

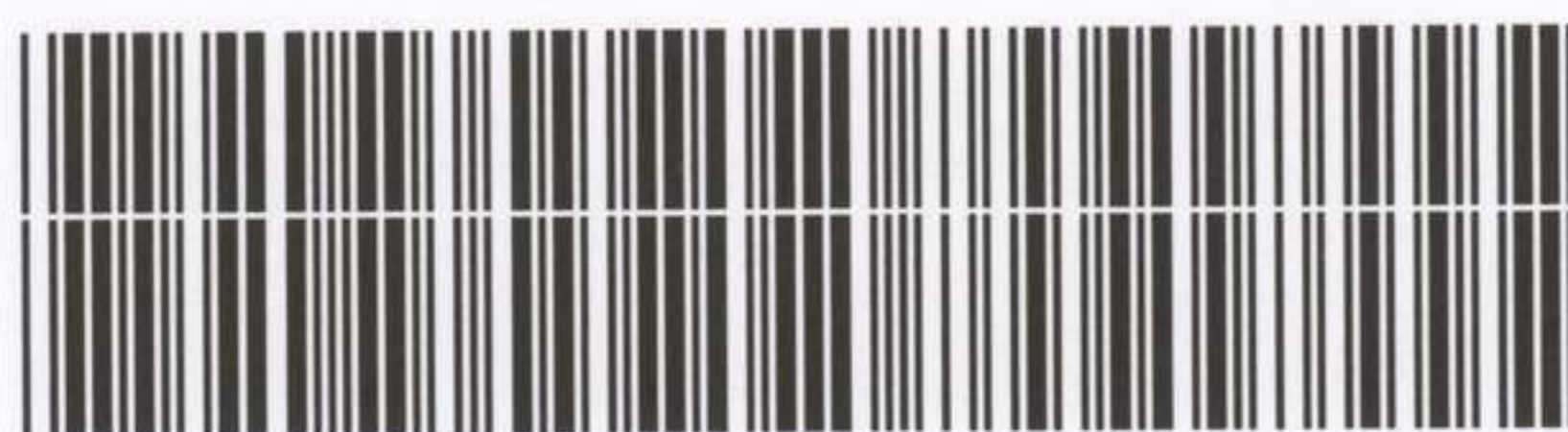
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/19/8

Title: 2nd Infantry Battalion

November 1915



AWM4-23/19/8

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Adj. General
 5th Army Form C. 2118.
 13 DEC. 1945
 CENTRAL REGISTRY
 No MFC/ 10.0

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
0600 1/11/15. Shell Green Angae.	<p>Fine day, casualties nil. effective strength. 16 officers 309 O.Ranks.</p>	
1200.	<p>Very quiet. Fortunately the PzC has so far escaped. casualties since its return to the firing line. As soon as the enemy starts to shell us they the casualties will start to mount up. Work continues on improvements & extensions of quarters. A few shells fired over our lines by the enemy. No casualties.</p>	
1600		
2200.	<p>All quiet</p>	
0600 2/11/15.	<p>Fine day, casualties nil. Strength 16 officers 306 O.Ranks.</p>	
1100.	<p>Very quiet. Hard to imagine we are so close to the enemy.</p>	
1730.	<p>main body of our 7th & 8th reinforcements arrived. They are a very fine looking body of men, and are said to be well trained having been eleven weeks in Egypt.</p>	
1600	<p>Some shelling. PzC raption party caught by sgt/maj. 2 men wounded.</p>	
2130.	<p>Some firing, partly rifle and partly M. G. going on. some bombing also, but none of the bombs are falling in our lines.</p>	
0600 2/11/15	<p>Fine morning. casualties officers nil O.Ranks 3 wounded. effective strength 16 officers 316 O.Ranks.</p>	
0930.	<p>commanding officer inspected reinforcement draft.</p>	

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10.6

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>0930 2/11/15 Shell Green Anzac.</p>	<p>of 2 officers (Lieut A. E. B. GILDER, 7th reinforcements and Lieut H. G. VERNON, 7th reinforcements) and 191 other ranks before drafting them to companies. The men were very steady on parade and looked very fit.</p>	
<p>1200.</p>	<p>Lieut GILDER temporarily appointed to G. officer. Lieut VERNON posted to "C" Co.</p>	
<p>1600.</p>	<p>all quiet.</p>	
<p>0600 4/11/15</p>	<p>Fine morning casualties officers nil. Other ranks 1 wounded. effective strength 18 officers 506 others.</p>	
<p>1100.</p>	<p>everything quiet.</p>	
<p>1600.</p>	<p>a few shells fired into our lines but no damage done.</p>	
<p>2100.</p>	<p>fairly heavy firing down to our right. 2nd Coy firing line & supports standing hot guns.</p>	
<p>2130</p>	<p>have heard that the Light Horse were attacked by the enemy.</p>	
<p>2200.</p>	<p>2nd Coy firing line resumed normal night dispositions.</p>	
<p>0600 5/11/15.</p>	<p>Fine morning. casualties nil. Effective strength 18 officers 506 other ranks.</p>	

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10.7

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Shell Green Anzac.</p> <p>0600 6/11/15.</p> <p>1100</p> <p>1600</p> <p>2030</p> <p>0600 7/11/15.</p> <p>0600 8/11/15.</p> <p>1500</p> <p>1900.</p> <p>2130.</p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties nil. Effective strength. 18 officers 506 other ranks.</p> <p>Some shelling by enemy's field guns. No casualties.</p> <p>Officer C M SPIER reinforcement officer of 3rd Bn reported to 2nd Bn for duty in a similar capacity, having been transferred by the Pde.</p> <p>all quiet</p> <p>Fine morning. Casualties officers nil. 0 ranks 1 wounded. Effective strength 19 officers 502 0 ranks.</p> <p>Fine morning casualties officers nil. 0 ranks 1 wounded. Effective strength 18 officers 499 0 ranks</p> <p>Major C W WATSON sent to field ambulance.</p> <p>all quiet</p> <p>some sniping, otherwise all quiet.</p>	

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10.2

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>0600 9/11/15 <i>Shell Green Amal.</i></p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties nil. Effective strength 18 officers 5 of other ranks.</p>	
<p>0600 10/11/15. 1100.</p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties officers nil other ranks 1 killed. 1 wounded. MAJOR (TEMPORARY) C. W. WATSON returned to duty from field ambulance.</p>	
<p>0600 11/11/15.</p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties nil. Effective strength 19 officers 491 ORs</p>	
<p>0600 12/11/15.</p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties nil. Effective strength 19 officers 493 other ranks.</p>	

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10.9

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shell Green 0600 13/11/15	Anzac Fine morning. Casualties nil. Effective strength 19 officers 498 other ranks.	
0600 14/11/15.	Fine morning. Casualties nil. Strength 19 officers 498 other ranks.	
0900 0945 1000	1st Bde moving into our firing line to relieve us. Relief complete.	
1330	2nd ^{and 12th} Bde moved out of position Q1 to L5 and relieved 9th Bde from Q4 to the BLACK HAND inclusive. These lines are much closer to the enemy than at our former position.	
	Observation post in our lines which was only constructed by 9th Bde last night and handed over to us this morning was completely wrecked by enemy's artillery. Lt Col CASS MAJOR STEVENS. CAPTAIN HARRISON and LIEUT YOUDEH were all in the post observing results of our mortar fire, when the enemy evidently thinking there	

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10.10

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shell Green Aznac 1230 14/11/15	must be some connection between the observation post which had made its appearance overnight and the heavy bombardment which his trenches were being subjected to, opened fire. The first first shell fell a few feet short. The Colonel & Major left and were closely followed by the adjutant and intelligence officer and fortunately so, for the Turks picked up the range to a yard and completely demolished the whole structure.	
1700	all quiet along the line.	
2200	all quiet	
0600 15/11/15	Cloudy but fine. Casualties nil. Effective strength 19 officers 497 others.	
1130	Enemy's artillery located one of our machine gun positions and blew in the parapet but did not injure the gun or detachment. One man in the adjoining sentry post however was killed by a piece of shell which penetrated his neck.	

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10. 11

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Shell Green Am. ac. 15/11/15 1600</p>	<p>Very heavy bombardment going on down south. Our warships are standing well out to sea and shelling the coast. The noise is continuous.</p>	
<p>1700</p>	<p>Bombardment still very heavy.</p>	
<p>2000</p>	<p>Short but violent rain squall.</p>	
<p>800 16/11/15</p>	<p>Fine morning. Casualties Officers nil. Killed. Effective strength 19 officers. 497 other ranks.</p>	
<p>1600</p>	<p>Some shelling but no casualties.</p>	
<p>2200</p>	<p>A little sniping by both sides. Very little bombing. Enemy machine gun on KNIFE EDGE is traversing the whole of the front of our firing line.</p>	
<p>2400</p>	<p>Very quiet, an occasional shot only.</p>	
<p>600 17/11/15</p>	<p>Fine morning but windy. Casualties nil effective strength 19 officers 494 other ranks.</p>	
<p>1000</p>	<p>Very windy with rough sea.</p>	
<p>1030</p>	<p>2/LIEUTS. H.H. YOUNG and A.H. HIRST reported for duty. The former was sergt in 7th L.H. and the latter trooper 12th L.H. but since the disbandment of that regiment he has been with the 7th.</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shell Green Anzac.</i></p> <p>1500 17/11/15</p>	<p>Sea very rough, in fact it is the roughest we have seen since the landing. 25th April 1915. All the ships with the exception of one cruiser have left - probably gone to Ambros.</p>	
<p>1930.</p>	<p>Very heavy rain driven by violent wind storm. Some dug outs and certain parts of the trenches are flooded, although not to any depth - two to four inches.</p>	
<p>0600. 18/11/15.</p>	<p>Fine morning, but very cold wind; everyone wearing jerseys, cardigan jackets etc</p>	
<p>1200</p>	<p>Effective strength 21 officers 501 other ranks. Casualties nil. All quiet. Still very cold.</p>	
<p>2300</p>	<p>Some sniping by both sides, also machine gun fire. Sentries are only put on for an hour at a time now owing</p>	
<p>0600 19/11/15</p>	<p>Casualties nil effective strength officers 21 other ranks 500</p>	
<p>1200</p>	<p>Day cold but fine.</p>	
<p>1800.</p>	<p>Quiet to-day, an occasional shell at times</p>	
<p>2300</p>	<p>Some sniping by both sides otherwise all quiet</p>	
	<p>Quiet all along our front.</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">A</p>

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10.18

Hour	Date	Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
0600	20/11/15	Shell Green Amzac	Casualties nil. Cold & Raw day. Nothing of note. Some shelling this morning but only light. no damage done. Effective strength. 21 officers 502 ORs.	
1200.				
2000				
2300.				
0630.	21/11/15.		a little sniping by the Turks from KNIFE EDGE with some bombing up to our left - 2ND BDE probably. Casualties nil. Another bleak miserable day. Work started on improving drainage of the area.	
1000				
1800 1800				
1930				
0630.	22/11/15		Effective strength 21 officers 509 other ranks. Protestant church service held in firing line near Q7. CHAPLAIN DUNCAN. Cold bleak & windy. The winter is now on us in earnest. The days are cold, and the nights worse. There are frequent showers making things very unpleasant in the trenches. 2/Lieut REGINALD GEORGE DOWNING reported fit duty. promoted from 12th Light Horse. All quiet along our line.	
1000				
1200.				
1800				
2300.				
0630.	23/11/15.		Casualties nil. Effective strength 22 officers 508 other ranks. all quiet along our line. Enemy sniping a little. also short bursts of machine gun fire at intervals. Still bitterly cold & windy.	
1200				
1800				
2300				
			Nothing of importance, an occasional shot by snipers on both sides. Casualties nil. Effective strength 22 officers 508 other ranks. Very quiet.	

[Signature]

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10.14

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Shell Green Ammunition</p> <p>24/11/15</p> <p>0630. 1100 1200. 1730.</p>	<p>Very cold and bleak.</p> <p>Officer HERBERT FRAZER WATSON reported for duty. promoted from 6th Lt.</p> <p>The usual sniping going on along the line; enemy replying.</p> <p>Orders received that all sniping is to cease and a complete cessation of fire will be maintained with the object of deluding the enemy into the idea that our troops have been withdrawn. Men have been warned that the cease is to be maintained until further orders. If aircraft reconnoitre men will at once take cover. It is hoped that the enemy may be induced to attack.</p> <p>Casualties nil. Effectiveness 23 officers. 506 other ranks. advanced sentry group 7 men sent about 70 yards down ALLAH GULLY. Our men are carrying out the orders concerning the cease to the letter.</p>	
<p>1800. 2100. # 2300.</p> <p>0700 25/11/15</p> <p>1200. 1800.</p>	<p>a dead quiet in our own line. Apparently the enemy is at a loss to understand the silence.</p> <p>Very cold & windy.</p> <p>Very quiet; cease being sustained</p> <p>Casualties. officers nil. 1 other rank wounded. effectiveness 20 officers. 504 other ranks.</p> <p>patrol 7 men sent out by D Co to advanced position in ALLAH GULLY all quiet. patrol has returned without seeing any of the enemy</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">A</div>

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10.15

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>2100 25/11/15 Shell green smoke 2130 2200 0700 1200 1800 1015 2300 2315 0400 0430</p>	<p>25/11/15 The 3rd Field Artillery Bde report "The Turks are suspected of using gas." - Immediately the message was received all were warned, sleeping men roused, alarms manned, gas curtains lowered, spare solution got ready & helmets were donned. Gas alarm turned out to be false. The test however proved satisfactory. No confusion. All quiet in our lines. A little fire from the enemy. Cold & windy.</p> <p>26/11/15 Some shelling - snaphet - during the morning but no casualties. Casualties nil effective strength 23 officers 1504 other ranks. Patrol sent out from D Co. 7 men to same position down ALLYH GULLY. Very wet and windy. All the ships have made off for shelter. A large bomb exploded behind the BLACK HAND but did no damage. Very quiet. Conditions unpleasant in the lines, wet underfoot and very cold.</p> <p>27/11/15 Patrol has returned: nothing to report. Turned out of bed owing to 1st Bde reporting a body of Turks moving in the valley to the right of the 1st Bde. Nothing to be seen from our line. 1st Bde standing to arms. Normal conditions resumed by 1st Bde.</p>	

[Signature]


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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
2200. Shell Green 27/10/15	Amuse Benchy Bill has been very active for the past week, making the work of getting rations etc difficult and dangerous. For some reason or other he has done very little firing to-night. Patrol has returned.	
2315	Snow had begun to fall, in a few minutes the sand bags on the parapets were quite white, and folds in waterproof sheets etc held quite a lot. It has become much warmer during the last hour or so.	
1200 0700 28/11/15.	It has stopped snowing. Everything under snow. The day is cold but not excessively so. Snow is still falling. A dead quiet along the line, both Turks & Australians seem to have come arrived at a sort of truce for the occasion.	
1500	Cardigan jackets issued to all the men. 150 pair of gum boots for the battalion drawn to-day. The boots come right up the thighs & will be very useful.	
1530	Snowing again. almost absolute quiet along the front.	
1800	Effective strength 23 officers 503 other ranks.	
2300	Very cold. Fortunately the mud & slush has frozen hard making progress through the trenches by night more pleasant. Very little sniping. The intense cold has evidently been responsible for this.	

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<p>Shell Green Amzac 2300 28/11/15</p>	<p>The machine guns are firing short bursts and then occasional single shots so that the guns will be kept warmed up. Blankets are put over the water jackets and 20% glycerine put in the water to keep it from freezing. One gun would not work and finally it was found that the oil on the feed block had been so affected by the cold that the block would not work.</p>	
<p>0700 29/11/15</p>	<p>Very cold but not snowing. Snow still lying on the ground.</p>	
<p>1100</p>	<p>An intense bombardment going on to the north of our position, probably at LONE PINE. Some very heavy shells probably 8 or 9 inch fell in our lines in the head of ALLAH GULLY behind the BLACK HAND. We also had some shrapnel burst over our trenches, one man being wounded.</p>	
<p>1500</p>	<p>The bombardment to the north of our position was at LONE PINE and our casualties are reported to be heavy.</p>	
<p>1600</p>	<p>From today our water ration is to be reduced from 1/2 gallon to 1/4 gallon per day for all purposes.</p>	
<p>1800</p>	<p>Effective strength 23 officers 503 other ranks. Casualties 1 other ranks wounded.</p>	
<p>2300</p>	<p>all quiet in the lines. Cold is intense, and the men are unanimous in their approval of the waterproofs which the sentries are supplied with as a protection against cold & wet.</p>	

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10.19

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Shell Green Anzac 0700 30/11/15 1000 1200 1800 1930 2030 2300 0330 0440 0700 1000</p>	<p>Still very cold and snow still lying on the ground. a clear sky and the day has turned out very pleasant with warm sunshine. all quiet. Effective strength 53 officers 503 others. Casualties nil A party went out from the BLACK HAND to wire the slopes and bottom of ALLAH GULLY. a covering party divided into two patrols of four men each were sent out in advance. an engineer subaltern & a sergeant directed the work. The whole of the covering & wiring parties returned to our lines safely. A little sniping going on along both lines. A few broomstick bombs fell near our trenches but without doing any harm a repetition of bombing but no damage done. Fine cold morning much warmer to-day with clear sky & sunshine. Still on 1/4 water rations. all companies had to fall back on snow water for making tea for to-days breakfast.</p>	<p></p>

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