

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/67/6

Title: 50th Infantry Battalion

December 1916



AWM4-23/67/6

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.

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50th Bn A.I.F. Page 18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bemafay Wood	1916 Dec 1		Hut building + railway construction. No men to hospital	
	2		Do. Lieut English + 7 men to hospital England on leave	No men to hospital
	3		Do. Capt Wilton + 1 man	"
	4		Do. Capt J. B. Smith of London + 8 men	"
	5		10th Bn (sister Bn) moved into Bwonae beside 50th Bn. Orders for relief received. Hut building + railway construction. Divisional commander visited lines + expressed his satisfaction at small number of evacuations to hospital during tour on front line under trying weather conditions also his appreciation of work done.	No men to hospital 2 men to hospital
	6		51st Bn. Bde HQ + m & boy relieved + arrived in reserve camp + provided with hot drinks. Bn embarked 5.30 am at Quarry Sidm. Debarred at Meaulte at 8.30 am and marched off at 9 am. Arrived Buire 10.30 am + moved into billets. No men fell out. Books sent ahead provided hot meal for men. In afternoon drew packs etc from Bde Dump. Special foot inspection carried out. Only six cases of "trench feet" evacuated during Bn tour in forward area.	No men to hospital
	7		Easy physical training + running exercises in morning followed by kit inspection. Afternoon close order drill. W.C.O. class 2 to 3.30 pm.	
	8		Boots overhauled + repairs commenced. Wet day - kit inspection - cleaning of equipment - Dirty clothing sent laundry to England on leave. W.C.O. class continued. Bn paid Lt J. Smith + Davis + 10 other ranks to England on leave.	No men to hospital

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50th Bn AIF Page 19

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE	Dec 1916	9	Physical training & running exercise. Div Baths at disposal of Bn. Lt Col Jones & Lt Mills rejoined from hospital. Capt L A Davies & Lieut Rudall (reinforcements) joined from Base. Lt L B. Smith returned from Musketry School. Six men (reinforcements) arrived.	
		10 th	Church Parade during morning. Inspection of all box respirators in possession of Bn by DIV Gas Officer. Result not yet reported. Lt Col Salisbury proceeded on leave to U.K. 4 OR to pigeon school. Capt W M Coucht acting as C.O during absence of Lt Col Salisbury on leave. Capt W M Fowler acting as adjutant vice Capt W M Coucht.	
		11 th	Route March & inspection of men's feet made personally M.O. Report condition of feet - fair. 10 men to hospital. NCO's Class. & slow order drill continued with during afternoon. 20 signallers detailed & attended first day of a Bde School of Instruction for Signallers. 4 reinforcements arrived from ETAPLES.	
		12	Weather heavy & permit of any outdoor work, so confined to thorough cleaning of all belts, washing of all men's feet & application of whale oil, cleaning of equipment & rifles. During afternoon, Musketry & short lectures by platoon officers. 10 men to hospital.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOIRE	1916	12	Major JEFFRIES transferred to 12 th Field Amb. - Capt Powell reported to BN from 12 th Field Amb. 2/ Lt LUCAS + 3 OR detailed for duty on Bde dump. HQ + A Coy dumped all steel helmets + box respirators at Bde dump. HQ + all Coy Lewis gunners fired stappage practice on miniature Lewis gun range. Each man fired one magazine.	
		13	Route march (5) miles. Foot inspection by M.O. No men to hospital. Close order drill, musketry, extended order + preliminary skirmishing during afternoon. Specialist training under specialist officers.	
		14	Route march (5) miles. Foot inspection. No men to hospital. Close order drill, musketry. Specialist training. 81 reinforcement arrived from ETAPLES, all men on rations.	
		15	Route march (6) miles. Foot inspection by M.O. Three men to hospital. Capt Todd + Lt Auld + 8 OR returned from leave. Close order drill. Artillery formations + skirmishing practiced. Musketry. Specialist training.	
		16	All subalterns fired musketry + coupling practice. also 50 OR from each Coy. Shooting good. Coy training including	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BUIRE	1916 16 Dec		Practice in artillery formations, skirmishing, charging, & reorganisation after attack. Pay received for pay of BN. Capt Powell M.O. on leave to UK. Capt Curtin from 12 Field Armb relieving.	
	17		Club Parade. Capt Auld & CQM's proceeded to ST. VAST to arrange billeting. 2 Lt Edwards & 29 OR to Lewis gun school, Bomb School & French Mortar School. 1 OR to hospital.	
ST. VAST.	18		During morning a thorough cleaning of all billets etc. BN marched out of BUIRE at 1.40 PM entrained at 2 PM at EDGEHALL siding on tactical train. Detrained at VIGNACOURT at about 8.45 PM then marched to ST. VAST arriving there at 10.15 PM. BN's transport was brigaded. Capt MOULE, 50 th BN in charge. Left BUIRE at 8 AM. 50 th BN arrived ST. VAST 4.30 PM. Lt McLEAN & 10 OR proceeded on leave to UK. Lt ENGLISH & LOUDEN & 8 OR returned from leave.	
	19		Morning spent clearing billets recently vacated by 27 th BN. Route march of 6 miles in afternoon. 91 reinforcements arrived. 72 entrained men amongst them. Special class formed. Capt Peazer rejoined BN from 13 th T. BN	

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50th Battalion Papua

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STVARAST	20	-	<p>Battalion training - All specialists under specialist officers. Coys, physical drill, bayonet fighting, musketry & close order drill. Capt WILTON returned from leave. 2 OR to pay school of instruction to men to hospital. All reinforcements examined by R.M.O.</p>	
	21		<p>Route march 6 miles. 1 man to hospital. Specialist training Coys bayonet fighting, close order drill. Artillery formations practised. Weather showing very cold, bad for outside training.</p>	
	22		<p>Weather would not permit of outside training. Musketry & Lewis gun instruction carried out inside billets. Short lectures by Coy Officers. During afternoon training same as for the 21st. Lt Col Salisbury returned from leave to UK, also Capt Smith.</p>	
	23		<p>2 OR to duty with 1st Army. Route march 6 miles. Lt J.H. Rogers returned from School also Lt Waine. Afternoon spent in Coy & Specialist training.</p>	
	24		<p>Church parade. Lt R.G. Baynes returned from School also 3 other ranks. Lt Davis ret'd from leave U.K. 2 men ret'd from Hospital. Lt J.H. Rogers + 11 others commenced leave to U.K. 4 men to Hospital. 20 men 21 untrained reinforcements arrived & attached to Bn.</p>	<p>AS</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST VAAST	1916 Dec 25		Christmas Day. Church Parade. Extra money spent from Regt Fund on mens Christmas Dinner. Capt Davies detailed to act as A.P.M. 4th Div. Route March 6 miles. Afternoon spent in specialist & Coy Training	
"	26		two officers (Lt Gore & Sgt Davies) & others to 4th Div School two other ranks to 4th Div Sig School. 1 man to hospital	
27			Div Baths at disposal of Bn. Conference of C.O.s at Bde HQ. Commenced treating blankets to kill vermin	
28			Tactical exercises for Coy Comdrs. Coy Specialist training continued. Completed treating blankets. 1 man to hospital 1 man returned from hospital	
29			Conference of Brigade & Bn Comdrs at Div HQ. Platoon tactical exercises in open warfare. Lt Gore & Goodman returned from leave also 5 other ranks. Lt London detached as Bde Int Officer	
30			26 men then inspected & passed into Bn from untrained reinforcement squad on 28th inst and further 26 passed in on 29th inst. Route March - 6 miles. 12 men granted leave to U.K.	
31			Musketry Range practice carried out. Div Baths at disposal of Bn	
			Lt Edwards + 22 men returned from Lewis Gun School 4 men returned from Stokes Motor School also 1 n.c.o. from Bomb School. 1 man to hospital.	

Al Salisbury
CO 50th Bn
L.S. Col