

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/17/17

**Title:** 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

July 1917



AWM4-14/17/17

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

5<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion AIF

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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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AVELUY	July 1		<p>A field firing range was constructed by 'B' Coy for the Div<sup>ce</sup> which was completed by July 1<sup>st</sup> inspected by Col Wagstaff. The Communications were arranged by Div Sig Co - the competition came off on 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; targets worked very well. These jobs interfered considerably with training programme which was carried out on a more or less hand to mouth arrangement according to what Coys were available for training. 'B' Coy was entirely broken up - 50 men &amp; 2 officers were continuously employed in making sports ground for Div<sup>ce</sup> Sports on 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; subsequently for a display before the King on 12<sup>th</sup>. They made for both occasions a very fine ground. LT HAMMOND was in charge of this party which was billeted at HENENCOURT. 'D' Coy represented the Bn in the company <sup>with</sup> competition at the Div<sup>ce</sup> Sports on the 4<sup>th</sup> and did very well. On 7<sup>th</sup> July Bn marched to CORBIE except 'D' Coy which moved to HENENCOURT <sup>to take part in</sup> the display on 12<sup>th</sup>. The march of 13 miles was well done 5 men only falling out. 'D' Coy &amp; working party from B rejoined Bn at CORBIE on 13<sup>th</sup>. Here we carried out pontooning &amp; general bridging expedients under supervision of C.R.E in addition to our ordinary training. Companies could only be taken in turn at bridging work owing to the enormous amount of material that would be required to instruct Bn together. Each Coy had 4 days - 3 with pontoons &amp; 1 with rafter &amp; other expedients. G.O.C. inspected A, C &amp; 1/2 B Coys on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; was well pleased with them but the Transport was in a very bad state. Decided to change Transport Officer so appointed LT HAMMOND &amp; transferred LT J.A. WILSON to 'B' Coy. A Sgt Major instructor was attached to us on 16<sup>th</sup> &amp; an NCO's class commenced under his tuition. G.O.C. inspected remainder of B &amp; D Coys on 18<sup>th</sup>; General Birdwood also saw some of our work on 21<sup>st</sup> got very short notice of all these inspections. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> a night operation was carried out by Coys in turn - This involved bridging the River &amp; also making a track across marshes. On 25<sup>th</sup> Received orders regarding the move of Div<sup>ce</sup> northwards.</p>	Bn Order No 18.
CORBIE	July 7			

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form. C. 2118.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CORBIE	July 28		<p>On July 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion marched from CORBIE. 'D' Coy with 4 G.S. Wajous went to BOUZINCOURT to entrain at AVELUY with 5<sup>th</sup> Bde Group. Remainder of Bn moved to LEALVILLERS. Day was extremely warm &amp; a <del>great</del> number of men fell out - 3 or 4 fainted outright. A midday halt was made at WARLOY. On July 30<sup>th</sup> D Coy entrained at AVELUY &amp; moved to ST OMER &amp; remainder of Bn entrained at BELLE EGLISE &amp; moved to STEENBECQUE. From these places of detrainment boys moved to billets surrounding near C.20 (FRANCE. 36.A. 40000) Bn. H.Q. were reestablished at C.21. a.o.u. Total men sent to Hospital during JULY were 1 officer &amp; 37 other ranks. 51 reinforcements were also received.</p>	<p>Battalion Order No 19. Battalion Order No 20.</p>

APPENDIX

PROGRAMME OF TRAINING

for period July 2nd - 8th

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Day.	MORNING 8.30.- 11.30. am.	AFTERNOON 2.30. - 4.pm.
MONDAY. 2.7.17.	Bayonet Fighting 1 hour. Gas drill and Helmet inspection. $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. <i>Platoon Drill <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> hr.</i> Bombing Practice 1 hour. (Mounted officers to watch field firing practice at Thiepval range, 7.30.am. Lunch to be taken.	The platoon in attack. Lecture for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, and 1 hour in demonstration. (to include extended order, fire control and co-operation of arms.)
TUESDAY. 3.7.17.	Company drill 1 hour. Fire control and fire discipline. <i>1 hour.</i> The company in attack <del>1 hour.</del> Lecture and demonstration 1 hour.	The platoon in attack, small scheme to be carried out, to carry out instructions of yesterday. (Lecture on Pigeon Service at SENLIS at 4.pm. 2 officers per coy to attend.
WEDNESDAY. 4.7.17.	Kit inspection. Company drill 1 hour. The company in attack. 1 hour, skeleton scheme.	Divisional assault at arms
THURSDAY. 5.7.17.	Route march and company scheme for attack on position. (runners and signallers required).	Outposts. Lecture and demonstration. Transport Inspection 2.30.pm.
FRIDAY. 6.7.17.	Bombing practice 1 hour. Bayonet Fighting 1 hour. Company drill 1 hour.	Company night operation. 9.30.pm. - 12 midnight.
SATURDAY. 7.7.17.	Muster Battalion Parade. Full marching order, and loaded transport. 12 noon.	- - - - -
SUNDAY. 8.7.17.	<del>XXXXXX</del> Church Parade. 10.am. Inspection. 11am.	

N.C.O's class daily 5.30.pm. to 6.30.pm.

It is proposed to ask the G.O.C. to inspect the Battalion on TUESDAY 10th JULY

ROUTINE -- NEXT -- WEEK.

- Reveille 6.30.am.
- Sick Parade. 7.am.
- Breakfast. 7.30.am.
- Morning Parade. 8.30.am to 11.30.am.
- Mid Day Meal. 12 noon.
- Afternoon Parade. 2.30.pm. to 4.pm.
- Tea. 5.pm.

*G. Brown*

Lieut & Adj. .

for C.O. 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion.

5<sup>th</sup>  
PIONEER  
BATTALION  
A. I. F.

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N<sup>o</sup> *OR 3/*

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DATE *1-7-17*

## 5TH PIONEER BATTALION ORDER NO 18.

by

LIEUT COLONEL H.G. CARTER, COMMANDING 5TH AUS. PIONEER BATTALION.

Reference Map. Albert (Combined Sheet) 1/40,000. Headquarters,  
Amiens, 1/100,000. 5th July 1917.

1. The Battalion will proceed to CORBIE by march route on SATURDAY JULY 7th.  
The route followed will be ALBERT - D.15.c.3.4. - D.27.b.3.2. - HEILLY - BONNAY - CORBIE.
2. An advance party of 4 men per Company, 5 Headquarters, under 2nd Lieut T.D. STEVENSON and Interpreter ROWE will move on FRIDAY 6th to CORBIE and report to C.R.E. who has arranged the necessary billeting accommodation. They will take 48 hours rations and will meet the Battalion on arrival and guide their respective companies to their quarters. This party may proceed by train.
3. The Battalion will fall in at 8.15.am. ready to move off at 8.50.am. on the Battalion parade ground. Dress will be full marching order steel helmets neatly secured in pack straps. Companies will take particular care in the adjustment of the packs and inspect same before marching on parade ground. The unconsumed portion of the days rations will be carried.
- The usual halts will be made, a mid-day halt will be made at HEILLY. "B" Company's party of 3 Officers and 80 Other Ranks will remain at HENENCOURT.
- Blankets will be neatly rolled in bundles of 10 short way. One Officer per Company will supervise ~~the~~ this packing and will see that nothing other than blankets are rolled - also that the bundles are properly tied and labelled. They will be dumped alongside the road by Companies ready for loading at 6.50.am. G.S. Wagons will call at 7.am.
- Each Company will detail 5 men as baggage guard ("A" Company will detail 1.N.C.O. in addition) who will report to the Transport Officer at 7.30.am.
- The necessary loading parties will be detailed by "C" Company as follows :-
- 1.N.C.O. and 12 men to report to be Q.M. at 6.50.am.
  - 1.N.C.O. and 8 men to load blankets on lorry at 7.am.
- All tools etc and all other material possible shall be loaded over night. The duty Company will supply necessary fatigues in this case.
- All Officer's gear must be stacked ready for loading by 7.am. where required by the Quarter Master. The back half of the Lewis Gun Limber can be used for this purpose.
- Company Cookers and water carts will be massed with the Transport the whole of which must be on parade ready to move at 8.15.am.
- All huts and quarters must be left scrupulously clean. The Medical Officer will inspect same at 8.am. and furnish certificate as to their condition to the Orderly Room.
- Routine for SATURDAY will be - Reveille 5.am., Breakfast 6.am.  
Sick Parade 6.50.am.

*I.G. Brown* Lieut & a/Adjt.  
for C.O. 5th Aus. Pioneer Battalion.

copies issued to :-


Commanding Officer.	No 1.	Transport Officer.	No 8.
C.O.A. Company.	" 2.	R.M.O.	" 9.
C.O.B. Company.	" 3.	5th Aus Div.	" 10.
C.O.C. Company.	" 4.	C.R.E. 5th Aus. Div.	" 11.
C.O.D. Company.	" 5.	War Diary.	" 12.
Adjutant.	" 6.	File.	" 13.
Quarter Master.	" 7.		

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\*\*\*\*\* TRAINING PROGRAMME \*\*\*\*\*

July 16th to 23rd inclusive.

Date.	Morning	Afternoon
MONDAY. 6.7.17.	1/2 "B" and "D" Company on Pontooning. Remainder of Battalion on improvised bridging.	Transport to move over bridges.
TUESDAY. 7.7.17.	Same as Monday.	Lecture by Major Greenaway on bridging, 2.30 pm. TIVOLI HALL All Officers and N.C.O's.
WEDNESDAY. 8.7.17.	Kit inspection and overhaul of web equipment. Gas drill and Gas - - - - - Helmet inspection. Company drill and scheme.	
THURSDAY. 9.7.17.	Inspection by G.O.C. of 1/2 "B" and "D" Coys. Remainder of Coys on Bayonet Fighting, Fire Control and indication of targets.	Lecture by C.O. on Drill. All officers and N.C.O's to be present.
FRIDAY. 10.7.17.	Battalion Route March, with Transport, pack animals to be loaded.	
SATURDAY. 11.7.17.	Battalion outpost scheme. Details to be stated later.	
SUNDAY. 12.7.17.	Church Parade 10 am.	

  
 .....Capt. & Adjt.  
 for C.O. 5th Aus. Pioneer Battalion.

Copies issued to :-

- Commanding Officer.
- C.R.E. 5th Aus. Div.
- H.Q. 5th Aus. Div.
- O.C.A. Coy.
- O.C.E. Coy.
- O.C.G. Coy.
- O.C.D. Coy.
- T.O.
- Q.M.
- Adjutan .
- War Diary.
- File.

H.Q., 5th Aus. Pioneer Batta.

19.7.1917.

- C.O.
- O.C.A. Coy.
- O.C.B. Coy.
- O.C.C. Coy.
- O.C.D. Coy.
- 5th Aus. Div.
- C.P.B. 5th Aus. Div.
- Adjutant.
- War Diary.
- File. ✓

PROGRAMME OF WORK.

FRIDAY.

SATURDAY.

A. Company.	Company Route March.	S.B.R. and P.H. Helmet Inspection. Platoon and Company drill.
B. Company.	Improvised Bridge building.	Extended order drill. Fire control and discipline. Platoon in attack. Gas inspection afternoon.
C. Company.	Company, Route March.	Gas Inspection. Platoon and Company drill.
D. Company.	Fire control and Discipline. Platoon in attack.	Improvised bridging. Gas inspection afternoon.

Specialists and classes as already arranged.

Company route march to LA NEUVILLAS - DAGUES - AUBIGNY -  
FOULLOY - COBBIE.

*W. H. M. M. M.* Capt. S. 1635.  
for C.O. 5th Aus. Pioneer Battalion.

5th Pioneer Battalion Order No 10  
by

APPENDIX

Lieut Col. H. G. Carter, Commanding 5th Aus. Pioneer Battalion.

Reference Maps. AMIEN 1/40000.  
LENN. 1/40000.

Headquarters,  
20th July 1917.

1. The Battalion less "D" Company, 4 G.S. Wagons, 1 Cooker and team will proceed by route march to neighbourhood of LEALVILLE on SATURDAY JULY 28th inst.
- "B" Company with 4 G.S. Wagons, 1 cooker and team will proceed also by march route to neighbourhood of AVELIN on same date. Routes and exact destination will be given later.
2. An advance party of 4 men per Company, 2 G.S. and Interpreter Rows under Lieut T. B. STEVENSON will move off on 27th inst. and arrange the necessary accommodation. They will meet the Battalion on arrival and guide their respective Companies to their quarters. 48 hours rations will be carried.
3. On arrival at destination Battalion will march (less "D" Coy) will come under the orders of the G.C.C. 18th Inf. Bde. "D" Company will come under the orders of the G.C.C. 8th Inf. Bde.
4. The Battalion will fall in at 8.15 am. in Company parade grounds and will move off as a Battalion at 8.30 am in order, A.B.C. Companies "D" Company will ~~take~~ with their transport will march in rear of Battalion Transport. Cookers will be sent on in advance leaving CAMPBELL at 7.15 am. Dress :- Full marching order with steel helmets neatly secured in pack straps. Packs will be carefully adjusted and inspected before parade. Unconsumed portion of days rations will be carried.
5. The usual halts will be made. A mid-day halt will be made in the neighbourhood of WATLOX.
6. Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 short way. One officer per company will supervise this packing and will see that nothing other than blankets are rolled - also that the bundles are properly tied and labelled. They will be dumped alongside the road by Companies ready for loading at 8.30 am. They will be loaded as follows :-  

G.S. Wagons.	"B" and "C" Companies.
Pack mules.	"A" Company and H.Q. Details.
Portion of G.S. Wagon.	"D" Company.

 Q.M. will arrange for these to be available at 7 am.
7. Each company will detail 3 men as baggage guard (duty company 1 N.C.O. in addition) who will report to Transport Officer at 10.30 am. Other fatigues will be detailed from duty company as required by the Quarter Master.
8. All officers gear must be stacked ready for loading at 7 am. where required by the Quarter Master.
9. Transport will fall in behind Battalion (and "D" Company) as the Battalion passes the Transport lines.
10. All billets and quarters must be left scrupulously clean - certificates must be furnished on the forms supplied that there are no claims for damage.
11. Routine for SATURDAY will be :- Reveille 5 am., Breakfast 6 am., Sick parade. 8.30 am.
12. Orders regarding entrainment will be furnished later. "D" Company must make all its own arrangements with G.C.C. 8th Infantry Brigade.

Capt. S. Adj. S.  
for G.C.C. 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion.



APPENDIX

2nd Pioneer Battalion, Order No 10

LIST OF PERSONNEL

1. Commanding Officer	Major J. W. ...
2. Adjutant	...
3. Quartermaster	...
4. Transport Officer	...
5. ...	...
6. ...	...
7. ...	...
8. ...	...
9. ...	...
10. ...	...
11. ...	...
12. ...	...
13. ...	...
14. ...	...
15. ...	...
16. ...	...
17. ...	...
18. ...	...

The following list is of the personnel of the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, and is published in accordance with the provisions of the Defence Act, 1903, and the regulations thereunder. The names are given in the order in which they appear in the list.

A mid-day roll will be made in the neighbourhood of ...

Names will be called in order of rank ... The roll will be taken ...

The following list is of the personnel of the 2nd Pioneer Battalion ...

Personnel will call in ...

... and persons ...

... will be ...

... will be ...

For D.O. 2nd Pioneer Battalion

by  
 Lt Col. H. G. Carter. Command 5<sup>th</sup> Aus Pioneer Bn.

Reference Maps

LENS 1/40,000.

HAZEBROUCK 1/40,000.

Headquarters.

29<sup>th</sup> July 1917.

- 1 The 5<sup>th</sup> Aus. Pioneer Bn less "D" Coy will entrain at BELLE EGLISE station to-morrow 30<sup>th</sup> inst. Train is timed to depart at 4.25 pm.
- 2 Battalion will parade in full marching order by companies in their billeting areas, ready to move off at 2.15 pm. Dress - full marching order with steel helmets neatly packed on back of pack.
- 3 Blankets will be rolled in bundles of 10 short way and stacked under cover in one place in company billeting area. Coy will arrange to collect and load these at 11. am. Duty Company to provide necessary fatigues.  
All Officers gear must be loaded by 11.30 am.
- 4 Transport will move off at 12.30. Companies must arrange their maddy meal so that all cooks are free by 12. noon. Men will carry remainder of days rations for the journey. No further rations can be issued till arrival in billets at other end.
- 5 A loading party of 1 Officer and 45 Other Ranks will be detailed by "C" Company to load the wagons on to the train. This party will move out with the Transport immediately in rear of same. Transport Officer will be responsible for the loading and unloading of vehicles. "B" Coy will detail an unloading party as above to start unloading immediately on arrival at detraining station, and move back with Transport.
- 6 Time of journey will be approximately 7 hours and detraining station will be STERNBECQUE. It is expected that the billets will be about 6 miles march from detraining station.
- 7 Captain W. BUCHAN will act as Battalion's entraining officer and will arrange the apportioning of the train with the R.T.O. chalking the carriages accordingly.

Captain VI BUCHAN will act as Battalion  
Intraining Officer and will arrange the  
apportioning of the train with the R.T.O.  
Chalking the carriages accordingly.  
All baggage should be placed in flat  
trucks and not in covered.

The Orderly Officer will see that pickets of  
1 NCO and 6 men are detailed from the  
men occupying the cars at the end of the  
train. These will be posted at all stops  
to prevent troops leaving.

8 Train will consist of -

- 1 Officers carriage - 36 Officers
- 30 Box Trucks - each 40 men - 8 L.O or 6
- 17 Flat Trucks, each 4 oxen. H.D. Horses.

9 Breast ropes for horses must be supplied  
by units themselves.

Approved  
for CO 5<sup>th</sup> Aus Pioneer Bn.

Copies to -

Commanding Officer	No 1
2 <sup>nd</sup> in Command	2
OC A Coy	3
OC B Coy	4
OC C Coy	5
OC D Coy	6
Transport Officer	7
Quartermaster	8
Adjutant	9
5 <sup>th</sup> Aus Bn	10
Head 15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bn	11
War Diary	12
File	13