

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/2/21

Title: 2nd Infantry Brigade

Janurary 1917



AWM4-23/2/21

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Actions 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.

(Erase heading not required.)

513

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ	1917			
	January			
	1		The Brigade being still in Reserve. Training Reinforcements. Refitting were proceeded with and Corps and Divisional Fatigues. Various Camp fatigues were provided and many improvements made - Latrines were erected - Stables - Colours Road completed and several brick paths put down.	ALBERT Combined Sheet 1:40000
	6 th		several brick paths put down.	
	7		Brigade moved to BUIRE by Route march. B.O. No 1 of 4/17.	Appendix I
	8		Refitting & Training.	
	9	15.00	Three days rest and relaxation ordered by Division - Refitting continued	
	10	15.00	G.O.C. inspected Reinforcements. G.O.C. Division passed into ranks the reinforcements.	
	11		Refitting.	
	12		" "	
	13		Training and refitting.	
	14		Lieut. Col. J. HEANE 2MG DSO returned and resumed command.	Appendix II
	15/20		Brigade moved to WARLOY. B.O. No 2 of 4/17	
	21		Training in field work.	
	22	09.30	G.O.C. Division watched the Brigade in Attack Practice Church Parade.	
	23		Brigade moved to ALBERT. B.O. No 3 of 29/17	Appendix III
	24		Brigade staff visited 151 st Bde to reconnoitre new sector in front of FLERS. C.O.s 8 th Bn & 16 th Pn and advance parties visited new sector.	
	25		Brigade moved to BAZENTIN. 7 th Bn remained at FRICOURT. B.O. No 4 of 29/17. No 2 MG Coy & No 2 ALT M Bty went forward to relieve similar units 151 st Bde	Appendix IV
	26/27		8 th & 16 th Bns moved into Support and front line respectively relieving the Battalion of the 151 st Bde. Relief completed at 20.15 and G.O.C. 2 nd & Bde took over command of the sector under 50 th Division.	Reference by BUIREDECOURT S.W. 1:10000
	27	0.400	Situation quiet. - night passed uneventful. During the day DURHAM DUMP and Ramway were shelled. enemy aeroplanes active. Weather very frosty. Snow about 4" deep.	
	28	0.400	Quiet night.	
		07.00	Constant movement of small parties in and around LE BARQUE and THILLOY.	
		11.15		

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

513

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Line. No. FLERS	1917 January 28.	1930 20-30	During the morning some shelling of DURHAM DUMP and TRAMLINE Enemy bombed FACTORY AV between FACTORY CORNER and YARRA BANK	GUEDECOURT SW 1:10000
	29	0 3-30 0400	During the night sniping M.B. indirect fire (in conjunction with Artillery) were carried out on a definite programme to harass the enemy. Enemy working party opposite post 9 dispersed by heavy gunfire. Situation quiet During the night a patrol from our left moved to about M17 D91 till further progress was barred by wire - they were discovered but got back safely one by one; all in at 06.00	
		0900 1420	Enemy shelled the whole area - lightly but persistently.	
		15:00	LT M. Bty and Medium T.M. Bty registered on BAYONET TV. - LTMs satisfactorily Mediums very unsatisfactory only two shots fired - both "duds" and both in our own lines. Throughout the day enemy planes were constantly patrolling their own lines and were engaged by our AA guns and M.B.s. Usual F.A. and indirect M.B. fire programme continued M.B.s fire 10,000 rounds nightly.	
	30	04:00	Quiet night A very quiet day - some sniping and small mortar activity on both sides.	
	31	04:00	Light shelling by enemy throughout the night - this continued all day	
		10:30	Truck movement of parties from 10 to 50 shown reported about LEBARQUE and just behind enemy's lines - several of the parties were caught by our M.B. + Artillery. nothing else of note. Our operations for the present are directed to preparing trenches against the threat and to increasing the accommodation which at present will only accommodate one battalion of normal strength. Programmes of M.B. + LTM activity harass the enemy. Table of Casualties for month ending noon 31-1-17 " Reinforcements received month ending noon 31-1-17 Strength as at noon 31-1-17 Table of Personnel attending Schools during month ending noon 31-1-17	

W. H. Kitching Major
Bde Major
2nd A.D. Bde

Appendix
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VII
VIII

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Appendix 11

SECRET.

COPY NO..... 2

BRIGADE ORDER NO 1

BY

Lieut. Col. C.H. JESS., D.S.O., Commanding,

Headquarters,
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde
Jany 6th 1917.

Reference map ALBERT.
Combined sheet 1/40,000.

1. The Brigade, less Mining Company and 6th Batta will be relieved by the 4th A.I. Bde and will move via MAULTE and DERNANCOURT to "1" area, LUIRE on the 7th inst.

Bde Hqrs.
7th Batta.
8th " "
5th " "
No 2 H.C. Coy.
SA L.T. Bty.

2. Heads of columns will pass starting point at interval of 20 minutes commencing at 1100. C.O. 5th Batta to arrange for his detached Companies to rejoin at nearest point on line of march after relief.

3. HALTS.

Under Battalion arrangements of 10 minutes duration at 10 minutes to each clock hour - a halt of 70 minutes at 1250 may be made for lunch.

4. STARTING POINT.

Junction of MALETZ - ERICOURT Road and Camp Corduroy Road.

5. MOVEMENT.

(a) All troops will move in file.
(b) The following intervals will be maintained :-

300 yards between Battalions.
300 " " transport of each unit.
100 " " Companies.

6. ADVANCE REAR PARTIES.

Advance parties of 1 Officer and 1 H.C.O per unit will rendezvous at Brigade Headquarters at 1400 on 6th inst. and ~~will proceed~~ proceed to LUIRE to take over billets - rear parties will be detailed to remain until camps are taken over and certificates as to cleanliness and sanitation are received, and receipts for camp equipment obtained.

7. REARGUARD.

C.O. 5th Batta to detail 1 Officer and 12 O.Panks to collect and bring forward stragglers. - This Officer to arrange for the kits of any men unable to carry same to go on to motor lorries.

8. EXTRA TRANSPORT.

For the carriage of ^{extra} blankets
1 motor lorry per Battalion and Bde Hqrs, at 1000.
1 motor lorry for No 2 H.C. Coy at 1330.
1 motor lorry No 2A L.T. Bty at 1330
to be at the end of the Corduroy Road.

9. MEDICAL.

1 motor ambulance will be available for conveyance of sick from 1000 onwards.

10. REPORTS.

To head of column.

11. ARRIVALS.

C.O.'s will report arrival of units in new billets.

12. ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

J. J. Ulrich Major.,

Lieut. Colonel, 2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copy No.	To whom	Time method
1	Title	1400
2/3	War Diary	"
4	1st Aust. Division.	" D.R.
5	5th Batt lion.	" "
6	6th Battalion	" "
7	7th Battalion	" "
8	8th Battalion	" "
9	No. 3 Coy.	" "
10	3 A.L.F. Battery	" "
11	1st A.I. Brigade	" "
12	5rd A.I. Brigade	" "
13	4th A.I. Brigade	" "
14	Staff Captain	"
15	Camp Commandant	" O.Rd.
16	Lde. Int. Officer.	" "
18/20	Spare	"

14 No 3 Coy AASC

BRIGADE ORDER No. B.

Reference Map
ALBERT Combined 57D S.F. & 62D N.F.

By Lieut-Colonel C.H. JESS, D.S.O.

Commanding

Headquarters
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
11th January 1917.

1. The Brigade (less units and parties detached to 1st ANZAC (fuller details later) and Sections of Machine Gun Coy. on Anti-Aircraft duty) will move via LAVIFVILLE and HENENCOURT to WARLOY on the 14th instant.
2. Units will pass the starting point at 20 minutes interval commencing at 1025.
Bde. Hqrs
8th Bn.
5th Bn.
No. 2 H.G. Coy.
2 A.L.T.M. Bty.
7th Bn.
3. STARTING POINT Junction of roads at D.23.B.40.
4. MOVEMENT The following distances will be maintained :
200 yards between Battalions.
200 yards between Transport and marching troops.
100 yards between Companies.
5. HALTS Ten minutes at 1050 and 1150
6. CLEANLINESS OF BILLETS Units will obtain from the Town Major certificates as to the cleanliness of Billets and will detail rear parties of 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks to remain until such Certificates are obtained.
Copies of Certificates to be forwarded to Brigade Headquarters at WARLOY.
7. REAR-GUARD A Rear Guard of 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks will be detailed by 5th Battalion to march in rear of column and bring forward stragglers.
8. MEDICAL 'Motor Ambulance' will be available for conveyance of sick. All men falling out on the Line of March will be given a Certificate by an Officer. Certificate to be endorsed by the R.M.O.
9. EXTRA TRANSPORT. Transport Motor Lorries will be available for the carriage of extra blankets as follows :-
Bde. Hqrs. 1.
H.G. Coy. &
L.T.M. Bty. 2.
5th, 7th, 8th Bns. 2 each.
Units will send guides to Bde. Hqrs. at 0850
10. ADVANCE PARTIES. Advance Parties of 1 Officer and 10 Other Rank per Unit will report to Brigade Billeting Officer - Lieut. R.G. WEBSTER - at Brigade Headquarters at 0845 on the 13th instant and will be transported by buses.

P. T. O.

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(3)

11. SUPPLIES RAILHEAD WILL REMAIN AT EDGEHILL

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J. J. Welch

Major,

Brigade Major, 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

Copy No.	To whom	Time	Method.
1.	File	2100	
2/3.	War Diary	"	
4.	1st Aust. Division	"	D.R.
5.	5th Battn.	"	"
6.	6th Battn.	"	"
7.	7th Battn.	"	"
8.	8th Battn.	"	"
9.	No. 3. H.W. Coy.	"	"
10.	No. 3. A.L.T. H. Bty.	"	"
11.	No. 3 Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
12.	Staff Captain.	"	Ord.
13.	Camp Commandant.	"	"
14.	Brigade Intelligence Off.	"	"
15.	Ede. Billeting Off.	"	"
16/18.	Spare.	"	

BRIGADE ORDER NO 3.

BY

Lieut-Colonel J. HEANE, C.M.G., D.S.O. Commanding

Headquarters
2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.
20th January 1917

Reference Map. ALBERT (Combined Sheet)

Bde. Hqrs.
No 2 M.G. Coy.
8th Bn.
5th Bn.
7th Bn.
6th Bn.
2A L.T.M. Bty.

1. The Brigade, less parties at MEAULTE, will move by road on the 23rd inst. via HENENCOURT and MILLENCOURT to ALBERT and relieve the 1st (Imp.) Bde.
2. Head of Column will pass Starting Point at 0830.
3. Starting Point. Cross roads at V.25.A.79.
4. Movement. The following distances will be maintained -

200 yards	between Battalions
200 "	" " Transport & Marching troops
100 "	" " Companies.
5. Halts. - of Ten minutes duration at 0920 and 1020 under Unit arrangements.
6. Rear Parties. Units will obtain from the Town Major or Advance Parties of the 1st (Imp) Bde. certificates as to the cleanliness and good order of the Billets vacated and will detail rear parties of 1 Officer and 12 O'Ranks to remain until such certificates are obtained. Copies of certificates to be forwarded to Bde. Hqrs. at ALBERT.
7. Advance Parties. 1 Officer and 1 O'Rank per unit will report mounted to Bde. Billeting officer Lieut. WEBSTER at Bde. Hqrs. at 1000 on the 22nd inst.
8. Detached Parties. When relieved will rejoin units at ALBERT.
9. Medical. Motor Ambulance will follow Column to pick up sick falling out on line of march. Two motor lorries will be available for any footsore men at a time to be notified later.
10. Extra Transport. Motor lorries will be available for the carriage of extra blankets as follows -
Bde. Hqrs. 1 M.G. Coy. and L.T.M. Bty. 1 5th Bn. 1
6th, 7th and 8th Bns. 2 each.
11. Reports. To head of Column.
12. A C K N O W L E D G E.

J. Heane

MAJOR.
Bde. Major

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

P.T.O.

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 5

Lieut-Colonel J. H. H. G. S. O. S. G. Commanding

513

Headquarters

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

Copy No.	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	0000 (Combined)	Reference Map. ALBERT
2/3	War Diary	"	"
4	1st Aust. Division	"	D.R.
5	5th Battalion	"	"
6	6th Battalion	"	"
7	7th Battalion (Imp.)	"	"
8	8th Battalion	"	"
9	No 2 M.G. Coy.	"	"
10	2A L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
11	No 3 Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
12	1st (Imp) Bde.	"	"
13	Staff Captain	"	Ord
14	Camp Commandant	"	"
15	Bde. Intelligence Offr.	"	"
16	Bde. Billeting Offr.	"	"
17-18	Sparas	"	"

The following distances will be maintained -

Distance	Between
200 yards	between Battalions
200 "	Transport & Marching troops
100 "	Companies

Halts - of ten minutes duration at 0930 and 1030 under Unit arrangements.

Rear Parties. Units will obtain from the Town Major or Advance Parties of the 1st (Imp) Bde. Certificates as to the cleanliness and good order of the Billets vacated and will detail rear parties of 1 Officer and 12 Ranks to remain until such certificates are obtained. Copies of certificates to be forwarded to Bde. Hqs. at ALBERT.

Advance Parties. 1 Officer and 10 Ranks per unit will report mounted to Bde. Billeting Officer Lieut. WESTER at Bde. Hqs. at 1000 on the 22nd inst.

Detached Parties. When relieved will rejoin units at ALBERT.

Medical. Motor Ambulance will follow Column to pick up sick falling out on line of march. Two motor lorries will be available for any footsore men at a time to be notified later.

Extra Transport. Motor lorries will be available for the carriage of extra blankets as follows - Bde. Hqs. 1 M.G. Coy. and L.T.M. Bty. 1 5th Bn. 1 6th, 7th and 8th Bns. 2 each.

Reports. To head of Column.

ACKNOWLEDGED

[Handwritten signature]

MAJOR Bde. Major

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

P.T.O.

BRIGADE ORDER NO 4

BY

Lieut-Colonel J. H. H. C. G., D.S.O., Commanding

513

Headquarters

2nd Aust. Inf. Bde.

23rd Janry 17.

Reference Map. ALBERT (Combined Sheet)

1. The Brigade will move to relieve the 151st Bde. on the right of the Div. Line in accordance with the table attached and from the 23rd inst. will come under the orders of the 111 Corps.
2. Forward of FRICOURT units will move in file and the following distances will be maintained :-
100 yards between platoons and between every six vehicles,
200 yards between Battalions,
Forward of HIGH WOOD troops will not be moved by day except in small parties keeping to covered ways.
3. Head of Column to pass Starting Point at 0900.
4. Starting Point will be notified by wire later.
5. Billeting parties of 1 Officer and 1 P.C.O. per Unit mounted (M.G. Coy. to arrange billets for L.T.M. Bty.) will report to Bde. Billeting Officer Lieut. R. G. WILSTER at Bde. Hqrs. of ALBERT on the 24th at 1000.
6. Advance parties of 8th and 6th to include C.O.'s, Company Commanders, I.O.'s and Specialists and guides will go forward on the 24th to arrange details of the relief - 8th En. will take over front line and Support.
6th En. will be in Reserve.
Units will detail their own guides in addition to those provided by outgoing units.
7. Specialists and Garrisons of Strong Points, wherever possible, will be relieved by day on the 26th before 1000.
8. Trench Stores will be taken over and signed for, two copies of receipt will be forwarded by each unit to Bde. Hqrs. by 1st Despatch on the 27th inst.
9. Documents, Photos, Maps and Information in connection with the Defence of the Line - Projected operations and work in hand or proposed will be taken over and signed for.
10. Completion of moves and reliefs will be notified by wire in Code to Bde. Hqrs; Disposition report to be forwarded to Bde. Hqrs. by 1st Despatch on 27th inst.

M.G. Coy.
T.M. Bty.
Lining Platoon
8th En.
8th Battalion
6th Battalion
5th Battalion
7th Battalion
Bde. Hqrs.

P.T.O.

11. Bde. Hqrs. will close at ALBERT at 1000 on 25th inst. and reopen at S.13.B.1.C., SITE 6 at same hour.
Bde. Hqrs. will close at S.13.B.1.C. at 1700 on 25th inst. and reopen at Advanced Headquarters S.C.A.S.C. at same hour.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

27 March

MAJOR,
Bde. Major
2nd Aust. Infantry Brigade,

Copy No.	To whom	Time	Method
1	File	2000	
2/3	War Diary	"	
4	1st Aust. Division	"	D.P.
5	5th Battalion	"	"
6	6th Battalion	"	"
7	7th Battalion	"	"
8	8th Battalion	"	"
9	No 3 Coy.	"	"
10	SA L.T.M. Bty.	"	"
11	151st Ldo. (Imp)	"	"
12	150th Ldo.	"	"
13	13th Aust. Bde.	"	"
14	No 3 Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
15	Staff Captain	"	"
16	Camp Commandant	"	"
17	Bde. Billposting Officer	"	"
18	Bde. Intelligence Offr.	"	"
19-20	Spare		

MARCH TABLE TO ACCOMPANY 2nd INF. EDF. ORDER NO 4

Date	Unit	Unit 50th Division	From	To	In relief of	Route	Hour of start	Remarks
Jan 25			ALBERT	BAZENTIN Camps as under :- H.Q. Site 6 S.13.b.1.6. HIGH WOOD W. S.9.d.1.9. Site 2. S.8.c.6.7. Site 3. S.8.c.8.9. Site 4. S.8.b.1.6.	149th Edo.	LA BOISSIFLE CONTAMMAISON		
	Lde. Hqrs.							
	5th battn.							
	7th "							
	6th "							
	8th "							
25/26	2nd L.G. Coy. L.I. Bty.		BAZENTIN Camps	Line right sector	Similar parties 151st Edo.			
	Mining Platoon 8th En.		do	M.35.a.6.5.	100 miners 50th Divn.			
26/27	Lde. Hqrs.		BAZENTIN	Line right sector	151st Edo.			Forward HQ S.6.a. Central Back HQ Site 5
	8th battn.		Site 4	"	5th Ldr. Rgt.			Front Line and Support
	6th battn.		Site 3	"	9th D.L.I.			Reserve En. M.30.B. M.36.a.

* Overflow to HIGH WOOD F. S.9.b.8.2.

The Transport of units of 2nd Aust. Inf. Lde. will take over the locations occupied by the Transport of the Units of the 151st Brigade.

Appendix No. 4

Appendix (v)

2nd A. I. Bde
casualties January 1917

	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING		REMARKS
	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	OFF.	O.R.	
No 2 M.G. Coy	-	-	-	1*	-	-	* Accidentally.
2 A.L.T.M. Bys	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5th Bn	-	-	1	-	-	-	2 1/2 W.R. VOLUM
6th Bn	-	2	-	4	-	-	
7th Bn	-	-	-	1	-	-	
8th Bn	-	1	-	6	-	-	
Total		3	1	12	-	-	

Appendix No. 5

Appendix (vi)

2nd A.I. Bde
Reinforcements - January 1917

Unit	OFF.	OR.	Total	Remarks
110 2 M G. Coy		14	14	
2. A.L.T.M. Bde	-	11	11	
5th Batta	1 ^o	82	83	1 ^o L. J. R. STOCK
6th Batta	1 ^o	83	84	2 ^o L. W. H. E. J. PASCOE
7th Batta	1 ^o	41	42	L. E. K. CARLILE
8th Batta	-	200	200	-
Total	3	431	434	

513

2nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

RETURN NO 1.

Unit.	On Establishment		Attached		Total Horses	Remarks.		
	Off.	O'RMS	Off.	O'RMS				
1st Bn. 2nd L. Bde.	7	19	14	5	85	104 Bn 1-2 5th " 1-16 6th " 2-23 7th " 14 8th " 1-12 M. G Coy 1 A.S.C. 5 D.A.C. 1 3rd L.H. Bde 2 No. 1. Sq. Sec 4 5-80		
2nd Coy. Company	12	189	50	-	26	Reserves 24 A.A.M.C. 2 26		
3rd 4th Section	1	55	56	7	-	For Instructional Purposes.		
4th L.T. Battery	4	50	54	-	15	16 For Instructional Purposes.		
5th Bn.	37	937	974	52	2	6	8 A.A.M.C. 1-4 Chaplain 1-0 Arms 1 Interpreter 1 2-6	
6th Bn.	39	1010	1049	51	2	6	8 A.A.M.C. 1-5 Chaplain 1-1 2-6	
7th Bn.	38	901	939	48	2	7	9 A.A.M.C. 1-5 Chaplain 1-1 Arms 1 2-7	
8th Bn.	45	1023	1068	49	2	2	4 A.A.M.C. 1-2 Chaplain 1-0 2-2	
TOTAL	183	4184	4367	271	14	142	156	4

OFFICERS 197
 O'RANKS 4326
 TOTAL 4523
 HORSES 275

31/1/19

R. R. Leah Lieut. Staff Capt
 2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade.

2nd Aust. Inf. Brigade
Return No 3.

Unit	Strength Previous Day		Details Previous Day		OFFICERS			OTHER RANKS			Strength This Day		Details This Day	
	OFF	O.Rs	OFF	O.Rs	Cas	Att	Sick	Cas	Att	Sick	OFF	O.Rs	OFF	O.Rs.
	Hq 2 nd A.I.B.	3	14	-	1							3	14	-
No 2 M.G. Coy	12	188	4	27							12	188	4	26
No 2 A.L.T.M. Pk	4	49	1	12					1		4	50	2	12
5 th Battr.	37	934	9	190	*1	1					37	934	9	206
6 th Battr.	39	1007	10	162				1	2		39	1008	8	157
7 th Battr.	38	899	13	138							38	899	16	148
8 th Battr.	45	1029	15	161				3		6	45	1020	16	161
	178	4120	52	671	1	1		4	3	6	178	4113	55	709

* 2/Lt W.R. Volurn, Wounded.
 1/Lt E.A. Scates appls to Commissioner
 thanks to date from 24-1-17

31/1/17

R. R. Roach Lieut.
 Staff Captain. 2nd A.I.B.

Appendix No. 7 15

513

-- SCHOOLS FOR JANUARY 1917--

-----*****-----

School	Offrs.	O'Ranks
Infantry	18	45
Lewis Gun	2	39
Signallers	1	7
Telescopic Sights	2	2
Bayonet Fighting		4
Co-operation with Contact Patrols R.F.C. (1 day course)	42	56
Intelligence Duties		1
Stokes Gun		6
Bombers		2
Pigeon Duties		8
School of mining		1
School of Mortars	1	1
Instructors	3	4
TOTAL		176