

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/6

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

August 1916



AWM4-23/62/6

575

1st August, 1916.

Marched from VANDENCOURT WOOD to ALBERT and bivouaced at BRICKFIELDS.

2nd August, 1916.

The whole battalion being prepared for its turn in the offensive.

3rd August, 1916.

preparation
The final/being made. The men are now fully equipped.

4th August, 1916.

Marched through ALBERT to TARA HILL and there bivouaced on the ground formerly occupied by the 26th Battalion.

5th August, 1916.

Relieved the 17th, 18th and 19th Battalions from their portion of the front line.
Map reference MARTINFUICH 1:20000 .
Took over front line from X5b4 $\frac{1}{2}$: 1 to R 3 5 C I P. This took place ~~and~~ under very heavy hostile Artillery fire.
A British regiment the Yorkshires were on our right and the 48th Bn A.I.F. on our left.

6th August, 1916.

The enemy maintained a heavy Artillery fire both H.E. and shrapnel during the night. About 4 30 a.m. he delivered a weak counter attack which was easily repulsed. Several prisoners were taken. Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Major D.K. Chapman.
2/Lt C.M. Draper.
and 30 Other ranks.
Wounded - 70 Other ranks. assisted
In afternoon of 6th "B" Company/the British ~~and~~ in their attack on MUNSTER ALLEY. The operation was successful, about 30 prisoners being taken. In the evening the enemy's Artillery fire was very severe.

7th August, 1916.

About 4 30 a.m. the enemy attempted another weak counter attack which was easily repulsed. Several prisoners were taken. The two companies "C" and "D" on the left were relieved by "A" Company. Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
Other ranks 21.
Wounded - 3 Officers - Capt R.T. Tarrant.
2/Lt E. Cornish.
" S.V. Dolton.
8 Other ranks 67.

8th August, 1916.

Relieved by the 46th Bn and went into support/ trenches on strong points. Whilst in supports supplied all fatigues and working parties. Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - 1 Officer - Capt L.S. Drinkwater.
Other ranks 9.
Wounded - 1 Officer - 2/Lt E.V. Steele.
Other ranks 22 83.

9th August, 1916.

Still in support supplying fatigue and working parties. Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
Other ranks 4.
Wounded - 1 Officer - Capt J.H. Holman.
Other ranks 31.

- 575
- 10th August 1916. Still in supports as yesterday.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks - Nil.
Wounded - Other ranks 16.
- 11th August, 1916. Still in supports as yesterday.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks 1.
Wounded - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks 3.
- 12th August, 1916. Moved down to reserve trenches about X 15 central.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks 1.
Wounded - Officer - Nil.
 Other ranks 10 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.
- 13th August, 1916. Still in reserve very little shelling down here.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks 1.
Wounded - Other ranks 9.
- 14th August, 1916. Relieved the 46th Bn in the firing line. Relief completed by 8 a.m. without casualties.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Wounded 15 other ranks.
In the afternoon the enemy maintained a fierce bombardment on front line and the communications. The night was comparatively quiet on our section.
- 15th August, 1916. The 5th Battalion relieved us. The relief was completed by 12 noon without any further incident.
Casualties to 12 noon.
Killed - Officers - Nil.
 Other ranks 12.
Wounded - 1 Officer - Capt S.L. Perry.
 Other ranks 30.
The battalion moved down to ALBERT and bivouaced there.
- Total Casualties.
Killed - 3 Officers - 84 Other ranks.
Wounded - 7 Officers - 337 Other ranks.
Missing - - - 10 other ranks.
Died of wounds - 5 Other ranks.
- 16th August, 1916. Moved to WARLOY where we bivouaced.
- 17th August, 1916. Still resting at WARLOY.
- 18th August, 1916. Marched to HERRISSART and billeted there for the night.
- 19th August, 1916. Marched to BERTRACOURT in heavy rain. As the packs were carried by mechanical transport the men marched exceedingly well.
- 20th August, 1916. The battalion is being reorganized and refitted.
21st August, 1916 Reorganization and refitting continued.

- 575
- 22nd August, 1916. Still at Berteaucourt ~~reorganizing~~ reorganizing and training.
- 23rd August, 1916. Marched to TALMAS and billeted there for the night.
- 24th August, 1916. Marched to RUBEMPRE and billeted there.
- 25th August, 1916. Major-General Sir H.V. COX addressed the 13th Inf Bde and presented congratulatory cards for good work at POZIERES to ~~7~~ Officers and 7 Other ranks.
- 26th August, 1916. Marched to VADENCOURT WOOD.
- 27th August, 1916. Church service which Lieut-General Birdwood attended. He afterwards presented the Military Medal to No. 800 ~~B/6~~ Young H. (Stretcher bearer), 2002) Pte McFadden F. (runner), ~~and~~ 1728 Pte Blackburn J. who is away wounded was also awarded the Military Medal.
- 28th August, 1916. Marched to ALBERT and billeted there for the night in billets.
- 29th August, 1916. Left at 5 a.m. to take over a portion of the front line from the 26th Bn. "B" Co. in the firing line. "A" Co. in close support, and "G" and "D" Cos. in support. Portion taken over from R 35 C 48 to R 34 C 59 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 25th Battalion on our right and the 48th Bn on our left.
- 30th August, 1916. "D" Co relieved "B" Co. Extended our left ~~to~~ another 120 yards. Casualties from 12 noon 29/8/16 up to 12 noon 30/8/16.
Killed - 1 Other rank.
Wounded - 4 Other ranks.
- 31st August, 1916. Relieved by 2nd Battalion 1st Canadian Brigade and went back to Wire Trench X 9 C. Casualties from 12 noon 30/8/16 up to 12 noon 31/8/16 -
Killed - 1 Other ranks.
Wounded - 3 Other ranks.
 Casualties from 12 noon 31/8/16 up to 12 noon 1/9/16.
Killed - Nil.
Wounded - 3 Other ranks

John W. Stoney

Lt-Col.

31/8/16.

C.O. 45th Bn. A.I.F.