

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

Engineers

**Item number:** 14/18/6

**Title:** Pioneer Training Battalion

December 1917



AWM4-14/18/6

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Pioneer Training Bn. A. I. F.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/12/17		Rifle and Lewis Gun course. Tidworth. Re Batt order 534 date 30/11/17 para 10 for No 3835 A/Cpl 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> read 1925 Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> . Transfer approved 3061 P <sup>te</sup> Archibald. 3 <sup>rd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> Marched in 30/11/17 ex 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> one P <sup>te</sup> ex Bandahar school four 2 <sup>nd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> , one S.M. 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> . Marched out 30/11/17 one P <sup>te</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> 1/12/17 one Cpl. 1 <sup>st</sup> P <sup>ers</sup>	
No 6 Camp Sutton Very	2/12/17		Trained for Dental Parade 3/12/17 50. N.C.O's and men. Qualified as marksmen G.M.C. ending 1/12/17 One Cpl. three P <sup>tes</sup> of 2 <sup>nd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> . Transferred to W.6. Coy 2/12/17 one P <sup>te</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> Classified C III	
	3/12/17		Trained for Dental Parade all unclassified men of No 1 Coy 4/12/17	
			Trained for Dental Parade 4/12/17 thirty six N.C.O's + men. Marched in ex Fargo to Det P <sup>ly</sup> Durrington one P <sup>te</sup> 23/11/17. 4 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> . Marched out 3/12/17 to Weymouth one P <sup>te</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> one P <sup>te</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> . Illegal absences struck off. Strength Six P <sup>tes</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> one 2 <sup>nd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> two 3 <sup>rd</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> one 4 <sup>th</sup> + three 5 <sup>th</sup> P <sup>ers</sup> Marched in ex Musketry School Tidworth one Cpl. ex Det. P <sup>ly</sup> Durrington one P <sup>te</sup> ex Chelsea school one C.S.M. Marched out to Jellalabad school one Cpl. two P <sup>tes</sup>	
	4/12/17		Trained for Working Parties 5/12/17 to Torant one P <sup>te</sup> on duty fifteen P <sup>tes</sup>	

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*1st Training Bn. A.I.F.*

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

No 6 Camp Sutton Verry

4/12/17

to Tidworth 4<sup>th</sup> Puss three P<sup>ts</sup>, Devizes 4<sup>th</sup> Puss one Sgt three P<sup>ts</sup> Parkhouse  
No 4 Coy four P<sup>ts</sup>. Durrington one C.O.M.S 1<sup>st</sup> Puss four ~~Sgt~~ six P<sup>ts</sup>  
Named for Dental Parade. 5/12/17 ~~forty~~ thirty three N.C.Os and men. Marched in  
ex Command Depot one Cpl two P<sup>ts</sup> ex France one Sgt ex Det Coy Durrington one P<sup>ts</sup>  
Marched out to France forty six O/Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Puss. Struck off strength after  
30 days Hospital one Cpl five P<sup>ts</sup>. Capt. J. W. Haylen A.A.D.C reported to act as Senior  
Dental Officer to 1<sup>st</sup> Training Bn. via Capt Bailey

5/12/17

Bombing school Lyndhurst 4/11/17 to 24/11/17 Qualified as Instructors one Lt. one Sgt 5<sup>th</sup> Puss  
Named for Dental Parade 6/11/17 All unclassified men No 4 Coy also 51 N.C.Os and men  
Qualified as marksmen. G. M.C ending 1/12/17 thirteen men 1<sup>st</sup> Puss one P<sup>ts</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Puss  
Marched in 5/12/17 one P<sup>ts</sup> ex A.M.M. one P<sup>ts</sup> ex No 2 Com. Dep two Sgt ex No 2 Com. Dep  
Marched out 5/12/17 <sup>one</sup> P<sup>ts</sup> to Weymouth. Struck off strength one P<sup>ts</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Puss 5/12/17. Marched  
in ex Tidworth 5/12/17 one P<sup>ts</sup>. Marched out to Rifle & Lewis Gun course Tidworth 5/12/17  
two Cpls three Sgts. To Chelsea one Sgt, to Forat as Detached Party seventeen O/Ranks.  
To Devizes four O/Ranks. To Parkhouse four O/Ranks. To Durrington 21 twenty one O/Ranks  
Attention was called to Military Service Referendum

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*Pioneer Training Co. A.I.F.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
No 6 Camp Sutton Verby	6/12/17		<p><i>Jedworth</i>                      Attended Officers school Sandahar 1/12/17 three 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt's qualified V.G one 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. G of 1<sup>st</sup> Puss. G.S.O to inspect all men in 10<sup>th</sup> week of training 7/12/17. Marched out to Detention Barracks Lens 5. 12. 17 three Ptes 2<sup>nd</sup> Puss. Marched in ex Warminster Detly Pty 6. 12. 17 five Ptes 2<sup>nd</sup> Puss ex Det. Pty Devizes three Ptes. Marched out to Officers Cadet Unit Cambridge 6. 12. 17 one R/R.S.M. 4<sup>th</sup> Puss, to Det. Pty. Warminster five Ptes 1<sup>st</sup> Puss. Warned for Dental Parade 7/12/17 twenty five N.C.O's and men also all dentally unclassified men in nos 2. 3 + 5 boys. Appointments, Promotions etc thirty seven N.C.O's and men</p>	
	7/12/17		<p>Warned for Dental Parade 8/12/17 forty N.C.O's and men, Marched in ex No. 2 Command two Ptes 3<sup>rd</sup> Puss. Marched out 7/12/17 one Capt. Chaplin to Heystesbury. One E.R/R.S.M. 4<sup>th</sup> Puss to Officers Cadet Batt Cambridge. Marched in ex Det. Pty Durrington 7. 12. 17 <sup>three</sup> Ptes 1<sup>st</sup> Puss three Ptes 2<sup>nd</sup> Puss one Pte 3<sup>rd</sup> Puss four Ptes 4<sup>th</sup> Puss. Marched out to Parkhouse Det. Pty 7/12/17 three Ptes 1<sup>st</sup> Puss</p>	
	8/12/17		<p>Submitted to War Office as available to proceed overseas at short notice Capt R.R. Bingle 4<sup>th</sup> Puss. Marched in ex No 2 Command Depot one Pte 3<sup>rd</sup> Puss. Struck off strength over 30 days in hospital three Ptes 4<sup>th</sup> Puss. Marched in ex Det. Pty Fovant 6/12/17 seventeen Ptes 1<sup>st</sup> Puss</p>	

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*Purser Training Bn. A.I.F.*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>No. 6 Camb Sutton Very</i>	9/12/17		Transferred to R.B.A.A 7/12/17 Chaplain Dainpre. Attached for duty to Pur Training Bn	
	8/12/17		Chaplain Rev. C. Hall Cof.E. Passed to 3 <sup>rd</sup> stage of training, twelve Ples 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs seventeen Ples one Cpl 2 <sup>nd</sup> Purs four Cpls eighteen Ples 4 <sup>th</sup> Purs. Passed in Gas tests 30/11/17 six Ples 4 <sup>th</sup> Purs. Named for Dental Parade 10/12/17 fifty three N.C.Os and men. Marched in from Parkhouse 8/12/17 seven Ples, ex and Sgt Anti Gas School Chuselden one Sgt 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs one Cpl 4 <sup>th</sup> Purs ex Det Ply Devices 8/12/17 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs one Pte ex Musketry School Tidworth	
	7/12/17		one Cpl. Transferred to No 6 Coy 8/12/17 two Ples 3 <sup>rd</sup> Purs	
	10/12/17		Named for Dental Parade 11/12/17 twenty five N.C.Os and men. To parade for Overseas Training Brigade 11/12/17 One Sgt. One R.Q.M.S one A/C.S.M. 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs, seven Sgts 2 <sup>nd</sup> Purs one Cpl 5 <sup>th</sup> Purs.	
	11/12/17		Qualified as marksmen two Ples 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs. Named for Dental Parade 12/12/17 forty five N.C.Os and men. To attend Rapid Wiring Course Candahar Barracks Tidworth 12/12/17 one Lieut 4 <sup>th</sup> Purs one A/Cpl 3 <sup>rd</sup> Purs. Attended Drill Course Jellalabad one Cpl one Pte Qualified V.G two Cpls qualified G. Marched out 21/10/16 one Pte Army Postal Corps. To overseas T.B. 11/12/17 one Sgt. one R.Q.M.S one A/C.S.M. 1 <sup>st</sup> Purs seven Sgts 2 <sup>nd</sup> Purs one Cpl 5 <sup>th</sup> Purs	

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Pioneer Training Bn. A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
No 6 Camp Sutton Very	12/12/17		Marched out to France 12/12/17 nine Ptes 2nd Pioneers four Ptes 3rd Pioneers. To Wiring Course Tidworth one Lieut. one T/Sept. Marched in ex Grantham Det Pty 11/12/17 one Pte 1st and one Pte 2nd Purs ex Fovant Det Pty one Lieut. twelve O/Ranks.	
	13/12/17		Warned for Dental Parade 14/12/17 thirty seven N.C.Os and men. To report to Medical Officer 14/12/17 four Ptes 1st Purs (Medical Board) To attend P.T. & B.F course Aldershot 31/12/17 one Lt. 5th Purs. The G.S.O will inspect men in tents week of training 14/12/17 The G.O.C. A.I.F will visit this Batt 14/12/17. Transferred to No 6 Coy 13/12/17 five Ptes 4th Purs Lieut J. H. Armitage 2nd Purs to be Capt. Marched in 13/12/17 ex Bulford Hosp one Pte 3rd Purs. Capt. Armitage J. A 2nd Purs ex Det. Pty Durrington 11/12/17. Ptes ex No 4 Comm Dep 13/12/17 one Pte 4th Purs. Posted to No 6 Coy 13/12/17 one L/Cpl 3rd Purs	
	14/12/17		To report to M.O 15/12/17 one Pte 2nd Purs one Pte 3rd Purs. Transferred to Weymouth 17/12/17 two Ptes 1st Pioneers one Pte 3rd Purs Warned for Dental Parade 15/12/17 forty six N.C.Os and men Overseas reinforcements to be in readiness 16/12/17 three Ptes 2nd Pioneers, twenty five Ptes 5th Purs Transferred to No 6 Coy 14/12/17 three Ptes 3rd Purs. Marched in out to Det. Pty Devizes one Sq. Lt Purs 14/12/17	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
No 6 Camp Sutton Verry	15/12/17		Passed into third stage of training ninety three N.C.O's and men. To report to Southampton for passage overseas 18/12/17 Capt R. R. Bungle. Marched in ex Bulford Hosp one Plo 5th Purs 14/12/17. ex Bombing school Lyndhurst one Cpl 3rd Purs ex Lewis Detn Banacks one Plo 1st Purs 15/12/17	
	16/12/17		Warned for Dental Parade 17/12/17 Sixty N.C.O's and men. Transported to Weymouth 17/12/17 four Ples. Recommended for Officers Cadet Batt 761 Cpl Bouché E.W.P. 3rd Purs Marched in ex No 3 Comm. Dep 15/12/17 one Plo	
	17/12/17		To attend Refresher Course of Instruction in Anti Gas at Chiseldon 19/12/17 two Cpls Held in readiness to proceed Overseas 18/12/17 via Southampton, twenty eight men To attend Bombing School Lyndhurst 27/12/17 one Cpl. To report to R.M.O. 18/12/17 for eye examination seven Ples. Attended Course of Instruction Jellalabad from 1st to 24/10/17 one Cpl. Qualified Good. Warned for Dental Parade 15/12/17 forty nine N.C.O's and men also sixty seven dentally <sup>un</sup> classified men. Marched out to Weymouth 17/12/17 four Ples. Marched in ex Musketry School Tidworth 3/12/17 One Lieut. 2nd Lieut. A. H. Gunning 3rd Purs to be Lieut	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>No. 6 Camp Sutton Very</p>	18/12/17		<p>Submitted to War Office as available to proceed overseas at short notice Chapter C. Hall C of E. To attend P.T and B.F course Aldershot 31/12/17 one Lt 4<sup>th</sup> Div. Passed into 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of training one Pte 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Warned for Dental Parade 19/12/17 fifty four N.C.O's and men. Qualified as Marksmen twelve N.C.O's and men. Transferred to Weymouth 19/12/17 four Ptes. Marched out to France 18/12/17 twenty eight N.C.O's and men. Marched in ex 44<sup>th</sup> Bn 10<sup>th</sup> T.B. 18/12/17, one Pte. Lt 6<sup>th</sup> Div Lyons A.H. reverts to Pte on marching out to France 18/12/17. Marched in ex Devings Det Pte 17/12/17 Lt O.M.S Behm W.H. ex Warronsker Det Pte 18/12/17 twelve O/Ranks. ex Forant Det Pte 18/12/17 twenty one O/Ranks.</p>	
	19/12/17		<p>Attended School of Musketry Tidworth from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> /11/17 one Lieut two Lt's Qualified "Fair working knowledge Lewis Gun". Transferred to A.F.C. 18/12/17 One Pte. Warned for Dental Parade 20/12/17 forty eight N.C.O's and men. Marched in ex No 1 Bourn Dept. 19/12/17 three Ptes ex Imperial R.A.M.C. 12/12/17. Thirteen N.C.O's and men. Marched out to Weymouth 19/12/17 four Ptes. Marched in ex Det Pte Forant 18/12/17 Lieut R.C. Storey one Pte ex 405 Group Concert Group 19/12/17. Marched out to Anti Gas School Chiselden 18/12/17 two Lt's</p>	



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No 6 Camp  
Sutton Verry

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	20/12/17		Named for Dental Parade 21/12/17 fifty three N.C.O's and men. Promotion two Ples from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pioneers to be A/L/O's from 20/12/17. Marched in ex Overseas Training Bgdt.	
	20/12/17		one Cpl 5 <sup>th</sup> Puss	
	21/12/17		Working party to proceed to Sandhill Quarry 20/12/17 twelve N.C.O's and men. Submitted to War Office as available to proceed overseas at short notice, three 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut's. Attended Bombing School Lyndhurst 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov to Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> /17. one Cpl 3 <sup>rd</sup> Puss Qualified as Instructor. To proceed Overseas 23/12/17 twenty two O/Ranks. Marched in ex 25 <sup>th</sup> Batt 5 <sup>th</sup> I. Batt 21/12/17. one Pte. Marched out to France 20/12/17 Capt. R. R. Bingle. Marched in from Det <sup>n</sup> Barracks Lewes 20/12/17 one Pte 21/12/17 two Ples.	
	21/12/17		Struck off strength 21/12/17 <sup>Seven</sup> one Ples. Marched in ex Bandahar Mining school one Cpl	
	20/12/17		ex 1 <sup>st</sup> Training Batt group concert Pty. one Pte, ex Fargo Hosp. one Pte ex Det <sup>n</sup> Pty	
	20/12/17		Durrington forty five O/Ranks. ex F.P.O. Larkhill 21/12/17 one Pte	
	22/12/17		Passed to Third stage of Training eighty two N.C.O's and men. To report to Folkestone for overseas, Chaplin C. Hall to go to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aus Gas Clearing Station. Marched out to London	
	20/12/17		ten O/Ranks.	
	23/12/17		Transferred to Weymouth 24/12/17 eight O/Ranks. Marched in ex 29 <sup>th</sup> Bw 22/12/17 one Pte. ex Chelsea school one Pte. ex Det Pty Det <sup>n</sup> Designs one Pte 22/12/17. Marched out to Det Barracks	

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No 6 Camp Sutton Verry	22/12/17		Leaves 22/12/17 two Ples, Capt. Chaplin C. Ball to France 23/12/17	
	24/12/17		Marched in ex Detm Pty Tidworth one P. ex Durrington Detm Pty one Lt 20/12/17.	
	25/12/17		Marched in from Wandsworth Detm P. 24/12/17 one P. ex Gas School Chislehurst 24/12/17	
			two Cpls. Struck off strength 2/11/17 two Ples. G.O.C inspected Christmas dinner and found all Ranks more than satisfied with Menu	
	26/12/17		Proceed Overseas 3/12/17 twenty O/Ranks. Warned for Dental Parade 27/11/17 forty six O/Ranks.	
			Marched out <sup>to</sup> Weymouth 24/12/17 seven O/Ranks. Brigade sports held today on Pioneer Parade ground. Silver Cup presented by Commandant to Battalion winning most events was won easily by Pioneer Training Battn.	
	27/12/17		G.S.O. will inspect men in 10 <sup>th</sup> week of training 28/12/17. Warned for Dental Parade 28/12/17 49 O/Ranks.	
			Available for Overseas at short notice four 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. one. Cap. One. 29/12/17 Commandant.	
			will inspect reinforcements from Australia. Oculists Parade six O/Ranks 28/12/17. Marched in ex Australia 24/12/17 six 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. 143 O/Ranks 13/1 P. 27/12/17 138 O/Ranks 10/10 <sup>th</sup> P. 132 O/Ranks 12/2 P. Marched out to France 27/12/17 twenty two O/Ranks.	
			To R.F.C. one Cpl. one P. 27/12/17. To Bombing school by motor one Capt. 27/12/17	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>No 6 Camp Sutton Very</i>	<i>24/12/17</i>		<i>Reversions O/Ranks to Permanent Rank of Private on marching in from Australia</i>	
			<i>eleven A/Spl's twenty A/Cpls three A/H/Pl's, on marching out to France one Pte</i>	
	<i>25/12/17</i>		<i>To report to Embarkation Command! Southampton for overseas three 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieuts 1<sup>st</sup> Puro. Fully</i>	
			<i>trained Reinforcements for Overseas twenty O/Ranks one Signaller. Warned for Dental Parade</i>	
			<i>fifty three N.C.O's and men. To proceed to Brigade Headquarters for Concert Party two Lieuts 4<sup>th</sup> Puro</i>	
	<i>29/12/17</i>		<i>Ranges "E" and "F" are allotted to this Batt for week commencing 31/12/17. Attended</i>	
		<i>Course of Instruction "Defensive Measures Against Gas" Chiselden from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 12/17 and</i>		
		<i>one Sgt one C<sup>pl</sup> Qualified as Assistant Instructors. Marched out to Weymouth one Pte</i>		
		<i>28/12/17</i>		
	<i>30/12/17</i>		<i>Troops from Australia ex "Eurypides" and "Aeneas" to be isolated for twenty one days</i>	
			<i>Passed into third stage of training six Ptes 28/12/17. Warned for Dental Parade fifty</i>	
			<i>seven O/Ranks. N.C.O's held in readiness will proceed overseas via Southampton 31/12/17</i>	
			<i>To move out to Weymouth 30/12/17 eight Ptes. Marched out to Aldershot 29/12/17 one Cpl</i>	
			<i>one C<sup>pl</sup></i>	
	<i>31/12/17</i>		<i>Marched in ex France 31/12/17 <del>ex France</del> one C<sup>pl</sup> Marched out to France twenty O/Ranks. Struck</i>	
			<i>off strength five Ptes. Marched in ex Training school Romsey 30/12/17 one Pte, Marched out to</i>	

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<i>No 6 Camp Sullom Verry</i>	<i>31/12/17</i>		<i>Candahar School 31/12/17 eight O/Ranks. to P.T and B.F school Devonport one Sgt. to permanent ranks of Ptes on marching to France 31.12.17 twelve O/Ranks.</i>	

*[Signature]*  
O.O. PIONEER TRAINING BATTALION A.I.F.