

**AWM4**

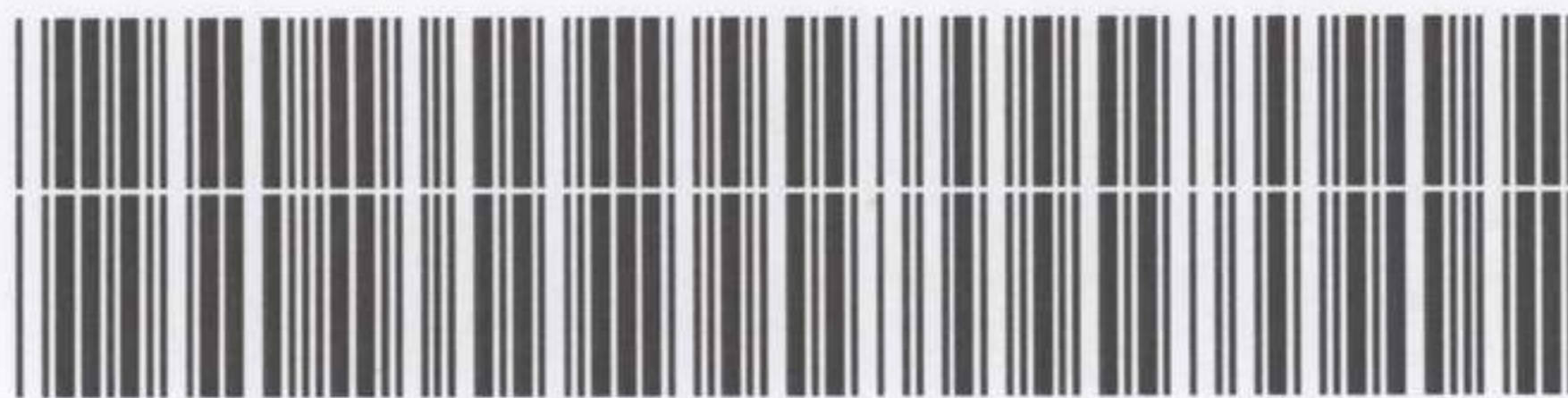
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/14/16

**Title:** 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

September 1917



AWM4-14/14/16

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2<sup>nd</sup> AUSTRALIAN

PIONEER BATTALION

No. 2  
PIONEER  
BATTALION.  
No. 710/48  
Date 7/10/17

Army Form C. 2118. 105

SEPTEMBER  
1917

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
WARDREQUE	Sept 4		officers attended lecture by Lt Col. Bridges on 'wood fighting' and the new German system of defence & how we may meet it.	
RENESCURE	6.		Bn, plus 7 <sup>th</sup> Lt Col. Coy Bryan, took role of defenders in a div exercise wherein three Bdes advanced through Forest de CLAIRMARAIS and beyond in 'leap frog' fashion to three objectives. Troopers up missed most of our small posts in the wood.	
YPRES	7	am	Bn moved to YPRES locality, & billeted about SWAN CHATEAU.	
	8	3.30	90 men of B Coy and 60 men of C Coy went up to BIRR X RD and commenced construction of plank road to run NORTH of ETANG de BELLEWAARDE and turn South in rear of BELLEWAARDE RIDGE. to meet section of similar road to be run from about HOOGE by 1 <sup>st</sup> Pioneer ANZAC instructed that 2 Companies are to work for C.R.E Corps Troops Lt Col. Nicholson called & showed C/P where Corps want shelters constructed on bank of YPRES-COMINES CANAL.	
	9		A and D Companies commenced construction of shelters along both banks of YPRES-COMINES CANAL near KRUISSTRAAT.	
	10		One O.R. wounded and evacuated. work on BELLEWAARDE plank road & shelters. 1 O.R. killed (bomb). 3 O.R. wounded & remaining on duty. 1 O.R. missing (probably red & evacuated.) 2 horses killed by shell fire. 8 returned men rejoined Bn.	

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WAR DIARY

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No. 2 AUSTRALIAN  
PIONEER  
BATTALION.

Original 105  
Army Form C. 2118.

No. P10/48 SEPTEMBER  
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2<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN

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YPRES	11		<p>2 returned men + 3 reinforcements (2, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> + 1 7/2) joined Bm The first party of C Coy making foundation for BELLEWAARDE RD encountered heavy gas shelling and could do very little work among the shell craters broken wire etc., having to wear masks &amp; the night being dark. B Coy laying the planks fared better &amp; could carry on wearing masks.</p>	
	12		<p>17 men of C Coy evacuated gassed by mustard shell gas, encountered at work on plank road N of BELLEWAARDE Lake. L. FURNELL and 1 platoon of A Coy commenced work on Corps water supply scheme from ZILLEBEKE LAKE.</p>	
	13		<p>A Company commenced foundation for about 400 yds of plank road, deviation from MENIN ROAD at about 250 yds west of BIRR X Rd to CAMBRIDGE ROAD at about opposite to where B + C companies commenced BECAUSPION ROAD</p>	
	14		<p>6 O.R. wounded and evacuated; 1 O.R. killed in action Dry-out shelters to accommodate 1050 men completed on canal banks in KRUISTRAAT area. Four of our Lewis guns placed on AA duty Cambridge Rd &amp; south of BIRR X Roads.</p>	
	15		<p>D Company commenced construction double duck board track from YPRES SCHOOL to GORDON HOUSE. work on forward roads interrupted by our position barrages &amp; enemy retaliation. 1 O.R. killed in action; 8 O.R. wounded we finished present planking of new road - 13.5 yds long. Put men ahead on culverts &amp; foundation.</p>	
	16		<p>D Coy finished laying duckboard track to GORDON HOUSE. C.R.E - C.T asked that they extend it tomorrow forward down valley. 2 O.R. wounded. one of our Lewis guns on A.A. duty brought down a German plane.</p>	

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PIONEER B

BATTALION.

Army Form C. 2118.

105

No. P10/48

SEPTEMBER

Date 7/10/17

1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	17		D Coy carried out extension of Duck board track about 250 yds beyond Gordon House.	
			1 O.R. wounded; 1 O.R. are wounded.	
	18		A Company finished planked loop road NW of BIRK X Road.	
			Length 436 yds. Finished at 8 am.	
			D Coy commenced camouflage of new duck walk track from School to Gordon House.	
			C. Coy had very rough time trying to complete formation of new road E of BELLEWAARDE LAKE. Lieut. T. SMITH + 11 O.R. wounded, several very severely; 1 O.R. killed. Enemy determined prevent completion of this new road.	
	19		Completed formation of 1350 yds of NEW ROAD from CAMBRIDGE ROAD W of BIRK X Road	
			North + East of BELLEWAARDE LAKE joining road from HOOGE constructed by 1 <sup>st</sup> Div.	
			Transported planking by train + horse vehicles, distributed it along road + laid about 40 yds. of planking.	
			Sent out party to Camp near road + patrol this new road to right of Divisional boundary + Cambridge Road to left of Div. boundary, repairing damage.	
			Sent out party to live near it, patrol + repair tramway line running from CAMBRIDGE ROAD north and east of BELLEWAARDE LAKE.	
			Received inspection order for tomorrow.	
			Major R. R. HOCKLEY and Lieut. FURNELL seriously wounded. Latter died at 7th amb. later.	
			1 O.R. killed in action; 7 O.R. wounded; 1 O.R. wounded remaining with unit.	
			Major J. F. DONNELLY resumed regimental duty by order of G.O.C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div. and appointed second in command.	

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2nd AUSTRALIAN

PIONEER BN

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	20		<p>Big attack and advance on wide front by our Division and others on either flank.                      our Bn had parties maintaining Cambridge Road &amp; new road <del>from</del> also tramway from CAMBRIDGE ROAD to S.E. of BELLEWAARDE RIDGE.                      In afternoon sent out parties to make extension of road formation over north end of Bellewaarde Ridge and to WESTHOEK. About 200 yds of full width road formation completed when party shelled off job. Later night parties completed 6 ft mule track to Westhoek.                      Major R. R. HOCKLEY died of wounds.                      7 O.R. killed in action; 10 O.R. wounded; 2 O.R. wounded with unit.                      One of our Lewis guns brought down enemy aeroplane</p>	
	21		<p>Road from BELLEWAARDE RIDGE to WESTHOEK widened and improved. Several guns taken up over it to Westhoek during the night. R.E. material cooked up also rails for proposed tramway extension.                      3 O.R. wounded.                      Capt. AHLSTON rejoined from hospital.</p>	
	22		<p>Improving road from BELLEWAARDE RIDGE to WESTHOEK. Artillery taken up over it that morning. also employed parties carrying up Oceanville tram rails and fascines in addition to maintenance of roads &amp; tramline to.                      1 O.R. killed; 2 O.R. wounded; 1 O.R. gassed.</p>	
	23		<p>C Coy commenced town back from BELLEWAARD BEND to WESTHOEK.                      2 O.R. wounded. 1 O.R. gassed (mustard).</p>	
	24		<p>B Coy commenced construction emplacements to Corps Heavy Artillery.                      we finally taken off work on road to WESTHOEK, after making it practicable right through.                      1 O.R. killed; 1 O.R. wounded.</p>	

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PIONEER BATTALION.

Army Form C. 2118.

No. 10/48 SEPTEMBER

Date 2/10/17 1917

2 AUSTRALIAN

PIONEER BN

105

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	25		C Coy finished construction of tramway from BELLEWAARD BEND to 100 yds west of WESTHOEK - about 800 yds. Other parties continuing planking of BELLEWAARD CIRCUIT ROAD and maintenance work on circuit, including MENIN RD. shelling on MENIN ROAD and CHATEAU WOOD very heavy all day. 1 O.R killed; 2 O.R wounded & died of wounds; 9 O.R wounded; 2 O.R missing.	
	26		Continued planking BELLEWAARD CIRCUIT ROAD; also planked 60 yds of road at north end of Bellewaarde Ridge leading to WESTHOEK. Work retarded for lack of material. Our transport could not get up at night owing to congestion on the roads. Sgt Cross reports that our Lewis guns on A A duty with Div. Art. brought down three enemy aeroplanes. 1 O.R wounded & evacuated. 3 enemy planes brought down by our Lewis guns attached to 37 <sup>th</sup> and 110 <sup>th</sup> Batteries.	
	27		BELLEWAARDE Circuit Road completed (planked) at 4 pm. Was badly damaged shortly after & repaired by maintenance party. Two loops put in road. Our G.S. wagons working. Bn Baths drying room & disinfecting Serbian barrels taken into use. 1 O.R killed	
	28		2 Sidings on Bellewaarde Road completed - Repairs & maintenance	
	29		Very heavy shelling of BELLEWAARDE CIRCUIT ROAD. Road broken in several places. Reinforced A Coy by 2 platoons of D Coy to repair & patrol circuit. Cleared in 3 hours. Platoon of B Coy shelled for drink at 'Comforts' shelter on MENIN ROAD hit by aerial bomb. H. TAYLOR & 6 O.R killed, & 19 wounded. Day casualties: 1 O.R killed & 6 O.R; 1 O.R died of wounds; 19 O.R wounded; 1 O.R gassed; 1 O.R missing.	

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YPRES	30		<p>Mule track completed from CAMBRIDGE ROAD along tramway to WESTHOEK ROAD east of BELLEWAARDE RIDGE. 2 new loops put in BELLEWAARDE CIRCUIT ROAD. New road from BELLEWAARDE RD over WESTHOEK RIDGE north of KIT + KAT improved <sup>formed</sup> ready for planting &amp; fascines. Bn camp bombed by aircraft at night. 7 O.R. wounded &amp; evacuated 2 O.R. wounded with unit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">F.W. Schumann Lt. Col</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C/O 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Pioneer Bn</p>	
	28		<p>The Bar to the Military Medal awarded to N: 3522 Pte R. P. FRASER The Military Medal awarded to N: 795 Sergt. J. H. FERGUSON - 1743 - G. A. KENT authority 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Div memo 74/286.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">F.W.S.B.</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Place Date Hour

Handwritten notes: ... BELLEWARDE RIDGE ... WESTHOK ROAD ...

Handwritten signature: J. H. FRASER

Handwritten notes: No 2 Coy ... THE DOOR TO THE ...

Handwritten signature: J. H. FRASER