"	Musketry Range Practice (grouping 30yds range)	Rb
"	15 <sup>th</sup>	"	Church Parade.	Rb

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Sheet 18  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE	Dec 1916	18 <sup>th</sup>	" moved to VIGNACOURT by Rail int line Transport by road	Rl
VIGNACOURT	19 <sup>th</sup>	.	Training 79 Reinforcements arrived	Rl
"	20 <sup>th</sup>	"	{ Training & short Route marches	Rl
"	23 <sup>rd</sup>	"	55 Reinforcements Arrived	Rl
"	24 <sup>th</sup>	"	Church Parade	Rl
"	25 <sup>th</sup>	"	" "	Rl
"	26	.	Decommissioning of Blankets Battalion Sports	Rl.
"	27 <sup>th</sup>	"	Route march, Coy Lewis Gunner Range Practice	
"	28 <sup>th</sup>	"	Coy Training & Range Practices	
"	29 <sup>th</sup>	"	"	
"	30 <sup>th</sup>	"	"	
"	31 <sup>st</sup>	"	Church Parade	Rl

Q.C. Christie major  
for C.O. Sint-Saturnin

## App. A T.

Maintainence in the front line.FLERS sub-sector.RATIONS.

The Q.M's Staff and one storeman per Company remain at Montauban Railhead and divide up the rations which are brought up on pack mules to the north end of FLERS village. Except on very dull days it is not advisable for the pack mules to arrive before 4 p.m. The four Q.M.Ss. live in a dug-out in FLERS and distribute the rations etc.

Company Cook houses are in two groups of cellars in FLERS. The detail's cooks in dug-outs in BULL'S ROAD. Cooking can only be done at night except on foggy days.

Owing to the lack of communication trenches meals can only be sent up to the front line at night. Parties leave FLERS at 4.30 p.m. and 2.30 a.m. Men in the front line are provided with Tommy Cookers.

WATER.

Biscuits are issued in the front area as it is proved that bread gets broken and sodden in transit. The water supply is not good and is obtained from wells in FLERS.

ENGINEERS SERVICES.

Sandbags, Duckboards, revetting material etc., are obtained from the dump in BULL'S ROAD.

S.A.A.  
BOMBS ETC.

The Brigade dump is in BULL'S ROAD. Each man carries in with him an extra 100 rounds, S.A.A. and 2 Mills Grenades.

MEASURES FOR  
THE PREVEN-  
TION OF  
TRENCH FEET.

Each man carries with him two pairs of socks besides the one in wear. Every man rubs his feet with whale oil three times a day "as a parade".

A drying room is established in a cellar in FLERS with four men permanently detailed to look after the fires.

SICK.

There is a rest dug-out in GROVE AVENUE where sick men can be sent for a few hours to have a rest and get their feet rubbed. Four stretcher bearers are detailed for permanent duty there and a supply of comforts and 2 primus stoves are kept there so that hot drinks can be supplied.

Men who will probably recover if given two days rest are sent back to the sick hut in 'D' Battalion area.

The Field Ambulance have an advanced post near Battalion Headquarters to which wounded and hospital cases are evacuated.

COMMUNI-  
CATIONS.

Communication by telephone was established with both sectors of the front line and was kept almost without intermission.

Communication by ~~and~~ with the left sector was impossible by day.

467

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467

## APP 'B'

51st Battalion.

## DAILY STRENGTH RETURN.

On estblt : Atchd for: On detchd: Offs evac to : O/Ranks in  
 doing duty with: duty from : duty : Hospital : Hospital in  
 U N I T Unit including : Other : : within 30 days: Div. area.  
 Chaplain & M.O.: Units : : :

Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.
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## 51st Batttn

89	624	-	5	10	119	2	57
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ARRIVALS. 8 O/Ranks from leave.

DEPARTURES. 2 Officers, (Captain H.B. BENNETT, Lieut. W.H.N. PATTRICK)  
 10 O/Rank on leave.  
 2 " to Hospital.

15/12/16.

*R Christie*  
 Major,  
 to O.C. 51st Battalion.

## 51st Battalion.

*APP "C"*

## DAILY STRENGTH RETURN.

On estblt : Attdhd for: On detched: Offs evac to : O/Ranks in  
 doing duty with: duty from : duty : Hospital : Hospital  
 U N I T Unit including : other : : within 30 days: in Div. areas.  
 Chaplain & M.O.: Units. :

	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.
51st Battn	18	718	-	5	9	434
						4
						29

ARRIVALS. 3 O/Ranks from Schools.

DEPARTURES. 11 O/Ranks on leave to England.

§ Includes 66 Other Ranks partly trained.

31/12/16.

*Rehmstie*

Major,  
for O.C. 51st Battalion.