

AWM4

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

AWM4 Class 23 - Infantry
AWM4 Subclass 23/61 - 44th Infantry Battalion

File number: AWM4/23/61/16

Title: AWM4 23/61/16 - January 1918 [also
refer to January 1917 file which
includes January 1918]



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF
44th *Battalion.*

FOR

January. **1918.**

Signature of Officer compiling

*C. B. Kilgour Lt Col
Intell. Off.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. D. Clark
Lt Col
Comd
44th Bn A.I.F.*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 157

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

44th. Battalion, A. I. F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ARTILLERY FARM. 36N.W. 19 D 4.3.	1918			
	1st. Jan.		Major R.W. Everett proceeded to Senior Officers' Course at Aldershot Eng. - working parties approx 200 as usual. - Wiring done during 5 hours of darkness on C.P.'s from Spt. to to sub. Line in Windale locality. The establishment of a Trench Comforts Kitchen where Cocoa, Biscuits, and a cigarette per man to parties returning from Line was greatly appreciated by all. The Aust. Comforts Fund representative, (Mr McCallum) supplied the necessary commodities. - Frost continues. - Three Reinforcements arrived. - Battn. making preparations for relief. - working parties as usual. - Wiring of sector now vastly improved. - Corps Line established and garrisoned by Nucleus garrison and a proportion of well placed Lewis Guns Front system now in splendid condition. Battn. relieved without casualties by the 170th. Bde/2/5th. Manchesters and marched to Erquinghem. - Hot tea was provided here and after a 2 hours rest the Battn. was transported by motor busses to WAKEFIELD HUTS Sheet 28 S.W. M29. A64. near Loere, which was reached at dusk After another hot meal troops retired to rest.	
	2nd. Jan.		Training commenced 3½ hours daily and 2 hours recreational training each afternoon. - Snow interfered with outdoor work. - A series of evening lectures to Officers instituted on various subjects. - 40 reinf's. arrived.	
	3rd. Jan.		Thaw sets in. - Usual Training. - 3 Reinf's. arrived.	
	4th. Jan.		Church Services at Cinema Hall, Loere. (Day of prayer proclaimed by George R.L.) 44th. Battn. Band was in attendance.	
	5th. Jan.		Weather milder. - Battn. Pierrot Troupe organised. Costumes purchased from England of Blue and White after Battn. colors. - Brigade intelligence school inaugurated at which Battn. Intelligence personnel will be trained	
	6th. Jan.		Heavy frost during night. - All Officers attended a lecture at Loere on the Aust. Flying Corps by Major Blake. A.F.C. 5 Reinf's. arrived.	
	7th. Jan.		Snow fell, necessitated training indoors.	
	8th. Jan.		Further decorations and mentions to Battn. as under:- Lieut. (now Capt. C.W. Couchman - M.C. Attached 11th. AL.T.M.B. Sergt. Butler. D.C.M. C.S.M. Cook. H.N. D.C.M. Capt. C.H.C. Hillary. mentioned in Sir. D. Haig's despatches 7/11/17. 5745 Pte. McMullen. B. ditto. 2394 Pte. Povey A.P. ditto. 491 Pte White C.E.	
	9th. Jan.		Lt. O'Carroll repined ex wounded. Capt. Lewis M. ex Trg. Bn. 2nd. Lieut. (late Sergt.) Carson. C.F. ex 3rd Bn. 2nd. Lieut. Faulkner W.G. & 2nd. Lieut. Carnsworthy S.Y. arrived with Reinf's. 2.	
10th. Jan.		First performance by Pierrot Troupe which was a great success.		
11th. Jan.		Training as usual.		
12th. Jan.		" " 25 Reinf's. arrived.		
13th. Jan.				
14th. Jan.				
to				
16th. J				

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information 44th. Battalion. A.I.F.	Remarks and references to Appendices
WAKEFIELD HUTS.	14th. Jan to		Nothing to report.	
	16th. Jan		Debating Society met at 7 p.m.	
	17th. Jan		Lecture to all Officers by Divl. Comm. Major-Gen. Sir John Monaghan K.C.B. at Loere.	
	18th. Jan.		Capt. R. Skinner M.C. proceeded to 10th. T.P. Eng.	
	to			
	22nd. Jan		Nothing to report.	
	23rd. Jan.		Training on usual Lines. 27 Reinfs. arrived 2 of which were ex Base and 25 of 9/44th.	
	24th. Jan			
	to			
	26th. Jan		Nothing to report.	
	27th. Jan.		Battn. moved by route march to CANTEEN CORNER. (Sheet 28SW. T26C. 6025) and rested there	<i>appendix</i>
	9 a.m.		in hutments. 12 a.m. Advance parties moved up to line by motor lorry- i.e. a proportion of Scouts & Signallers- Battn. Concert Troupe provided a concert at 6-30 p.m.	
	28th. Jan.		Slight frost during night 27/28th.	
	10.30 a.m.		"B" Echelon moved to billets in NIEPPE.-Engineering Platoon (part of Bri. Composite Company) under Lt. J.S. Everett moved to LA BIZET to Billets. 5.45 p.m. Remainder of Battn. entrained at CONNAUGHT SIDING (Light Railway) Sheet 28 SW. T26C55 and proceeded to detraining point U25D Central, marching from there to line, where the relief of 19th. Battn. was commenced.	
			Sector south of PLOEGSTEERT WOOD. 8 p.m. Relief completed without interruption from enemy, who was believed to be conducting a relief also, and without casualties. The Battn. occupied that part of line from (Sheet 28sw.) U23*b 49 to U28D75. 10. sector opposite DEULEMONT.	
			Dispositions : "D" Coy. on Left. "B" Coy. on Right "A" Coy. in close support in UNA SUPPORT "C" Coy. in reserve at LANCASHIRE SUPPORT FARM U27b21. Battn. H'qrs U27b92 (CONVENT). Front Line consists of a series of posts with lateral communication by trench. Weather frosty & clear.	
			Very quiet-A few bursts of M.G. fire at intervals. The 41st. Battn. is on our Right and the 37th. Bn. AIF. on our Left. Reconnoitring Patrols were out from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. when they searched NO MANS LAND and buildings etc., along the Battn. Front. No enemy were encountered	
			Enemy transport heard in DEULEMONT. Enemy seems to be doing a good deal of work in the vicinity of UNKNOWN FARM-3 enemy seen here. 4 p.m. An enemy plane, flying low, came over our line and dropped 3 small Bombs. Our Artillery fired on Trench Mortar positions and on enemy back areas. Aircraft on both sides fairly active. 9-20 p.m. Enemy fired 8 Gas shells into the left Coy. front. No casualties. 7 p.m. Fighting patrol of 1 off. & 20 others went out and after a thorough reconnaissance of NO MANS LAND returned at 11 p.m. 12 p.m. A second	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293-750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/14.

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WAR DIARY

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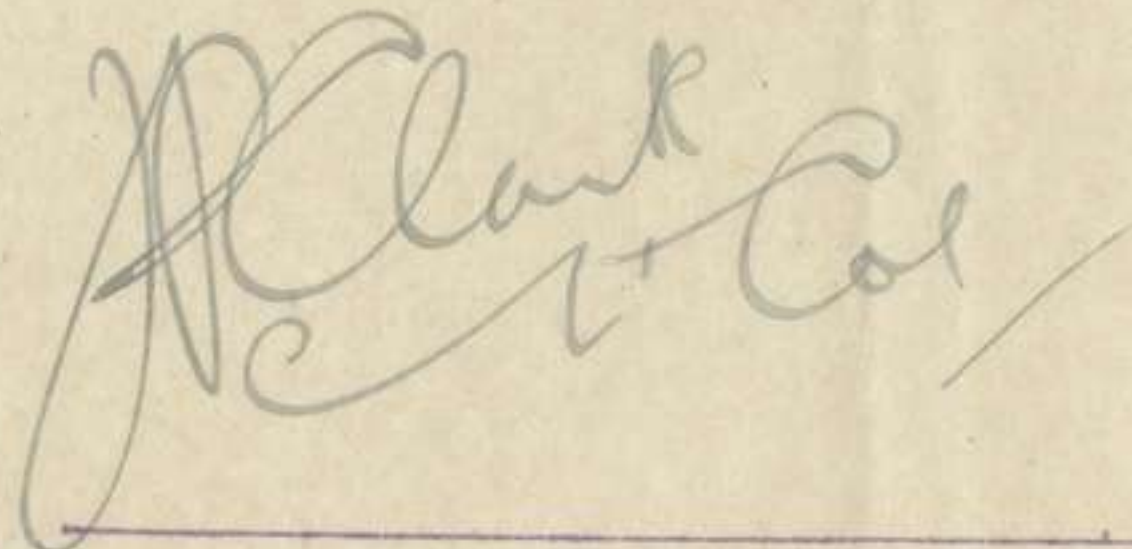
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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

44th. Battalion. A.I.F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CATTEN	31st. Jan.		<p>Patrol 1 Off. & 20-proceeded into N.M.L. working from right of sector. whilst approaching MOAT FARM (U23D) from PONT ROUGE, a Bosche patrol of 15 was seen on road at U23D2015. The Bosche evidently saw us at the same time for they turned and made for their own lines at top speed discarding their bombs all along the way back to the river. It was very bright moonlight but they disappeared so quickly into the trees that we could not get the Lewis Gun into action in time to get any of them. The river which had flooded the surrounding country recently has fallen 18" in 48 hours. N.M.L. is now drying up considerably. Slight frost continues. Trenches are pretty good all round and the men are in good condition and spirits. The Support and Reserve Coys. are employed as working parties on the improvement and upkeep of the front system, drainage etc., Hostile shelling has increased slightly to-day. Work of strengthening and improving the forward system was continued. A very thick mist rendering observation impossible. Artillery on both sides was very quiet. Patrols were out from 5-30 p.m. to 11 p.m. River reported normal.</p>	



LT. COL.
COMMANDING 44th BATTALION, 11th INF. BRGDE., A.I.F.

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WAR DIARY

OF

A.A.th Battalion A.I.F.

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1.

Operation Order No 63.

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19th BATTALION, A.I.F.
OPERATION ORDER No. 63.

APPENDIX, / 5
Appendix
No. 10.

Headquarters,
27.1.18.

REFERENCE MAPS - FRASER, 28 1/2, 1/2000.

INFORMATION. The 19th Battalion, A.I.F. is holding left Battalion sector of right Brigade of 5th Australian Divisional front.

INFORMATION. 19th Battalion will relieve the 19th Bn. A.I.F. on night 28/29th. Relief to be complete by midnight 28/29th.

ADVANCE PARTY. Advance parties will go into line on night 27/28th, moving by Motor Transport from BARRFIELD CAMP, arriving at 5th Brigade B. . . A.I.F. at 3.30 p.m. Dress - Fighting Order. Gun boats will be drawn there.

DISTRIBUTION. Companies will form go in three platoons strong, plus extra L.S. section.
"B" Coy. on right Company front.
"D" Coy. on left " " "
"A" Coy. in support.
"C" Coy. in reserve.

DETAILS. G.M.'s store and Transport will be at B.10.c.3.8.

"B" SECTION. school (Y.M.C.A.) Rue de la Gare, BARRFIELD - Band & Concert party.
B.21.b.3.9. - Billet No. 5842 BARRFIELD - Platoon, less L.S. "A" Coy.
B.21.b.3.7. - Billet No. 5830 Barr. - Police, pioneers, platoon "B" & "C" Coys. less L.S. and Cooker.
Billet No. 5844 opp. Church - Platoon less L.S. from "B" Coy.
LIEUT. HOWARD to be in charge of these details.

ENGINEER WORKS PLATOON. One platoon of "B" Coy. will report to LIEUT. EVERETT at LA HIER at noon 28th. Operations for 28th to be carried on the same. G.M. will detail cooker and two cooks to go with party to cook for whole works Company. This party will be rationed by "C" Battalion 29th and onwards.

MOVE TO LINE. The Battalion will move from BARRFIELD CAMP at 6.30 p.m. Battalion less details mentioned above will entrain at CONNAUGHT RIDING, T.26.c.3. Central, at 8.15 p.m. 28th, in following order - "B", "D", "A", "H.M." and "C" Coy. detraining at INCHMOLL, U.25.a.3. Central, and marching in order named to line 200 yards between platoons. Entraining officer, CAPT. HILLARY.

BRIGADE HEAD HEADQUARTERS. On 27th at 1 p.m. Brigade Headquarters at TRUIS BOLD CAMP. On 28th at 3 p.m. move to BARRFIELD CAMP. B.10.c.3.7.

RELIEF - COMPLETION OF RELIEF will be sent by wire. VOD STAN, etc. G.M. also by runner.

GUN BOATS FOR BATTALION. Gun boats will be available at CONNAUGHT RIDING for Battalion.

REPORTS. All parade states, casualty returns, Ammunition returns, Trench feet returns of troops in line are required at Battalion Headquarters, at 9 a.m. daily. Stress is laid on the necessity for punctuality. Parade states from "B" Section and Works Platoon, are to reach G.M.'s store daily before 9 a.m. G.M.'s store is at B.10.c.3.8.

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INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. These are due at 3 p.m. and 3 a.m. Scout reports at 6 a.m. from Scout officer. Supplementary reports - Intelligence - are required when any special event occurs.

PACKS. Dress - Fighting order - one blanket may be carried. Packs to be left at VANTRIN CORNER, to be transported thence to B.L.O.C.S.S. by .N.

TRENCH FEET. All precautions must be taken to prevent cases of Trench Foot. Platoon commanders are to examine the feet of the men of their platoon once daily. One man per platoon is to be detailed to collect socks, take them to baths daily and get dry ones in exchange. Glycerin, etc., to be freely used. Platoon cosms. are to certify to this effect to their Officer Commanding. Company commanders are to render Certificate daily at 6 a.m. that the above has been done.

BATHS. Baths are situated at BAGOY.

RATIONS. Rations will be delivered as soon after dusk as possible, at place at present used by 19th Battalion, A.I.F. - LA CHURCH, VIA MOUNTAINVIEW, and LA TOULONNE BENTON; on night 20th/21st. Rations, cooking gear etc., will be timed to arrive at 10 p.m. a.m. to make arrangements for rations "B" Battalion at BAGOY.

TRENCH STORES. A receipt must be given for all trench stores taken over, and two copies sent to Battalion H. before 6 a.m. 20th. Defence schemes, photographs, will also be taken over.

BLANKETS. All blankets being left behind are to be done up in bundles of ten.

OFFICERS' GEAR. Officers' gear will go up by special timber, to arrive at 7 p.m.

GUIDES. Guides will be provided by the 19th Battalion, A.I.F. to meet this Battalion at BAGOY'S HUT.

MEN RETURNING FROM LEAVE. These men will report to LIEUT. HOWARD and will be quartered at Billet No. 2414 opp. CHURCH, BAGOY.

(Sgd.) G.H. ROCKLIFF, Captain,
Adjutant, 19th BATTALION, A.I.F.

DISTRIBUTION.

No. 1 copy, File.	No. 2 copy, BRIGADE.
No. 2 " " O.C.	No. 3 " " G.M.
No. 3 " " O.C. "A" Coy.	No. 4 " " Transport of gear.
No. 4 " " O.C. "B" Coy.	No. 5 " " War diary.
No. 5 copy, O.C. "C" Coy.	
No. 6 copy, O.C. "D" Coy.	