

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/5

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

July 1916



AWM4-14/17/5

Date.	Place and Time.			Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 July 5	Lynde		Self & Coy Commanders visited	
6	Lynde	1100	Battalion were "gassed" in a field nearby, under a gas officer.	
7	"	1400	Left Lynde for Morbecque	
8	"	1700	Arrived Morbecque & camped there.	
9	Estaires	0700	Left Morbecque	
		1000	Passed thro' Merville	
		1305	Arrived Estaires.	
		1530	Left Estaires.	
		1800	Arrived at Billets in Rue de Bruges near Bac St Maur.	
			Very comfortable billets.	

C.11.56.

Date.	Place and Time.			Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 July 10	Sailly	0900	Party of 300 men (all B + part of A) went to dig in cables near Fleurbait - about 600 yards dug in	
11	"	0900	Party from C Coy effected repairs to Mine Avenue.	
12	"	0900	Whole of D Coy dug in 250 yards of cable.	
13	"	9pm	Made 11 trench mortar positions in front line.	
14	"	9pm	Surveyed route for line of railway from Rue de Bois to front line by Rue de Laies. Started work with 2 coys at far end.	
15	"	9pm	Got whole Bn on to making light railway owing to heavy shell + M.G. fire work could not be started before midnight. Good Progress was made.	

C.11/56.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916			
July 16	Sailly 9pm	Got whole Bn on to railway again which by 3.30 am was complete within 50 yds of firing line. It was then too light to continue.	
17	"	Finished off last 50 yds. - also had parties at work getting stuff forward. Had a party detailed for working a pipe pushing machine & also to control water supply at front line.	
18	" night	Bricred a considerable length of cable for Signal Coy - dug Comm's trench (Knightsbridge) & supplied sundry parties for various engineering works.	
19	" 11:30 am	Bombardment by our heavy artillery started - guns secured the north road on quailers.	

C.11156.

Date.	Place and Time.			Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 July 19	Sailly	6 pm	Battalion all standing by awaiting orders.	
		10.30 pm	Sent C Coy to repair railway which was badly damaged & D Coy to cut a communication trench across NO MAN'S LAND. The latter job was completed - former could not be owing to heavy fire.	
July 20		11.35 pm	One Platoon A Coy repaired V.C Avenue where it enters firing line.	
		3 pm	Received orders to return to our billets but to be ready for work in evening.	

C.11056.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

PIONEER
BATTALION
A. I. F.

ORIGINAL or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

July
Aug
Sept
Oct. 1916

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.

N°
DATE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAUQUISSART & CORDONNERIE AREAS	1916		Parties out all day clearing up battlefield, salvage work & burying dead. 40 men of 'B' Coy under Gys. M. Gaydon volunteered for rescue work in NO MAN'S LAND - they went out in 14 th Bde area but could find no wounded. R. Lewis guns & many rifles & other salvage brought in - 1 man of party killed - only this casualty.	
	21/7		Battalion less 1 coy has all been allotted work on the front line in the different brigade sectors - chiefly repair of enemy's trenches & front parapet - infantry not able to deal with large amount of work to be done. 4 th Coy (D) has started on a main drainage system of R. Lucie between this stream and the Grande Courante. Reconnoitred part of subsidiary line which is to be our main job when front line work is completed.	
	24/7		'C' Coy moved out to billets near Fleurbaix so as to be closer to their work - they are working at head of Tin Barn Avenue - 6 miles from our billets - the present move brings them 3 miles closer.	
	25/7		Major Peters - 2 nd in command of Bn - severely wounded at 5 pm when passing thro' Fleurbaix by shrapnel - Fleurbaix was heavily bombarded all afternoon & church tower knocked to pieces.	
	29/7		'C' Coys billets received a direct hit with a shell towards evening - 8 men wounded - 1 only serious. 1 civilian killed.	
	5/8		Withdrawn 'C' Coy from their billets at Fleurbaix back to Battalion area. Their work on 14 th Bde line - Tin Barn Trench - is completed. In addition	
	6/8			

VOLUMES 5 to 8

(10)

THIS DOCUMENT FOUND AT LAND WARFARE CENTRE, CANUNGRU
1978. ANN FILE: 417/1/32 26 JULY 1978

5th PIONEER BATTALION ORDER No. 1.

by

Major H.G. Carter Commanding 5th Pioneer Battalion.

SECRET.

- (1) The 5th Australian Division has been detailed with the 61st Division to attack the German trenches on their front and hold as far as the support line. The attack will be under the command of G.O.C. XI. Corps.
- (2) The 5th Pioneer Battalion (less ^{parties} platoons already working under orders of C.R.H.) will assemble alongside the Rue de Bruges, North of the Railway line ready to act as a mobile reserve ~~unit~~ or to supply working parties as required.
- (3) The Companies will assemble at 5.30pm on the 19th instant as follows,
 - D. Company on their own parade ground.
 - A & C Companies on ground by Battalion Headquarters.
 - B. Company on ground opposite to D. Company.Company tool wagons and all limbers will be loaded, horses and mules harnessed ready ~~to move~~ for immediate action, in the Quarter Masters yard. Men will be kept out of sight as far as possible. Blacksmiths and ^{like} such tools will not be loaded.
- (4) Dress will be fighting order, 3 days iron rations to be carried and full water bottles .150 rounds S.A.A. per man. Great coats will be worn on banderole.

In the event of orders being received to move these will be left behind in a small dump which the R.Q.M.S. will arrange to collect immediately after departure.
- (5) Company bicycles will be returned to Battalion Headquarters at 5 pm.
- (6) Companies will arrange for a reliable man to report as a battle orderly to orderly room at 5 pm.

An Officer from C. Company and 1 Head quarter Signaller will report at Divisional Headquarters as Battalion Orderlies at 1 pm. They will both have bicycles.
- (7) Blankets and water proof sheets will be rolled in bundles of 20 and carried to Quarter Masters Store by 4 pm. They will be clearly and securely labelled.

Sheet 2.

(8) Officers chargers will be returned to Transport lines and one batman detailed to look after ~~each~~.

(9) The following details only will be left to take charge of Quarter Masters Store and Transport Lines.

(a) R.Q.M.S.

(b) Sergeant Shoemaker.

(c) Orderly Room Sergeant.

(d) Interpreter.

(e) Batmen in charge of Officers chargers.

(f) Transport drivers in charge of Company Cookers, Water carts and Officers Mess cart.

(g) The two men at present under close arrest will be released for duty under orders of the Transport Officer.

(h) Transport Officer who will be responsible for all stores and horses.

In the event of the Companies being detailed to supply working parties the cooks will be the last so detailed otherwise all ranks will parade. All guards over stores etc, must be found ~~exp~~ from the above details.

(10) Officers baggage must be left well labelled at the Quarter Masters Store by 5 pm.

(11) Packs are to be made available to Companies at 8 am and returned to Quarter Masters Store at 4 pm.

(12) Company Parade states must be at Orderly Room by noon without fail.

(Snd) H.G. Carter. Major.
Commanding 5th Pioneer Battalion.

Rae-de-Bruges.

18/7/16.

Ady