

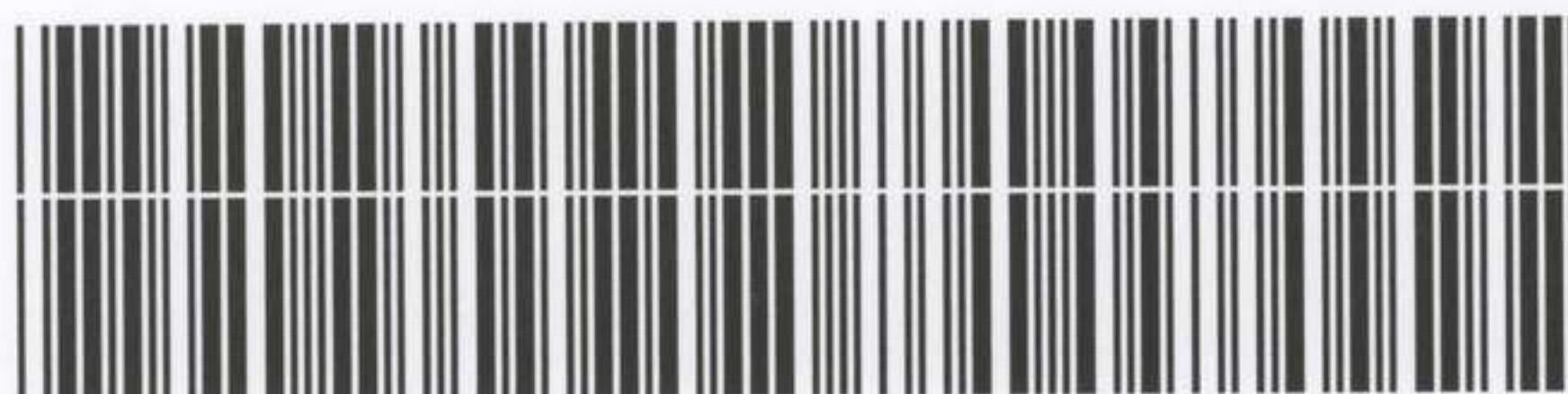
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/20

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

October 1917



AWM4-23/62/20

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

Map References 27 + 28

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HALIFAX CAMP	1.10.17	1.10.17	B ⁵ marched from China Hall I16 B30. to Halifax Camp H44 C57 arriving there	
	to 2.10.17		at 1.30pm on 1.10.17	
STEENVOORDE	3.10.17	3.10.17	Moved by 'busses to STEENVOORDE AREA - B.H.2. located K25 C 8.8. Details left	
	to 8.10.17		behind at Reinforcements Camp CAESTRE remained	
		8.10.17	Lt Col J. E. E. Herring D.S.O transferred to 104 Group, and left for England.	
			Major H. C. Ford, 46 th B ⁿ took over command of B ⁵	
YPRES				
WESTHOEK RIDGE	9.10.17	9.10.17	B ⁵ (less 6 Off + 114 OR which remained at Reinforcement Camp CAESTRE)	
ZONNEBEKE	13.10.17		left STEENVOORDE area at 8am & embarked for YPRES arriving there at 12.30pm. - After	
			dinner the B ⁵ proceeded to the front line & relieved 5 th A.I. Bde, relief being	
			completed by 12.30am on 10.9.17. B.H.2 situated at I16 d 81 sheet 28.N.E. see operation report Appendix	
		11.10.17	Major H. C. Ford wounded and Capt O. H. Dibbs assumed command until the arrival of	
			Major A. P. Allan D.S.O at 12 midnight.	
		13.10.17	B ⁵ relieved by 114 th B ⁿ moved to WESTHOEK RIDGE & later to Esplanade Sap, YPRES	
			arriving at 3am on 14 th inst.	
			Major J. L. Perry M.C. re-transferred from 46 th B ⁿ & took charge of B ⁵	
YPRES	14.10.17		B ⁵ at Esplanade SAP YPRES.	
	to 15			
	18.10.17			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES.	16.10.17		Lt Gen Sir H. A. Birdwood, K.C.B. K.C.S.I. K.C.M.G. C.I.E. D.S.O. inspected the B ⁿ	
FRONT LINE	19.10.17		B ⁿ moved to front line & relieved a 52 nd B ⁿ - relief completed by 10.30 pm (as per attached operation Rep) Appnd II	
YPRES.	20.10.17	20.10.17	B ⁿ relieved by 15 th & 16 th B ⁿ A.I. 2 (relief completed by 6.35 pm) & moved to bivouacs at H.B. 24.5	
HALIFAX	22.10.17		B ⁿ marched to Halifax Camp H.14 257 where details from CAESTRE rejoined.	
BOMY AREA	26.10.17		B ⁿ entrained at BRANDHOEK at 8.30 am 26.10.17 & proceeded to NIZERNES & thence by 'busses' to ERNY ST JULIAN, BOMY AREA.	
" "	27.10.17		Still in BOMY AREA. Training	
" "	31.10.17		A Battalion N.C.O school was started on 29 inst	
<u>HONOURS and REWARDS</u>				
3910 L/Cpl L. S. DREW.				} <u>MILITARY MEDAL</u>
2266 Pte W. F. PAGE				
2491 Sgt. G. LOVETT				
D. D. & L., London, E.C.				
(A7883) Wt W8cg/M:672 350,000 4/17 Sch 52a Forms/C/2118/14				

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45th Battalion A.I.F.
Operation report for period 9th October to 15th October 1917.

Reference Sheet 28 N.E.1 1:10000.

9th October. The battalion moved from STEENVOORDE billeting area at 8 a.m. and embussed along STEENVOORDE-POPERINGHE road at 9 a.m. thence proceeded to YPRES and debussed at 12.30 p.m.

On arrival at debussing point the Bn. was met by guides who guided it into position.

At 1.30 p.m. the C.O. with a party of 8 officers and 20 N.C.Os. and scouts pushed forward to reconnoitre routes and positions.

The party reported to 5th A.I.Bde H.Q., Advanced Bde H.Q., 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Bn. H.Q., finally establishing 45th Bn. H.Qrs. at D.16.d.8.1. The battalion followed on, left YPRES at 3 p.m. and relieved the 5th A.I.Bde; relief being completed by 12.30 a.m. on 10th October.

The route from WESTHOEK RIDGE to front line was very heavy and marshy. Hostile shelling fairly heavy along RAILWAY D.17.a.0.5.

The casualties in battalion during relief were 20 O.R.

10th October. The battalion relieved the whole 5th A.I.Bde. The dispositions of battalion after relief were as under:

BATTALION H.Q. D.16.d.8.1.

In front line:

"A" Coy. - line of shell holes from D.18.c.3.4 to D.18.c.1.7 and post at D.18.c.4.4.

"B" " - line of shell holes from D.17.b.35.30 to D.17.d.3.8 & trench from D.17.d.15.30 to D.17.d.4.5.

Support line.

"C" Coy. minus No. 11 platoon in trench from D.17.c.7.2 to D.23.a.9.1
 No. 11 platoon in Sunken Road D.16.d.8.1.

"D" Coy. In trench from D.17.c.4.9. to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ D.17.c.6.5.

The above positions were improved during darkness.

Patrols were sent out from both flanks of front line and communication established on the left with Lancashire Fusiliers and on the right with 49th Bn. A.I.F.

Patrols were also sent out from D.18.c.3.4 and D.17.d.3.8 but did not come in contact with the enemy.

DABBLE AVENUE was patrolled by the support coy.

Movement very limited during daylight around front line owing to enemy observation and sniping.

The right coy. ("A") in front line reported enemy activity along ridge from ASSYRIA HOUSE D.18.b.1.2 to HUTS E.13.c.1.8. Parties of the enemy were fired upon with visible good effect.

The left coy. ("B") reported parties of enemy stretcher bearers using white flag collecting wounded in the vicinity of RAILWAY D.18.a.8.6.

Hostile aeroplanes flew low over our lines at 10 a.m. but were driven off by our Lewis Gun fire.

A number of wounded from 17th and 20th Bns. A.I.F. were found in shell holes particularly in "C" coy's area and conveyed by our stretcher bearers to R.A.P. A whole company was employed on this work.

Enemy artillery fairly quiet until 6 a.m. when heavy shelling commenced and continued consistently throughout the day over area occupied by Bn. H.Q., "B", "C" and "D" Coys. "A" Coy. being in a more advanced position escaped being shelled heavily.

During the night 10th-11th October a patrol sent out from "B" Coy (Lt. Watt and 3 others) was wounded by shell fire but managed to regain their own lines.

A patrol was sent out from D.17.b.3.3 under Sgt. Payne and captured 3 Germans (2 wounded) in a shell hole about 150 yards in front of our line.

A patrol sent out from D.18.c.3.4 under Cpl. George captured enemy patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 1 man after killing 1 man.

Bombing post established by "D" Coy. in DABBLE AVENUE D.17.a.7.0.
 Forward dumps were established at D.17.c.8.5 and D.17.c.9.7.

204 Operation Report, 45th Battalion, A.I.F. Page 2.

11th October. Heavy hostile shelling continued over area occupied by Bn. H.Q., "B", "C" and "D" Coys.

Enemy stretcher bearers under white flag collecting their wounded in the vicinity of RAILWAY D.18.a.8.6.

Hostile snipers very active along "B" coy's front accounting for 4 hf hour men.

At 7 p.m. "A" Coy. under orders withdrew to positions D.17.d.90.95 to D.17.d.0.2 and D.17.d.02 to D.17.d.7.4 to escape our barrage preparatory to the attack by 47th and 48th Bns. A.I.F.

At 8 p.m. Capt. Cornish, 12th Aust. Inf. Bde., assisted by I.O. 47th and 48th Bns. A.I.F. commenced laying assembly tape from D.17.b.4.3 to D.17.d.8.3 in front of our position. The task being finished by 10.30 p.m., I.O. 45th Bn. with scouts laid tape along best route from duckboards D.22.d.3.6 to centre of Bn. frontage linking up with assembly tape at D.17.d.6.7. (The work was completed by 10 p.m.) to guide 47th and 48th Bns. to assembly line.

Major H.C.Ford, C.O., was wounded at 3 p.m. and Capt. O.B.Dibbs assumed command of battalion until the arrival of Major A.S.Allen, D.S.O. at 12 midnight.

During night 11th-12th vigorous patrolling was carried out in NO MAN'S LAND, but did not come in contact with enemy.

12th October. At 4 a.m. the attack troops were in their respective positions on assembly line ready for attack.

At 5.25 a.m. our barrage opened. The enemy replied very quickly with heavy shelling over the whole of the Bn. sector, which continued throughout the day.

At 5.30 a.m. the attack commenced.

At 5.30 a.m. a party of 100 men under Capt. W.Adams commenced digging communication trench from front line to the 1st objective. Two parties of 50 men each under the command of Lt. McNiven and 2/Lt. Sorrell respectively established forward dumps at D.18.c.8.7. and D.18.c.5.5.

Many prisoners were observed to pass Bn H.Q. during the day.

The attacking troops gained their objectives. In the meantime our parties were very busy in establishing and replenishing forward dumps and digging communication trench.

At 4.30 p.m. owing to the failure of the troops on Bde. left flank and heavy M.G. enfilade fire the 47th and 48th Bns. were forced to retire. The retirement was effected in good order assisted by covering fire from our forward coys.

At 6 p.m. 47th and 48th Bns. reached our lines and commenced digging in.

A number of patrols were sent out during night and front line re-organised.

The dumps established and communication trench dug by our men earlier in the day were blown up by enemy shelling. Hostile shelling eased during the night.

13th October. At 1 a.m. "A" and "B" Coys. were relieved and marched back to WESTHORK RIDGE.

Hostile shelling fairly active but eased considerably during the day. At 4 p.m. "A" and "B" Coys. at WESTHORK RIDGE were relieved by 14th Bn. and marched to ESPLANADE SAP, YPRES, arriving there at 3 a.m. next morning. On arrival men received rum ration and hot tea.

14th October. Inspection and treatment of men's feet by Capt. Parks, R.M.O., during afternoon, Also inspection and cleaning of equipment.

Total casualties during the above operations:

Killed	1 officer	38 B.R.
Wounded	7 do.	139 "
Missing		19 "

(Sgd) A.S.Allen, Major.
T/C. 45th Battalion.

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45th Battalion A.I.F.
Operation report from 18th October to 21st October.

Map reference 28 NE 1 1:100000.

18th October. Instructions having been received that the 45th Bn. would relieve 52nd Bn. A.I.F. a party of officers and N.C.Os with scouts pushed forward and reconnoitred routes and positions.

19th October. During the afternoon the battalion moved forward from ESPLANADE SAP and, in spite of heavy hostile shelling over forward area, particularly between WESTHOEK RIDGE and ANZAC - successfully carried out relief. "A" Coy. moving only to TOKIO RIDGE was in position by 5.30 p.m. The relief of the remaining companies was completed by 10 p.m. with the loss of 4 O.R.

The dispositions were as follows on completion of relief were as follows:

Bn. H.Q. - D.28.b.5.8.

"A" Coy. minus No. 1 platoon on TOKIO RIDGE -D.27.d.5.5.
 No. 1 platoon at ANZAC J.3.a.3.4.

"B" Coy. Reserve coy. from D.22.d.8.6 to D.22.d.78 .

"C" Coy. Front line coy. Coy.H.Q. D.23.a.2.3.
 3 posts from D.23.b.3.0 to D.23.b.4.5.

No. 1 (Lewis Gun) post 14 men

No. 2 (Bombing) post 7 "

No. 3 (Lewis Gun) post 14. "

"D" Coy. Support coy. from D.23.a.2.4 to D.23.a.1.6.

20th October. Movement was restricted during day between front line and support companies owing to enemy observation.

Enemy aeroplanes flew over our lines at low altitudes. Intermittent hostile shelling during day in vicinity of Bn. H.Q. and "B" and "D" Coys.

During the evening the battalion was relieved by 13th and 16th Bns. A.I.F.

The relief was completed by 7.30 p.m. and the Bn. moved back to bivouacs at H.13.c.4.5.

(Sgd) S.L.Perry, Major.

C.O. 45th Battalion.

22.10.17.

Casualties during the above operations:

	Killed	Wounded
Officers	1	-
Other ranks	6	9

Extracts from A.I.F. Orders received during the month of October 1917

No. 232 dated 21.9.17. The following officers having embarked for Australia are struck off strength

Capt. J.A. Hand.
Lt. C.H. Howard.

No. 237 dated 27.9.17. His Majesty The King has been pleased to confer the undermentioned reward for gallantry and distinguished conduct in the field:

THE MILITARY CROSS - Captain William Herbert Schadel.

No. 238 dated 28.9.17. The seniority of the undermentioned officers is as now shown and not as shown previously

2/Lt. T.R. Crooks, MC.
" H.R. Marshall.

No. 233 dated 25.9.17. The undermentioned officers are transferred from units as shown and seconded until they rejoin: 16.9.17.

Lt. W. Hardley	from 61st Bn.
" J.S. Terras	" 63rd "
" W.J. Horne	" 63rd "

No. 241 dated 2.10.17. The undermentioned officers are restored to establishment from Supernumerary List: 18.9.17.

Major G.E. Knox, MC
Lt. H.N. Griffin.

The undermentioned officers are taken on strength from reinforcements

Lt. G.R. McNiven	18.9.17.
2/Lt. R. Bowden (Cadet Bn)	21.9.17.
" A.I. Pirie (Cadet Bn)	21.9.17.

Major J.E. Lee, MC, invalided, relinquished appointment of Brigade Major, 7th Aust. Inf. Bde.

No. 245. dated 16.10.17. To be Lieutenants 7.10.17.

2nd Lt. R. Legden
" T.W. Perry
" A.M. McDiarmid
" L.A. Henderson

Lieut. J.R. McKenzie, from Supernumerary List, is transferred to Permanent Supernumerary List. 28.9.17.

No. 242 dated 5.10.17. Lieut. E.V. Steel is restored to establishment from Supernumerary List and seconded for duty as Musketry Officer

No. 4 Group 6.6.17.
Major G.E. Knox, MC, is seconded for duty with 1st Anzac Corps School 26.9.17.

No. 244 dated 12.10.17. Lieut. E.V. Steel relinquishing appointment of Musketry Officer No. 4 Group 18.9.17.

No. 246 dated 19.10.17.

Lieut. Col. S.C.E. Herring, DSO., is seconded to command No. 4 Group 7.10.17.

Major H.C. Ford, from 46th Bn., to be Major and to command temporarily vice Herring 8.10.17.

Major S.L. Perry, MC, is transferred to 46th Bn 8.10.17 and rejoined 46th Bn. to command temporarily vice Major H.C. Ford evacuated wounded 13.10.17.

Lieut. J.F. Morrell is seconded for duty with 12th T.B. 7.9.17.