

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/14/18

Title: 2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion

November 1917



AWM4-14/14/18

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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2ND
AUSTRALIAN
PIONEER BATTALION.
No. 1/300
Date 11.1.18.

Original

Army Form C. 2118.

November 1917

2nd Australian

Pioneer Bn.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	1		<p>A. Coy continued work on main water channels in YPRES. C Coy on plank road from WESTHOEK to ANZAC HOUSE duplicating. B Coy employed at WALKER Camp draining & improving generally. D " building stables for Corps near Walker Road. Lieut McCallagh wounded.</p>	
	2		Similar work to previous day. 1 O.R. wounded	
	3		Similar work to previous days	
	4		A Coy relieved C. Coy on plank road. Similar work to previous days.	
	5		Similar work to previous days. 1 O.R. died of wounds.	
	6		Similar work to previous days	
	7		Similar work to preceding days. D. Coy finished stables for Div. Train	
	8		Similar work to preceding days for A, B & C Coys. B Coy finished milk track 1000 yds. 4 O.R. accidentally injured. Lieut Hamley wounded.	
	9		A & C Coys similar work to preceding days. 1 O.R. wounded.	
	10		A. Coy completed road to 51 st Battery.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

NOVEMBER 1917

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Australian

Pioneer Bn

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YPRES	11		Relieved Relieved by 19th Lancashire Pioneer Bn. Handed over to Major Smith all jobs etc.	
WIPPENHOEK	12		Battalion moved to WIPPENHOEK area G 19.C.8.F. - 3 NISSEN Huts and 98 tents -	
"	13		Had inspection of Coys & checked equipment etc.	
"	14		Similar to preceding day. - Corps Cndr presented M.M's. to LIEUT Read EF; PESCAILONT; Pte Turner W.T.	
"	15		Sgt Luke R; Sgt Hastings W; Sgt Volmerhouse O; Cpl Rochford G. and M.M. ribbon to Sgt KENT G. (14/11/17)	
"	16		Resting at WIPPENHOEK - Recreational training - Sports - Lt. H.A. BROWN and T. SMITH rejoined	
"	17		unit from seconded list 14/11/17 - R.M.O and ADJUTANT went on furlough to ENGLAND (15/11/17)	Letter 190/192 from Brig GEN LOTBINIERE CHIEF ENGR 1st ANZAC
"	18		handed over camp to Camp Warden. moved off to new area - via WESTOUTRE and LOCRE.	
LOCRE AREA.			HQrs situated in FAIRYHOUSE CAMP (M 18 d 7.2) Sheet 28. - A & B Coys in NISSEN huts at Butterfly Camp 1/2 ml S.E of 26 Qrs - C and D Coys at LURGAN HUTS 1 1/2 ml S.E from LOCRE along LOCRE - NEUVE EGLISE road. Transport lines opposite LURGAN HUTS -	
"	19		Rode round all Coys, inspected their camps - Arranged for syllabus of training, including sports. Lts R.A. SMITH M.C & S. CHAMBERS went on leave to PARIS.	
"	20		Commenced training - 5 hrs daily. half holidays on WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY. LEWIS GUN and SIGNALLING classes in operation. C & D Coys went for route march in afternoon accompanied by band.	
"	21		Commenced general overhaul, repairing and painting of transport vehicles.	
"	22		Two platoons of C Coy sent to Dev Bomb School, under orders from Dev HQrs - employed converting old trenches into bombing trenches. Remainder of Bn training	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 75 s.o.o. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

Original 105

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

NOVEMBER 1917

2nd AUSTRALIAN (Erase heading not required.) PIONEER BN

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LOCRE AREA	23		A Coy sent 100 men to live at S 17 central, to erect round huts of Div HQs RAVELSBERG. - C Coy continuing operations at Div Bomb School assisted each day by 2 platoons of D Coy. Remainder of Bn training - three Lewis Guns fixed in position for A.A. defence - one at each camp.	
	24		C/O, Lt Colonel F. W. RANNAND, returned to duty from 30 days' leave.	
	25		C/O & some officers re-committed certain water supply pipe lines with a view to lowering them to minimum of 30 inches below ground surface to avoid dangers of freezing.	
	26		Commenced work of lowering pipes of CHATEAU-LOCRE-NEUVE EGLISE Systems running through M 29, 34, 35, 36 & S 5 & 6.	
	28		Started B Coy on sinking pipe lines in NORTH KEMMEL system, in N 20, 26, 27, 28 & 29	
	25		Major H. GRANT returned to duty from duty with Pioneer Training Bn.	
	26		13 O/R returned from hospital; 17 O/R marched in from Pioneer Training Bn F. W. Rannand Lt Col C/O 2nd Aust Pioneer Bn	

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APPENDIX.

CHIEF ENGINEER, 1st ANZAC
190/192.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Headquarters,

10th. November 1917.

My Dear Annand:

I cannot allow you and your fine Battalion, the 2nd. Australian Pioneers, to leave this area without expressing my sincere admiration and thanks for the excellent work you have done on the forward roads east of YPRES.

The importance of these roads cannot be over-estimated as they contributed in a large measure to our recent successes.

I have again and again admired the pluck and courage with which your Battalion, both Officers and men faced the deadly shell fire, which daily greeted ~~you~~ *them*

Your losses have been heavy, but the Battalion regardless of them, carried out its duties in the face of the worst the Huns could do.

Please accept my sincere thanks which I tender to you, your Officers, N.C.O's and men.

I am proud to have been in any way associated with the 2nd. Australian Pioneer Battalion.

Yours sincerely,

W. G. Cottrell

BRIG GEN

CHIEF ENGINEER 1st ANZAC