

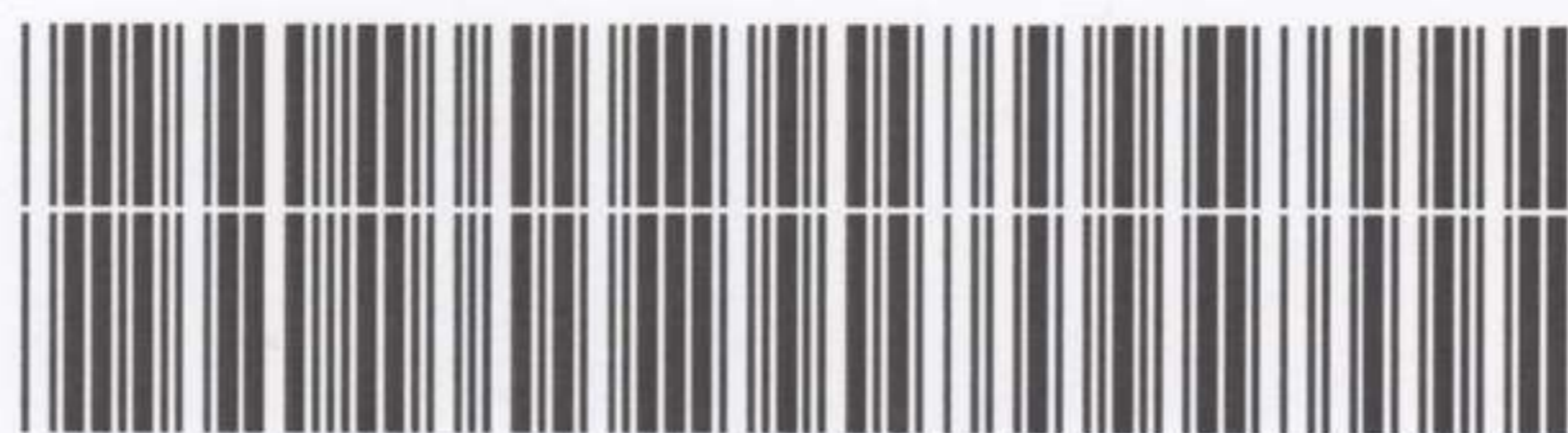
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Engineers

Item number: 14/17/8

Title: 5th Australian Pioneer Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-14/17/8

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

5th Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAUQUISSAT & COR DONNERIE AREAS.	2/10/1916.		Drains D and E of drainage system completed.	
<p>(The original of above appears on the same sheet as entries for previous month and will be found with the diary for that month).</p>				

WAR DIARY

or

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5th
PIONEER
BATTALION
A. I. F.

No. _____
DATE _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAUQUISART and CONDONNERIE Sector	14/10		Made arrangements for wintering - started erection of a drying room for socks and boots. - started work on horse standings.	
	2/10		Subsidiary line made continuous.	
	6/10		sock exchanging system started with much success.	
	5/10		Got orders to move to NEUF-BERQUIN on 14 th inst, with a view to moving to another part of front.	
	11/10.		Army Corps Commander inspected subsidiary line - work handed over to N.Z. Pioneer Bn.	
	13/10			
	14/10	11.25 am	Battalion moved into Billets at NEUF BERQUIN arriving there about 2 pm.	
NEUF-BERQUIN	15/10	7.0 am	Battalion moved by Motor Lorries to BAILLEUL -	
		8.30 am	Battalion entrained at BAILLEUL WEST entraining station for PONT REMY.	
		11.30 am	Battalion detrained at PONT REMY. - Station very muddy & poor arrangements for unloading wagons - an heavy G.S. Waggon took some time to unload.	
HILLY.		8.45 pm	an 8 mile march has to be undertaken immediately - men well carrying their blankets & waterproof sheets which after a very crowded journey (over 40 to the truck) left them pretty well knocked out. Got our billets fixed set out by 2 o'clock & all men in except transport & rear party.	
				H. G. Carter C. O. 5 th Pioneer Battalion

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Neuf Berquin	19/10	8-10 am	Battalion was conveyed to Bailleul Station by motor lorries and entrained there for Pont Remy - Train overcrowded had 42 and 43 men in trucks with a stated maximum capacity of 40 & then had 15 to 20 men in each open carriage truck - Fortunately not much rain on voyage but very bleak.	
Pont Remy	19/10	9 pm	arrived Pont Remy - Route take by train was Hazebrouck, Calais, Boulogne, Etaples - Attewille. Detraining arrangements at Pont Remy very poor all unloading of wagons having to be done by portable ramps - took one hour to unload each loaded G.S. Wagon. Station a sea of mud & everything fearfully slippery. Had to march 8 miles to our billets men carrying full pack & a blanket additional. Had 3 halts en route & only had 3 men fall out en route. Arrived at Billets at Ailly-le-haut-Clouche at midnight. Men very done up indeed. We were given no warning of this march.	
Ailly le haut Clouche	20/10	11 am	1st Transport left to get ahead - Wagon Park full of mud & considerable difficulty experienced in getting out.	
do	21/10	8.0.	Battalion moved off in column of route towards Mouflers where we were met by French Motor buses - We embarked about 2 miles along road & the whole convoy proceeded via Flizecourt, Amieux, to Beire where we debussed and marched about 3 miles to our camp site at Dernancourt near Albert.	

Dernancourt

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dernancourt	1916 22/10	9 am	Left in column of route for Montauban a distance of 8 miles. Road fearfully congested we had to halt about 3/4 hr in Meaulte & then once we got in the traffic stream, had to keep going. Arrived at Montauban 1 am just as the last of our relieved unit (11 th S. Laues) was leaving. Took over their dugouts which were not nearly sufficient for ourselves. Managed to make sufficient accommodation with tents. Transport lines a sea of mud & the road from them to main road was fearful. One Coy Commander got bogged & had to be hauled out by a mule.	
Montauban	23/10		Reconnoitred our Div Area up to front line sent two parties of officers up to the main comm ⁿ trenches which we are to maintain. Flers was being heavily shelled. Very foggy morning so we were able to get about fairly well.	
	24/10		Got parties at work all along both main CT's Turk Lane & Fish Alley. A+C coys working on the former, B+D on latter. Fish Alley is at present incomplete. Received operation orders for an operation to take place tomorrow apparently a general attack.	
	25/10		Operation postponed 72 hours - this gave us a little breathing time and our lack of knowledge of the country made things fairly difficult.	
	26/10		Moved Hd Qrs & 2 Coys out to Carlton Trench where we established ourselves. Started work on coffee trench as forward quarters for two Coys. Operation postponed another 48 hours presumably on account of weather. Fish Alley trench was completed thro' to front line.	

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Longueval	1916 28/10		<p>Started making sledges for travelling thro' mud - it is hope to increase capacity of pack horses considerably by this method. Track has now been made along top of Turk Lane & Fish Alley as far as Hlers. Operation postponed further 48 hours - now to take place on 1st Nov. Beautifully fine day.</p>	
	29/10.		<p>Very heavy shower which more than undid all yesterday's drying. Men are getting very fatigued thro' tramping thro' the mud.</p>	
	30/10.		<p>Rained hard all afternoon & night - most of our dug outs fell in & men were pretty uncomfortable</p>	
	31/10		<p>Both CT's in a very bad way thro' numerous landslides caused by yesterday's rain. Original operation has been postponed for the present & a smaller operation ordered for Nov 2 (weather permitting). Sledges are being put into use & found successful up to about 5 cwt - hope to make them for heavier loads than this.</p>	

H. G. Carter
 C. O. 5th Pioneer Coy. on

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