

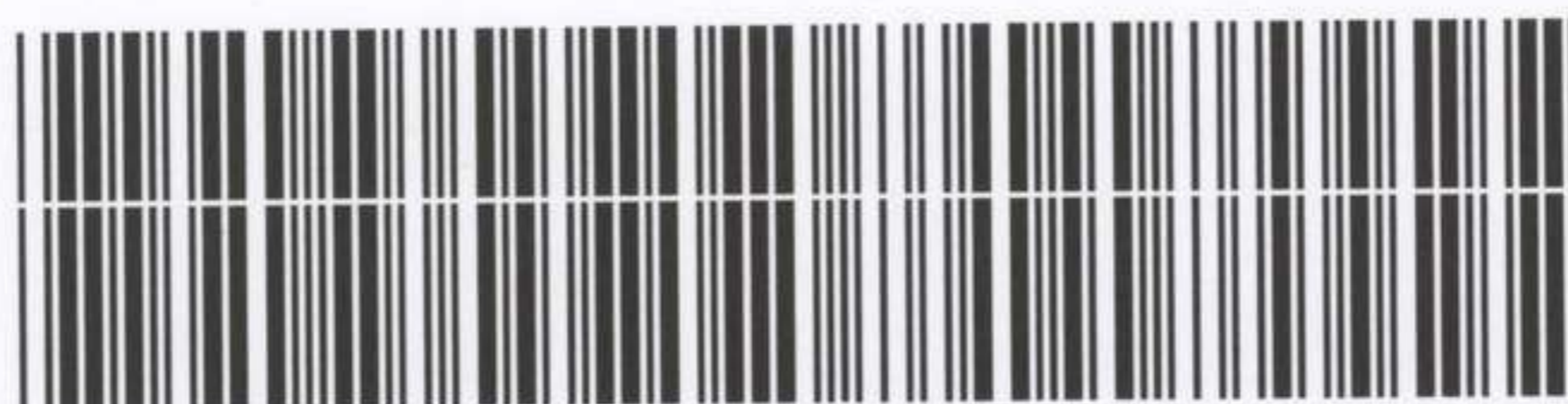
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/65/10

Title: 48th Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/65/10

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

48th Bn

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
VILLERS SOUS-AILLY	11/11/16		<p style="text-align: right;">VOLUME VI</p> <p>The Battalion moved at 9 am to BERTHEN COURT. during our stay in Villiers some useful training has been done, we experienced a good amount of wet but by using training grounds in the vicinity of Company Billet it was possible to take full advantage of our dry days. Companies were trained in Bayonet fighting. Close order Drill. Marking instructions and each Company was put through Company in attack practice on special ground. The various parties being detailed and their part in the attack thoroughly explained. during our stay Concerts were held for the men, there were much appreciation, a special Battalion Hospital was used for the sick, also the men were supplied with Hot Soup Porrid and Milk diet. I would like to place on record the great assistance afforded me by the Australian Comforts Fund, with their aid I have been able to keep the men supplied with Hot Coffee Soup and light diet, this has kept many Rifles available that would have been lost to the Battalion for a time at least. No men are permitted to Evacuate from the Battalion while it is possible to treat them in our own Hospital. I consider that many men could be saved to the forces if this system was carried out.</p>	<p>Playmate house 21-68 48th Bn</p>



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BERTHEN COURT	21/11/16		Arrived here at 12.30 pm. weather very fine. was in good heart, as one fell out on the march. each man carried his Blanket and Oil that in addition to full marching order.	
VAVY	21/11/16		moved from BERTHEN COURT at 9 am to VAVY a distance of about 8 miles. roads in a very bad condition, rained all the way. no one fell out on the march although conditions were very trying.	
"	27/11/16		VAVY is not large enough with the Billets available to hold 2 Battalions. Consequently I had to move two Companies to FREMONT. Training was carried out as usual. Special attention being paid to Lewis Guns and Bombing. a very good gorge was used just outside FREMONT. while Bombs used trenches outside VAVY. Football matches were arranged between Companies. This is quite a good area and good training can be got in there being such a lot of hilly ground in the vicinity of the Billets. Special training classes were held for Officers in Lewis Guns, also Revolver practice in the range.	<p>Raymond R. Reed 48th Div.</p>

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DERNEN COURT.	2/16	10/16	<p>We left Vaux at 7.30 on yesterday morning and marched to FLESSELLES. Here we embarked in Buses for DERNEN COURT. arrived at that village about 1 pm. Rillet very poor and extremely dirty, is rather cold and wet. Special attention is being paid to mens feet. each man massages his feet twice daily with whale oil.</p>	<p>Planned to leave 11/16 4.15 pm</p>
		11/16	<p>Company training carried on as usual. advantage was taken of wire entanglement and trenches to practice attacks.</p>	
SWITCH TRENCH "FLERS"		12/16	<p>The Battalion moves this morning for FRICOUAT remains there tonight and then moves on tomorrow to SWITCH TRENCH near FLERS. Dress fighting order. 1 Blanket and oil sheet only to be carried. Extra Blanket and Overcoat will be dumped. I moved ahead of the Battalion and visited SWITCH and GAP TRENCHES where I will remain in Reserve. Mud is very bad and no cover whatever provided for the men the trenches are deep in mud and water, and I am informed that it is not possible to supply the men with hot meals whilst in firing line and support.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SWITCH TRENCH. " " FLERS.	17/4/16		However the Battalion managed to do it at POZIERES and I consider it quite possible here. Low BRIGADIER GENERAL GLASFORD being carried into the 2nd Field Ambulance this morning. He was wounded in the side by shell fire. He looked very ill.	
	13/4/16		Enemy's Artillery very active, a number of shells fell in our trenches one man wounded. Men at work all day improving trenches and erecting shelters from rain. Special feet inspection by Company Officers and rubbing in of Whore Oil.	Aoyund to be done. 14/4/16
	14/4/16		Boche planes very active over our lines very few of our trenches visible. More shelling during day. 3 men wounded. one dangerously he died later on his way to the ambulance.	
	15/4/16		Visited the front line this morning. Trenches in a very bad condition no communication on the right whatever. It means going over the top nearly all the way to the front line. Scattered higgles are too far back. They could easily be dug in along bunker road. Cooking arrangement going well. established a dump to receive rations on FLERS ROAD. Carried from there by fatigue parties to SWITCH TRENCH. all cooking done in Trench.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SWITCH TRENCH <u>FLEAS</u>	16 11 16		Enemy shelled our position again today, using both GAS and H.S. 4 men wounded. 1 man evacuated suffering from GAS. Enemy's Planes very active, one brought down near SWITCH TRENCH.	Remarks here 487m
	17 11 16		Special Patrol 1 Officer 4 OR. was detailed to reconnoitre Enemy's Strong Points N20 D3.4. N20 D1.5. reported ground in a bad condition the wire that would prove an obstacle in an attack. Enemy trenches appeared to be strongly manned.	
	18 11 16		Very Cold. Snowed during night and early morning. Artillery Quiet. 1 man wounded. Men in good health and spirits.	
	19 11 16		Moved into front line and relieved 47 BN. A + B Coys. in the line C + D in support. Bottoms Hqs. Bulls Road. ground very difficult, on account of the wet. Trenches full of mud.	
	20 11 16		Men hard at work cleaning mud out of trenches and deepening communication trench. Enemy Artillery very active 8 Cravoltes 2 twice dead. Arrangements working well for supply of hot food to men in front line. The food is cooked in FLEAS and carried by Fatigue parties 1500 to the front line, a hot meal is	

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Bous Roro Fleas.	21 11 16		<p>provided morning and evening. also Boon and Soup is sent up at 5 am and 3 pm daily. This means hard work for the fatigue parties, but is well worth the trouble on account of the effect it has on the men. The Battalion and Post is in GAMES, LAWE, and all men suffering from fatigue due to cold and wet are specially looked after and managed with whole oil. They are kept warm and plenty of hot coffee and soup provided. In wet cover men are quite fit to return again to the jungles in a few hours, in addition men on carrying parties are given a hot drink day and night. I am able to do this through the assistance of the Austrians. Comforts and who provide all the necessary materials. Special observation is being kept on Enemy's Strong Points SURKENT ROAD. N 200. and patrols reconnoiter the position at night. Enemy trying hard to improve his strong points and put out lines. Artillery fairly quiet. 1 man killed. One Artillery shelled Enemy's strong points in N 200. also used gas. Shooting was very bad indeed our benches being knocked about in many places. This was reported a number of times but without any result. 2 men wounded.</p>	<p>Remarks and references to Appendices</p> <p>9 beyond here Rice 4/17/16</p>
	22 11 16			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bulls Road Fleas	22 11/16		G + D. Coy's release the two Companies in the enemy line. Enemy artillery active during the day. Also Poles, trenches heavily cleared out, and a lot of improvements done. Lat today 3 men killed, 2 wounded.	
	24 11/16		Own Artillery very active on Enemy's strong points N20 D. Enemy retobated on our front line trenches breaching them in several places near Gun Pits. Enigma's report good success. Enemy reported working hard on improving his trenches, on account of the rain our trenches are very wet and muddy again. It is impossible to do much permanent good unless a home and such boards are provided and properly put in.	Request here
	25 11/16		1 man wounded today. Our patrols were active during the night, and report that the horse lines in a very bad condition. Patrol of Enemy was captured by left Coy's listening post. that it consisted of 1 Corporal 2 OR of 101 London Reserve Regiment. The patrol lost its way and walked towards our trenches. Enemy's artillery active.	411 B
	26 11/16		Casualties 3 OR Killed 6 OR wounded	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bulls Road Fleas	22 11/16		<p>My Right Coy Commander reported at about 9 pm last night, that a strong Enemy Working Party were working on Enemy Strong Point N 20 D 45. Immediately got onto Artillery and their response was very quick and effective, our Lewis Gun stood by and when the Artillery opened they swept the position with machine gun fire, catching the Boche as he ran for cover when knowing come 3 Enemy dead were observed on parapet and a number in front of trench about 10 in all. Very satisfactory indeed.</p>	<p>Raymond Lane 481326</p>
Mametz	24 11/16		<p>14 BN relieved the 48th BN during last night. The relief started at 4.30 pm but on account of the very wet and muddy state of the trenches it was not completed until 12.15 am. The men marched back to Mametz H.Q. about 6 miles through deep mud and over bad roads. D Coy was the last to arrive and reported having brought everyone through. Men are resting today. Feet being inspected and thoroughly rubbed with whale oil. Everyone has colds. Still the spirit of the Battalion is good.</p>	

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ HUTS.	30 11 16		<p>The Battalion has gone through a very trying time indeed since the 12/11/16. 8 days in SWITCH TRENCH, and 8 DAYS in FRONT LINE most of the time wet, even though the Conditions were extremely difficult, the men were supplied during the whole time with Two Hot meals each day, besides Soup + Bread. Special Credit is due to my Medical Officer MAJOR WOLLEARD, and my Second MAJOR MAJOR LINDAY who assisted me loyally in my endeavor to keep up the Efficiency of the Battalion. I am quite sure that had I been in time, there would be no Case of TRENCH Feet. My experience being our last tour of duty, Conditions could not be worse and I proved that when the men were promptly dealt with in the dressing stations, they were quite fit again for duty within a few hours. I am sure men are evacuated to Hospital without Cause, Good Battalion Medical Arrangement, and an Efficient M.O. with the interest of the Service at heart, would do much to stop unnecessary wastage.</p>	<p>Raymond heard 48 N B...</p>