

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/68/18

Title: 51st Infantry Battalion

August 1917



AWM4-23/68/18

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118. 210

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	VOLUME 15	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917		51 st Batta A. I. 7.		
	August		Reference Sheet 28 S.W.		
BERQUIN AREA.	1 st 4 th 6 th 7 th 8 th		Training, vide Syllabus - Copy attached marked I		I
			do. do. II		II
KEMMEL AREA.	6 th 9. 10 th 11 th 21 st		Batta moved to KEMMEL AREA, vide Batta Order N ^o 31. Copy attached, marked III		III
			Batta under orders to move & support 57 th Division (to move at 4 hrs notice) in case of attack, vide Batta Order N ^o 30 and Coy memo of 6 th Aug. Copies attached.		IV & V
			Training as per syllabus vide exhibit II.		
			A. B. & C Coys moved to Camp situated at N 29 C (Sheet S.VI.). Appendix VI		VI
			From 450 to 500 men engaged on fatigue work in Forward area. Work: Salvage, Cable laying, carrying, wiring and constructing support trenches.		
			Batta moved to Camp area Sheet Sheet 28 S.12. Vide Batta Order N ^o 33, marked VII		VII

Major
COMMANDING 51st BATTALION

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

210

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wulverghem Sector.	Aug. 22 nd	9pm.	Battn relieved the 52 nd Battn (as Support Battn) in the Wulverghem Sector vide Bn Order N ^o 34 and after order marked VIII IX Relief was completed by 10 pm.	VIII, IX
do.	23 rd to 31 st		All men engaged on fatigue work nightly. Work: Carrying, Constructing Communication & Support Trenches, Salvaging & road Construction.	
KEMMEL.	15 th		Strength return - Copy attached marked X	X
Wulverghem	31 st		" " " " " XI	XI
"	31 st		Battn relieved from support and moved to NEUVE-EGLISE Area (Sizc 87) vide Battn Order N ^o 35 - Copy attached marked XII	XII
			Casualties 8 th to 20 th (KEMMEL AREA). Wounded. 1 officer (Lt. PATTRICK W.H.) " 5 O.R. Killed. 1. O.R.	
do.	22 to 31 st		(Wulverghem Sector). Wounded. 19. O.R. Killed. 6 " Died of Wounds. 3 "	

At Bowe
T. COMMANDING 51st BATTALION

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	August.		<u>Command.</u>	
KEMMEL	20 th	2 p.m.	Lt. Col. Ridley D.S.O. Commanding 51 st Batta was evacuated to Hospital (mumps)	
"	"	8 p.m.	Major N.M. Loutitt D.S.O. of 50 th Batta assumed Temp. Command.	
Wulverghem Sector.	23.	8 p.m.	Major A.H. Rowe (51 st Batta) returned to unit from Hospital and assumed Temp. Command on 25 th vice Major Loutitt who returned to 50 th Batta on 26 th .	
				<i>A.H. Rowe</i> Major COMMANDING 51 st BATTALION

28th. July 1917.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING - 4/8/17.

Training of Platoon will be carried out in accordance with S.S.143., "Instructions for the Training of Platoons for offensive Action". Reference hereunder are to this Circular.

Day.	8 am - : 8.25 am - : 9 am - : 10 am - : 10.25 am - : 11 am. to
	8.25 am.: 8.50 am. : 9.50 am.: 10.25 am.: 10.50 am. : 11.30 am.
<hr/>	
Monday. 30th.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - with TRANSPORT.
<hr/>	
Tuesday. 31st.	Bayonet : Skirmish : Overcome : Gas drill : Fighting : ing, Fire : ing a : & inspect : Battalion Parade. : orders & : strong : ion of re : : control. : point. : spirators :
<hr/>	
Wednesday. 1st.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - with TRANSPORT.
<hr/>	
Thursday 2nd.	Bayonet : Skirmish- : Platoon : Musketry : Fighting : ing, Fire : in : exercises : Battalion Parade.. : orders & : attack : Rapid : : Control : : Loading :
<hr/>	
Friday. 3rd.	BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - with TRANSPORT.
<hr/>	
Saturday 4th.	Bayonet : Deployment : Platoon : Musketry : Fighting : & passing : Exercises Exercises : Battalion Parade. : of obsta- : : Rapid : : cles. : : Loading :
<hr/>	
2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. daily.	Training of every man in Scouting, Bombing, Lewis Gun, Signalling, Rapid Wiring, First Aid, Guards and Sentries, Saluting and Compliments.
9.30 p.m to 10. p.m.	Gas Drill with Masks. Tuesday - Bn. H/Qrs. "A" and "C" Companies. Thursday - "B" and "D" Companies.
Lectures.	(a) To officers and senior N.C.O's. 4.45 p.m. to 12.30 p.m. daily. (b) To N.C.O's. by Coy. Officers 4 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

Companies doing gas drill from 9.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. will not parade in the afternoon.

M. J. J. J.
Captain &
A/Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

4th. August 1917.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING - 11/8/17.

Training of Platoons will be carried out in accordance with S.S.143., "Instructions for the Training of Platoons for offensive Action". References hereunder are to this Circular.

Day. 8 am - : 8.25 am - : 9 am - : 10 am - : 10.25 am - : 11 am to
8.25 am.: 8.50 am.: 9.50 am.: 10.25 am.: 10.50 am.: 11.30 am.

Monday. 6th. BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - WITH TRANSPORT.

Tuesday. 7th. Bayonet : Skirmish- : platoon : Gas drill :
Fighting : ing, Fire : exer- : & inspect : Battalion Parade.
: orders & : cises. : am of re :
: & Control : : spirators :

Wednesday. 8th. BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - WITH TRANSPORT.

Thursday. 9th. Bayonet : Skirmish- : Outposts : Musketry :
Fighting : ing, Fire : as a : exercises : Battalion parade.
: Orders & : drill. : Rapid :
: Control. : : Loading :

Friday. 10th. BATTALION ROUTE MARCH IN MARCHING ORDER - WITH TRANSPORT.

Saturday. 11th. Bayonet : Deployment : Outpost : Musketry :
Fighting : & passing : Scheme : Exercises : Battalion Parade.
: of : : Rapid :
: obstacles : : Loading :

2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Training of every man in Scouting, Bombing, Lewis Gun, Signalling, Rapid Wiring, First Aid, Guards and Sentries, Saluting and Compliments.

9.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Gas Drill with Masks.

Tuesday - Bn. H/Qrs. "A" and "C" Companies.
Thursday - "B" and "D" Companies.

Lectures. (a) To Officers and senior N.C.O's. 11.45 a.m. to 12.30 pm. daily.
(b) To N.C.O's. by Coy. Officers 4 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

Companies doing gas drill from 9.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. will not parade in the afternoon.

M. Amman

Captain &

A/Adjutant, 51st Battalion.

51st. Battalion,
8th. August 1917.

Appendix No. III

51st. Battalion Order No. 31.

1. The Battalion will move to ~~KEMEL~~ Area this afternoon.
2. Starting Point. Reference map, sheet 36. A 2 c 8.0.
3. Order of March. Battalion Headquarters, A.B.D. and C
Companies and Transport.
4. Starting Time. Units will pass starting point at
under. :-

Headquarters.	-	3.05	p.m.
"A" Company.	-	3.05	p.m.
"B" "	-	3.07	p.m.
"D" "	-	3.09	p.m.
"C" "	-	3.11	p.m.
Transport	-	3.13	p.m.
5. Cookers will be ready to pull out at 1.30 p.m.
6. Officer's valises are to be ready for transport at
B.O.R., "B" Coy. Billets or "D" Coy. Billets at 1.30 p.m.
Officer's Mess, A.M.C. and Signal gear will be loaded
at 1.30 p.m.
7. Blankets. Blankets will be rolled in section bundles
and suitably labelled and ready for transport at 9 a.m. at
B.O.R., "B" Coy. Billets or "D" Coy. Billets.
A guard of 6 men will go forward with the Motor Lorry.
Names will be supplied later.
8. Dress. Marching Order, with W.P. sheet folded
under flap of pack, and steel helmets carried on the pack.
Felt hats to be worn.
9. The Guard and men in detention will march with "D"
Company under Battalion Orderly Officer.
10. "C" Company will supply a rear guard of 1 Sgt. and 8
men for the march.
11. Movement. 200 yards between Battalions, 100 yards
between Companies and between Transport and other Units will be
maintained.
12. Canteen. Transport Officer will arrange for the
move of the Battalion Canteen.
13. Stores. The Q.M. will arrange for the to return petrol
tins, sandbags, very lights and rockets issued on the 6th.
inst. to Bde. H/Qrs. by 10.00 a.m.
14. Water. Companies and Details are to ensure
that all drinking water is boiled before consumption.
15. Tents. Companies and Details will return all
Bell tents to Area Commandant's representative ("B" Coy.
Billet) by 11 a.m. The Bn. Intelligence Officer will
obtain a receipt for tents returned.
16. The Transport Officer will arrange to pick up
Lewis Guns at Companies.

W. Bennett, Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

51st. Battalion Order No. 30

1. The Battalion is under orders to move at 4 hours notice to support the 57th. Division in case of attack.
2. Dress. Fighting Order, i.e.
 - (a) 170 rounds S.A.A. to be carried (except by bombers, Lewis Gunners and runners who will carry 50 rounds per man).
 - (b) Mobile reserve of bombs to be ^{ISSUED} ~~carried~~ by Companies (bombers and rifle bombers to be completed first).
 - (c) Iron ration and unconsumed portion of day's ration to be carried.
 - (d) Haversack to be worn on back, to contain one pair socks; water proof sheet under flap of ~~haversack~~ haversack, and two sandbags between haversack and braces.
 - (e) water bottles to be kept full. This will be ensured by inspection on all parades.
 - (f) wire cutting men to have wire cutters attached to equipment with a cord (except wire cutters S.A.A. which will be attached to the rifle).
 - (g) Steel helmets, box respirators and P"H" Helmets to be worn.
 - (h) Officers dress to be the same as that of the men.
3. Mobile echelon of bombs and S.A.A. will be sent in bulk to Companies tonight. These must be issued immediately on receipt of move orders.
4. The Battalion will embuss on road between "C" Company's billet and Transport lines. Guides will be supplied at debussing points by the units to be reinforced.
5. Bombs to complete to two per man will be issued at debussing points. Company Commanders will render a return to B.O.R. by tonight showing the number of rounds of S.A.A. and bombs required to complete full complement for personnel and Lewis Guns.
6. Company Cookers will not go forward. Dixies will be taken under Company arrangements.
7. Packs, Officers kits, and surplus gear will be dumped at at Q.M. store within two hours of receipt of orders to move. Hats will be placed in packs. packs will be marked in accordance with orders previous issued.
8. All bomb and S.A. cases must be returned to Q.M. Store before unit moves out.
9. Transport will move to CROIX DU BAC under Lieut. S.H. CARROLL, 13th. M.G. Coy. and await orders. One water cart will remain behind.
10. personnel to be left behind will be detailed later. Such personnel and water cart will report to present 52nd. Battn. Headquarters within 24 hours after move.
11. Immediately orders to move are received, 2/Lt. TOWNSEND will report to B.O.R. as embussing Officer for this unit.
12. Baggage Guard. "B" Company will detail a baggage guard of 1 N.C.O. and 6 O/Ranks. They will report to B.O.R. within two hours of receipt of orders to move.
13. Rations. Company Commanders must ensure that all ranks are complete in iron rations. These should be checked at once.

Sgd. M. Aurousseau
Captain &
A/Adjutant, 51st Battalion.

Copy

Appendix No. V

51st. Battalion,

6th. August 1917.

Company Commanders and O.C. Details.

Reference Battalion order No. 30 of 6/8/17 para 10.

The following is the allotment of O/Ranks to be left behind.

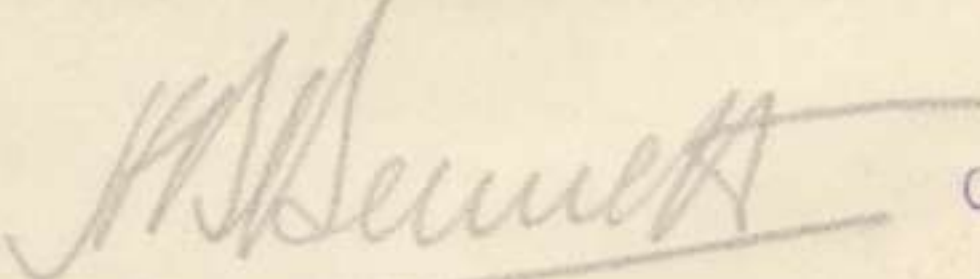
<u>Battalion H/Qrs.</u>	R.S.M.		
	Lewis Gun N.C.O. 1.		
<u>Signallers.</u>	Battalion H/Qrs.	= 6	
	Each Company - 4	= 16	
<u>Runners.</u>	Battalion H/Qrs.	= 6	
	Coy. H/Qrs. (2 each)	= 8	
	Platoon (1 each)	= 16	
<u>Rifle bombers.</u>	1 per platoon.	= 16	
<u>Scouts & Snipers.</u>	1 per platoon.	= 16	
<u>Lewis Gunners.</u>	2 per platoon.	= 32	
<u>Company N.C.O's.</u>	Company Sergeant-Majors. (1 each)	= 4	
	Sergeants. - (1 each)	= 4	
	Corporals. - (1 each)	= 4	
	Lance Corporals - 1 each	= 4	

Nominal Roll of men remaining behind must be submitted to reach B.O.R. not later than 12 noon. tomorrow.

(Sgd) M. Curousseau Captain &
A/Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

S E C R E T.Appendix No. V I51st. Battalion,
13th. August 1917.51st. Battalion Order No. 32.

1. A, B. and C. Companies will move to Camp Site at N 29 c (sheet 28 S.W.) tomorrow the 14th. instant. Companies will leave here at 2 p.m.
2. Battalion Headquarters and Details, and D Company will not move.
3. Advance party of 1 Officer and 20 O/Ranks per Company will leave at 9 a.m. and make preliminary arrangements for their Companies.
4. Lieut. HARWOOD will go with advance party and allot Company Areas.
5. Battalion Pioneers will march with advance party and carry midday meal, and will return at night to present billets.
6. Tents to be struck and ready for loading at 10 a.m. Companies to have tents dumped at convenient places for the Transport.
7. O.C. "A" Company to arrange for 30 shovels and 20 picks, (from Battalion Reserve) to go with the 1st transport trip.
8. Cookers and water cart to be ready to move at 2 p.m.
9. Captain .C.E.A. Cooke will be in charge of the three Companies whilst in that Area.


Captain A.,
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

51st. Battalion Order No. 33.

1. The 51st. Battalion will move to Camp Area (sheet 28) S.12 tomorrow (21st. instant).
2. Starting Point - (Sheet 28) N.31.d.1.0.
3. Starting Time - 10.30 a.m.
4. Distance. Distance of 400 yards will be maintained between Battalions and 100 yards between Companies and Transport.
5. Order of March. Band, Battalion H/ Qrs. A. B. and C Companies and Transport.
6. Cookers will be ready to pull out at 8.30 a.m.
Officers' valises and Lewis Guns to be ready for loading at 8.30 a.m.
Officers' Mess, A.M.C. and Signal gear, and Q.M. Material will be ready for loading at 9.30 a.m.
7. Dress. Full marching order with blanket and W.P. sheet. Felt hats to be worn. Steel helmets to be carried on the pack.
8. ~~Rear~~ Guard and men in detention will march in rear of "A" Company under Lieut. MITCHELL. "C" Company will supply rear guard of one platoon for the march.
9. Canteen. The Transport Officer will arrange for the transport of the Battalion Canteen.
10. Camp Stores. Companies will submit by 8 a.m. in the morning a return showing number of tents, shelters, bunks, tables, forms, latrine seats and buckets in their area.
11. Advance party. "D" Company will pass the starting point at 9 a.m. and will proceed to the new Area and erect tents. Lieut. HARWOOD will report to O.C. "D" Company at the starting point!
12. Picks and shovels. The Transport Officer will arrange to return all picks and shovels (now in "A" Company lines) to LINDENHOEK Dump. O.C. "A" Company will detail 4 men to load limbers at 6.30 a.m. These men will proceed with the limbers and after unloading will return to their Company.
13. Company Commanders will render a certificate to the effect that the camp is left in a thoroughly and sanitary position.

M. Bennett

Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

21st. August 1917.

51st. Battalion Order No. 34.

1. The 51st. Battalion will relieve the 52nd. Battalion at Camp Site Squares U 7 and 8. (sheet 28). on the evening of 22nd instant.
2. Starting time will be notified later.
3. Transport. Transport lines will be located at T.S.C.S.7. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (sheet 28 S.W.).
4. Baggage. All surplus baggage will be dumped at Transport Lines. ~~XX~~ Packs will be dumped near Q.M. Store by 11 a.m. tomorrow. Felt hats and all spare gear must be placed in the packs. Packs are to be marked for identification (Battalion pattern) and dumped in Company heaps.
5. Dress. - Fighting order with blanket in W.P. sheet rolled bandolier fashion over the right shoulder. Unexpended portion of the days' rations in addition to the emergency ration will be carried.
6. Socks, shaving gear, soap etc, will be carried in haversack.
7. Band and cooks will remain with transport.
8. Route. Route will be notified later.
9. Emergency observation. If hostile balloons are up every care must be taken to minimise exposure of troops moving forward.
10. Rations and cook's utensils will be delivered at the ration distributing post. Transport Officer and Quartermaster will arrange this.
11. Advice of completion of relief will be sent in to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible.
12. Trench Stores. Receipt in duplicate for all Trench and Area Stores taken over will be recorded to Battalion H/Qrs as early as possible.
13. Movement. A distance of 100 yards will be maintained between Companies and in smaller parties east of line WULVERHAM - PLOEGSTERT.
14. Lewis Guns will be at ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ dump at Q.M. Store by 11 a.m. for loading.
15. Mobile echelon. The mobile echelon of ammunition, picks, shovels etc. will be stored at Transport Lines.
16. Officer's valises. Officer's valises will be taken into the new Site and will be ready for loading at 2 p.m. These must be reduced to the contain only necessities in the support line. Surplus gear etc and kit to be dumped at 11 a.m.

W. Summitt Captain &
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.

51st Battalion.

22nd. August 1917.

51st. Battalion Order No. 34. - After order.

1. Cookers will go to Company Areas. This cancels instructions in para No. 7. of Battalion Order No. 34 respecting cookers. They will be ready to pull out at 6 p.m..
2. Water Carts. - will go with the Transport to Company Areas. water carts to be full.
3. Companies will draw two stretchers per Company from the R.M.O. before 4 p.m.
4. Canteen will be situated at Battalion Transport Lines. Transport Officer to arrange transport.
5. Guides. Company Commanders will arrange to send guides to meet Transport and guide Cookers and Lewis Gun limbers to their Company areas. These guides will leave their Companies at Battalion Headquarters and await Transport.
6. Rations. Battalion H/Qrs. "B" and "D" Coys and 2 platoons of "C" Company will be dumped at Battn. H/Qrs. "A" Company and the remaining two platoons of "C" Coy. at U.7.a.2.2.
7. Water. Water will be drawn from Stand pipe near GURRY DUMP (near "A" Coy. ration dump), and also at T.11.b.5.8.
8. Reliefs. Company Commanders will report (by code) immediately the relief is complete. They will report also whether the sanitary and latrine accommodation is satisfactory.
9. Movement. There is to be no movement by day other than that which is absolutely necessary. All ranks must be warned.
10. Starting Time. - 6.30 p.m.
11. Starting point. - Entrance by which Battalion entered this Camp Area.
12. Order of march. Battn. H/Qrs, "A", "D", "C" & "B" Coys. O.C. "B" Coy. will detail 1 Officer and 1 platoon as rearguard.

A

H. M. Summitt
Adjutant, 51st. Battalion. Captain A.

51st. Battalion.

Appendix No. X

Daily Strength Return.

15th. August 1917.

Actually with Unit.		Attached		In Hospital		Tempy. detached Schools etc.		Total.	
Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.	Offs	O.R.
23	880	2	8	6	14	10	89	41	991

ARRIVALS.

1 officer (Capt. M. AUROUSSEAU, M.C.) from leave.
 6 O/Ranks from leave.
 1 " from Hospital.
 1 " Reinforcements.

DEPARTURES.

2 O/Ranks to School.
 1 " to detached duty.
 1 " to Hospital.

Sgd. C.C. Ridley

Lieutenant-Colonel,

O.C. 51st. Battalion.

Appendix No. XI

Daily Strength Return.

51st Battalion.

31st. August 1917.

Actually with Unit.	Attached	In Hospital	Tempy. detached: Schools etc.	Brigade School.	Total.
26	790	2	6	4	14
7	119	1	34	40	963

ARRIVALS. 1 O/Rank from School.

DEPARTURES. 1 " To Hospital.

[Signature]
Major,
Temporarily Commanding 51st Battalion.

210

SECRET.

Headquarters,
51st. Battalion.
31st. August 1917.

Appendix No. XII51st. Battalion Order No. 35.

1. The Battalion will move to NEUVE - EGLISE Area S.12.c.8.7. this afternoon.
2. Starting Point. - A, B, & C Coys. - Battn. H/Qrs.
Starting Times. - "B" Coy. - 1.45 p.m.
 "D" " - 2.00 p.m.
 "C" " - 2.15 p.m.
 "A" " - 2.30 p.m.
 H/Qrs. - 2.30 p.m.
 "D" Company will move along MESSINES - NEUVE-EGLISE Road.
3. Movement. 50 yards between platoons until T.9.o.3.1. where Companies will close and march independently to Camp Area.
 "A" Coy. will move from its trenches to Battn. H/Qrs. by sections at 30 yards distance where it will close to platoons.
4. Band. Band will be stationed at T.9.o.3.1. on Main Road and play each Company past.
5. Cookers.etc. Cookers will be ready to pull out at 1 p.m. Lewis Guns and valises ready for loading at ration dump at 1 p.m.
6. Officers' horses will be at Battn. H/Qrs at 1.30 p.m. Mess Cart will be loaded at 2 p.m.
7. Areas to be thoroughly cleaned, and all rubbish disposed of. Latrines to be filled in and dug-outs cleaned by 12 noon, and a certificate to be rendered to B.O.R. by 1.30 p.m.

M. J. Summitt
 Captain &
 Adjutant, 51st. Battalion.