

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/1/10

**Title:** 1st Infantry Brigade

May 1916



AWM4-23/1/10

## War Diary. 1st Inf. Bde.

May 1<sup>st</sup> All quiet on Bde front except for occasional bursts of heavy shelling - The M.G. Coy have been forced to vacate their billets.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Our artillery will fire on enemy gun positions between 1500 & 1700 today and tomorrow. All men to take cover as retaliation is expected.

1800. Artillery action did not take place clouds etc prevented effective observations. Scouts, bombers, signallers & machine gun crews of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Bns moved into the line preparatory to the relief ordered for tomorrow late night.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Again artillery action did not take place. Enemy shelled Weathercock House, one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn billets. Lt Elliott and one man killed and one man was wounded.

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MARES NEST.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. relieved 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. in right Sub section  
trenches. Relief complete at 2125  
4<sup>th</sup> Bn. relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. in left Sub section  
trenches. Relief complete at 2220.

May 4<sup>th</sup> Weathercock House again Shelled. 1 Officer  
Captain WOODFORDE 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. + 4 other ranks  
wounded. British art. officers using the  
tower as O.P. down fire - have thrown  
them out - reported action to D.H.Q.,  
Staff Capt. goes to England on leave  
tonight. (Lieut. FORBES. 5<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Lancers).  
Lieut. H.F. WATSON 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. will act during  
Staff Capt's absence.

May 5<sup>th</sup> An attack was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. lines  
0200. Green flames were sent up + this Bde.  
stood to arms. 0830 Gas alarm  
passed to us from the Bde. on our left  
(2<sup>nd</sup> A. Inf). Sharp gas alarm passed  
on. Result of enemy attack not yet  
known but unofficially reported as having  
captured two of our Lewis + two Stokes  
guns.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Fairly quiet day. Routine trench duties

1916.

## MARES NEST

May 7<sup>th</sup> Enemy artillery shelled left of 4<sup>th</sup> Bn lines for an hour + a half this morning. parapet breached in one place. Capt. JUDGE wounded.

Our artillery response was feeble, and our ammunition not good. Of twelve shells fired from 6<sup>th</sup> Bateria (18 pdr) about 1000 eleven failed to detonate.

~~R.W.7. raid right raided enemy~~  
2245 Enemy again shelled breach in 4<sup>th</sup> Bn parapet. Six shells (4.2" HE) fell on the breach but no casualties resulted.

2400 Royal Welsh Fusiliers on our right raided enemy trench result unknown.

May 8<sup>th</sup> R.W.7. raid claimed to be successful. The raiding party state that they inflicted loss on crowded enemy trench. No results yet to hand.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Routine trench garrison duty.  
to Improving + deepening trenches.

May 14<sup>th</sup> thickening parapet, wiring etc.  
Patrols each night explore NO Man's land between opposing trenches.

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## MARES NEST.

May 15. Div. Order for relief of 1<sup>st</sup> Bde by 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde issued. Relief to be complete by night of 20/21<sup>st</sup> May. Bde Order 11. (Appendix III) issued accordingly.

May 16<sup>th</sup> Aeroplane of 16<sup>th</sup> R.F.C. forced to land by 1700. engine trouble, opposite our H.Q. We communicated with R.F.C. mechanics were sent. Machine flew off at 2015 Pilot FITZSIMONS, Observer PEACH. 113<sup>th</sup> Bde. on our right were shelled by enemy at 1250 and 1700. Their parapet was breached on one company's frontage. Our machine guns co-operated in retaliation by enfilade, indirect fire against trenches S.W. of Sugarloaf Sabient.

May 17<sup>th</sup> Having learnt from prisoners of enemy relief at 2100 tonight our artillery shelled their roads + FROMELLES.

2130 Our M.G. fired on enemy communications and front line trenches using combined sights.

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## MARES NEST.

May 18<sup>th</sup> In Right - Left reserve battalions respectively  
 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> Pns. were relieved by  
 10<sup>th</sup> + 12<sup>th</sup> Pns. tonight - relief  
 complete by 2230. 1<sup>st</sup> Bde  
 commander will command the section  
 until relief is complete on night 20/21.  
 Leave of absence from 20<sup>th</sup> inst for  
 eight days approved for  
 Lt Col A.B. STEVENS D.S.O. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pns.  
 Lt Col O.G. HOWELL-PRICE 3<sup>rd</sup> Pns  
 Major S.L. MILLIGAN Bde Major 1<sup>st</sup> Bde.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Medium trench mortars registered  
 successfully while our artillery was in  
 action - Enemy retaliated but did no  
 damage. This is the first time our M  
 T.M.B. has been in action.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Pns. relieved 3<sup>rd</sup> Pns in right  
 subsection trenches. Relief complete  
 2220. 10<sup>th</sup> battalion shelled on road whilst  
 preparing to change reliefs. Casualties  
 killed Captain C.J. Bates. 10<sup>th</sup> 2/4 H.B. SHAW.

May 20<sup>th</sup> OR Killed 2 wounded 15.

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## MARES NEST

May 20<sup>th</sup> - A.M. nothing to report  
 P.M. Shelling communication trenches  
 but caused no damage  
 Relief complete at 0720. 21/5/16

May 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary routine  
 setting in new belts

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary routine

May 23<sup>rd</sup> ordinary routine  
 Zep reported over MESSINES  
 at 2015

May 24<sup>th</sup> ordinary routine

May 25<sup>th</sup> ordinary routine Reinforcements  
 as under. 1st 107 1 OR, 2nd 107  
 58 OR, 3rd 307 83 OR, 4<sup>th</sup> 207  
 38 OR

May 26<sup>th</sup> ordinary routine

May 27<sup>th</sup> ordinary routine

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SAILLY

May 28<sup>th</sup> Brigadier inspected Reinforcements 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn before church parade

Church parades under Bn arrangements.  
Patrol of 12 men + 1 off. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. met enemy patrol of 40 in no mans land. They engaged them + inflicted casualties. A Walker 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. with our patrol was wounded.

May 29<sup>th</sup> Bde Major ret<sup>d</sup> to duty from leave at 0200 this morning.

Brigadier inspected 4<sup>th</sup> Bn reinforcements. The Bde. is resting in billets in SAILLY area. Fatigue at the rate of 650 men per day are found for Divisional + corps tasks.

May 30<sup>th</sup> Practice raid on facsimile of Enemy salient. Known as "Sugar loaf" carried out by raiding party of 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. under Capt P. L. Howell. Price. Actual raid has been postponed by Army Corps

0830 Heavy bombardment of trenches in Petillon sector. This Bde, (reserve Bde) is "standing to". 1000. Normal conditions resumed.

May 31<sup>st</sup> 125 yards of our parapet was demolished last night. The Bde. is ready for action.



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1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE ORDER No. 11

Reference Map : Belgium and France Sheet 36 1/40,000

Bde. Hd. Qrs.

15/5/13

Relief

1. The 1st. Inf. Brigade is to be relieved by the 3rd. Infantry Brigade in the PETILLON section of the 1st. Aust. Div. Sector.  
The relief will be carried out in accordance with attached Appendix 1. and will be completed by the night of 20th./21st. May. Posts to be handed over are shown in Appendix II. Posts in Back area will be relieved in daylight by 1200 on 18th. instant.

Details of the relief will be settled by the C.O's concerned. Completion of relief will be reported to Brigade Headquarters, PARIS WEST.

Specialists.

2. The relief of Lewis M.G. sections, Bombers and Scout Platoons of the front line Bns. will be completed by 2200 on the day before the relief of the Bn. concerned. The Scout platoons will remain in the trenches until 2100 on the day following the relief.

M.G. Coy.

3. The relief of the Brigade M.G. Coy will be completed by 1200 on 20th. inst. under arrangements to be made by M.G. Coy. Commanders. Single guns in Reserve Line may be relieved by daylight.

Advance

Signallers.

4. The following Signal Details from 3rd. Bde. will report at 1500 on 17th. inst. for instruction in the lines and telephones in their areas.

Bde. Signal Officer. ) at Bde.  
1 Complete relief for Bde. Signal office ) Signal Office

1 Sergt. and 2 men from each Bn. H.Q. Sig. Sections )  
1 Signaller per Coy. from 9th. and 11th. Bns. )

at H.Q. of Bns. they will relieve.

Trench  
Stores.

5. Trench, Post and Billet Stores, secret maps, Defence Schemes and Aerial Photographs will be handed over and receipts obtained. Parties consisting of 1 Officer per Coy. and 1 N.J.O. per platoon will report as under to take over such stores.

17th. inst. from 10th. Bn. at 1400 at H.Q. 1st. Bn.

" 12th. Bn. at 1400 at H.Q. 2nd. Bn.

18th. inst. " 9th. Bn. at 0900 at ROUGE DE BOUT.

19th. inst. " 11th. Bn. at 0900 at LES CROIX LESCORNEX

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Transport. 6. Units will take over the transport depots of the units they relieve.

Bde.H.Q. 7. Brigade Headquarters will close at MARES NEST at 2000 on 20th. inst. and reopen at SAILLY BRIDGE HOUSE G.16.c.95.35 at the same hour.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

*A. L. Milligan* Major,  
Brigade Major, 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution of Copies.

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To whom.</u>	<u>Time.</u>	<u>Method.</u>
No. 1-2	Retained	2100	
3.	1st. Bn.	"	Orderly
4.	2nd. Bn.	"	"
5.	3rd. Bn.	"	"
6.	4th. Bn.	"	"
7.	1st. M.G. Coy.	"	"
8.	1A/1 L.T.M.B.	"	"
9.	1A/2 L.T.M.B.	"	"
10.	1st. Aust. Div.	"	D.R.
11.	No.2 Coy. A.A.S.C.	"	"
12.	2nd. F.A. Bde.	"	"
13.	1st. Field Coy.	"	Orderly
14.	2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	D.R.
15.	3rd. Aust. Inf. Bde.	"	"
16.	113th. Inf. Bde.	"	"
17.	Staff Captain	"	--
18.	Bde. Signal Officer	"	--

RELIEF TABLE. APPENDIX 1 (Issued with 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde. Order No. 11.)

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Date.	Unit.	To be relieved by	At.	Guides to meet incoming units at	On relief to move to	New H.Q. at	Route.
18th.	1st. Bn	10th. Bn	Right Reserve Billeets	ROUGE DE BOUT at 2030	Billeets vacated by 10th. Bn	G.14.c.35.90	ROUGE DE BOUT - SAILLY
18th.	2nd. Bn	12th. Bn	Left Reserve Billeets	LA CROIX LESCORNEX at 2030	do	12th. Bn G.22.b.40.95	LA CROIX LESCORNEX - BAC ST MAUR.
19th.	3rd. Bn	9th. Bn	Right Sub-section trenches	ROUGE DE BOUT at 2030	do	9th. Bn G.9.d.30.45.	ROUGE DE BOUT - SAILLY
20th.	4th. Bn.	11th. Bn	Left Sub-section trenches	La CROIX LESCORNEX at 2030	do	11th. Bn G.16.d.45.05	CROIX LESCORNEX - FOURTEEN TREES - GRANNY POST.
20th.	1st. M. G. Coy	3rd. M. G. Coy	H.25.b.2.8.	as arranged by O. C. Coy	do	3rd. M. G. Coy G.21.a.60.35	FOURTEEN TREES - SAILLY
20th.	1A/1&1A/2 T.M.B.	3A/1&3A/2 T.M.B.	H.25.b.2.8.	as arranged by O's. C. Batts.	do	3A/1&3A/2 T.M.B. G.23.b.10.05	Via FOURTEEN TREES
20th.	1st. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	3rd. Inf. Bde. H.Q.	MARES NEST H.20.d.6.6.	---	SAILLY BRIDGE HOUSE.	G.16.c.95.35.	As convenient.

Appendix No. 3. 10

## APPENDIX 11. (Issued with 1st. Aust. Inf. Bde. Order No. 11)

Posts to be handed over.

Appendix No 3.

(1) Posts in front System.

Post.	Garrison.	Handed over by	To.
BEE	2 Sections	3rd. Bn.	9th. Bn.
TROU	2 Sections	do	do
LAYES RIVER	1 Section	4th. Bn.	11th. Bn.
CORDONNERIE	1 Platoon	4th. Bn.	do.
CELLAR FARM.	1 Lewis gun	4th. Bn.	do.
CHARRED	2 Platoons	1st. Bn.	10th. Bn.
WINDY	2 Platoons	1st. Bn.	do.
DEE	1 Platoon	2nd. Bn.	12th. Bn.
WINTERS NIGHT	1 Platoon	do	do
JUNCTION	1 Platoon	do	do
CROIX BLANCHE	2 Platoons	do	do.

(2) Posts in Back System .

Post.	Garrison.	Handed over by	To.
LAVENTIE	1 N. C. O. & 3 men	1st. Bn.	10th. Bn.
G. 34. b. 8. 3. NOUVEAU MONDE	do	do	do
G. 27. c. 6. 2. ROUGE MAISON	do	do	do
G. 21 central GRANNY	do	do	do
G. 29. d. 8. 9. BRICKFIELD	do	2nd. Bn.	12th. Bn.
g. 17. a. 5. 9. PASTURE	do.	do.	do
G. 17. c. d. 5. CEMETERY	do	do	do
G. 22 a Central FACTORY	do.	do	do
G. 23. c. 2. 9. FOURTEEN TREES	do	do	do.
H. 19. c. 4. 9.			