

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/19/18

Title: 2nd Infantry Battalion

October 1916



AWM4-23/19/18

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME VII

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
In the trenches	1/10/16	0430	Wind. Day was usually quiet. Enemy occasionally firing T.M.'s & Bombs but doing no damage. Usual work & improvements have been carried on building Dug Outs etc. Gas Alert off	
	2/10/16	0430	Wind S. Day usually quiet with the exception of a few Shells & T.M. fired. 1600 Rain, which kept up all night D+C Coys were relieved from the front line of Trenches during the day by A+B Coys. Relief carried out without casualties.	
	3/10/16	0430	Wind SW. wet. Enemy's artillery & T.M.'s active but causing no damage.	
	4/10/16	0430	Wind high Breeze SW Enemy's artillery active throughout the day & continued well on to evening. One or two dug outs damaged but no casualties occurred. This was kept up till about 2000, with HE 4'2 and Shrapnel.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices	
In the Trenches.	5/10/16	0000	Our Artillery were firing heavily on our LEFT flank. Enemy did not retaliate but raided on our Right flank unsuccessfully.		
		0430	Light Breeze S.W. wet.		
		2100	Quiet throughout the day. Usual improvements carried out in firing line. Gas Alarm was heard on our right flank but was not near our position.		
	6/10/16	0430	Fresh Breeze S.W.	Enemy Artillery still fairly active throughout the day but causing no damage.	
			Work continues in support lines, and front line lines.		
	7/10/16	0130	Prisoners captured by Cpl CHERRY in front of our lines.		
		0430	Fresh Wind S.W. wet.		
	8/10/16	0430	Nothing unusual to report. Artillery active on both sides.		
			Reliefs arrived from 4th Bn for Sigs. MG B Co's.		
			2040	Wind S.W. Light breeze. Quiet day. Nothing to report. Work improvements carried on. In accordance with Bo no 38 attached, the Bn was relieved by 4th Aust Bn. Relief carried out without any casualties.	2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	8/10/16		Bn moved from front line to WOODCOTE HOUSE.	
	9/10/16	0430	Wind S.W. misty. Fatigue parties supplied to engs. + tunnelling Coy for day and night work. Improvements carried out generally. Quiet throughout the day. LT Baldock. W.I + 2/Ct Taylor. F.W. reported from wounds.	
	10/10/16	0430	Wind S.W. fresh. Clear. Work continued throughout the day.	
	11/10/16		Work continued throughout the day.	
	12/10/16	1900 1815	Bn moved at 1900 from WOODCOTE HOUSE to OTTAWA Camp by route march. Raiding party attacked enemy's trenches as per Operation Order attached. LT W.A. Trott O.C. Assaulting Party " A. Laver Support Party + Wire men. " DeWinton C. O.C. Right Trench Party " Yeats. " Left " " Enemy discovered party on NO MANS LAND before it got into position and immediately opened up a bombing attack. Enemy's trenches were successfully entered. Two prisoners being captured and war material.	
			Casualties. 1 Off killed LT C. DeWinton 1 OR killed and 7 OR wounded.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	13/10/16		Day spent in bathing paradises etc. Weather. Showery.	
	14/10/16	0800	Moved from Ottawa Camp to Steenvorde by route march. arrived Steenvorde at 1315. Day cool, fine but cloudy. men fell out on march.	Billets generally scattered.
	15/10/16	0800	Moved from Steenvorde to ARNEKE by route march. arrived ARNEKE 1330. Day cool, fine but cloudy. men fell out on march.	
	16/10/16	0800	Moved from ARNEKE to BAYENGHEM lez EPERLECQUES by route march, arrived at 1430. Day cool, fine but cloudy. men fell out on march.	Capt. Youden HF. left on leave to England for school Wargates LT McElroy "Biggs" MG
	17/10/16		Stayed in billets at Bayenghem. Carried out training programme. Weather dull and showery.	
	18/10/16		Weather dull but fine. Carried out bombing with live grenades and muckety. a bomb exploded prematurely killing 1 OR and wounding 1 off and 1 OR.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bayenghem	19/10/16		<p>Weather. Showery.</p> <p>Lt Thompson went to Musketry Instructors course</p> <p>Lt Sen Sir W.R. Birdwood presented Military Medal ribbon to Lt Plt.</p> <p>D.T. Brown for good work at Poziers.</p> <p>These orders still carried out during morning. Comm. Referendum taken during afternoon.</p>	
	20/10/16		<p>Weather. Fine & clear.</p> <p>2/21 Pardon left for M.G. School.</p> <p>Br left at 2130 by march route for St. Omer for entrainment.</p>	
	21/10/16		<p>Weather. Cold but fine.</p> <p>Br arrived at entrainment point at 0045, and left by train at 0203.</p> <p>Arrived at Longpre at 1130 and proceeded by march route to VILLERS SOUS AILLY arriving there at 1330.</p>	
	22/10/16		<p>Weather. Fine but cold.</p> <p>Transport section left at 0930 for ST SAUVEUR and Arques where they would billet night of 22/23 and join Br following day.</p>	

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Villers Sous Ailly.	23/10/16		<p>Left by route march at 0730 for buses. Left in buses at 1030 proceeding through AMIENS and alighted at 1530 thence proceeded by route march to FRICOURT CAMP.</p> <p>Weather cloudy but fine. roads were in a sloppy condition. Effective Strength 25 Off. 775.</p>	
FRICOURT CAMP	24/10/16		<p>Left by route march at 0830 for MAMETZ CAMP arriving at 1330. Constant blockages of traffic and bad condition of road caused slow moving. Accommodation at this camp was very limited. 300 men were without shelter.</p> <p>Weather. wet and cold. Effective Strength 25 Off 767 OR.</p>	
MAMETZ CAMP	25/10/16		<p>Weather wet and cold. Ground in a very bad condition. Officers visited Central Area of Divisional front.</p> <p>Effective Strength 25 Off 772 OR.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAMETZ CAMP	26/10/16		<p>Weather still wet. Men engaged on shelters. 200 4 off. 200 OR on fatigue on roads. Enemy placed one High velocity shell in close proximity to Bombers. Effective strength 25 Off 771 OR.</p>	
do	27/10/16		<p>Showery. Officers visited front line. Communication trenches in bad order. Capt G. A. B. GILDER LT W. BALDOCK to Instructional Base England. effective strength 24 off. 772 OR.</p>	
do	28/10/16		<p>Showery. Officers visited left Bn. front of left Div. Capt. H. A. Yonden returned from leave. Effective strength 25 Off 774 OR.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
MIAMIETZ CAMP	29/10/18		<p>Left by march route at 0800 for DELVILLE WOOD. Moved from WOOD at 1600 for front line near FLERS. Relief of 2nd Hants complete 2335.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dispositions:-</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Front line</td> <td>D Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support</td> <td>C Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve</td> <td>A & B Coys.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Casualties: 5 OR. wounded by shell fire.</p> <p>Weather. Wet & cold. Trenches in very poor condition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Effective strength 25 off 774 OR.</p>	Front line	D Coy	Support	C Coy	Reserve	A & B Coys.	
Front line	D Coy									
Support	C Coy									
Reserve	A & B Coys.									
	30/10/18		<p>Continuous rain. Dugouts and trenches caved in causing injury to 1 OR. Enemy activity normal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Effective strength 24 off 766 OR.</p>							

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/10/16.		<p>Weather still showery. Enemy shelled support boys at 0800 causing 2 D.R. killed, 1 Gff (LT. N. Cuthbert, seriously wounded) 12 D.R. wounded.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Effective strength 24 Gff 751 BR.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	31/10/16		<p>Weather still showery. Enemy shelled support boys at 0800 causing 2 O.R. killed, 1 off (LT W. Colthbert, seriously wounded) 12 O.R. wounded</p> <p>Effective strength 24 off 751 O.R.</p>	

Montrose Stream off Col
 Company 2nd Australian Bn
 2-11-16

463
SECRET

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

COPY No..... 11

by
Lieut Colonel A BORLASE STEVENS D.S.O. Comdng 2nd Aust Bn

11/10/18.

REFERENCE MAP. ZILLEBEKE. 1:10000.

I. INTENTION. A party of the 2nd Australian Bn. will raid enemy's trenches on the night 12/13th October at Zero time.

(a) Right trench squad,

(b) Left trench squad.

Each squad will clear trench for 50 yards on each side of point of entry.

2. OBJECT.

- (a) To take prisoners.
- (b) To kill enemy
- (c) To obtain information.
- (d) To capture war material.
- (e) To destroy works and dug outs.

3 STRENGTH. Party will consist of 3 Officers and 36 O.R. under Lieut W.A.TROTT.

4. FORMATION (Right and Left Trench Squads and supports distributed PARTIES. as follows;-

Lieut W.A.TROTT. O.C. assaulting party.
with telephonist.

Left Trench Squad.
Lieut Yeats W.
2 Bayonet men.
2 Bombers.
2 Carriers.
1 Stretcher Bearer.
1 Intelligence man.
2 Parapet Scouts.
2 Salvage men to act
as Mat Men.

Right Trench Squad.
Lieut de Winton C.P.
2 Bayonet Men.
2 Bombers.
2 Carriers.
1 Stretcher Bearer.
1 Intelligence man.
2 Parapet Scouts.
2 Salvage men to act
as Mat Men.

SUPPORTS.

Lieut Laver. A. with 12 O.R. including Telephonist.

5. IDENTIFICATION. All ranks will blacken their faces and hands, and will wear a white arm band on upper right arm to be covered by hessian until enemy's trench is entered when the hessian cover will be removed.

No identity discs, paybooks or other means of identification will be taken or worn. No papers of any description will be taken.

6. GAS HELMETS. P.H. Helmet will be worn in the alert position. Small Box Respirators will not be worn after leaving our trenches.

7. PROGRAMME. (a) Both Parties will leave our trenches via "SALLY Ports" opposite point of entry at zero minus 10 minutes.

(b) The wire or mat squad will lead the party and will be in line. (O.C Party will be in supporting squad).

Trench squads will follow close on this party in file.

Supporting squads will follow in line. Reserves will remain in our fire trench.

(c) At zero, wire or mat squad will throw mats over any obstacles and trench squads will rush the trench, the Right squad working to the right, and the Left squad working to the Left, for not more than 50 Yards in each case.

(d) At zero, L.T M's will fire on enemy's M.G. emplacements I 34 D 4 8 I 34 B 8 2. at same time Artillery and M.T.M. battery will open barrage fire on enemy front line to the flanks of the portion to be raided. On enemy support line from I 34 D 0 4. to I 34 B 8 2. and all Communication Trenches

leading towards portion of trenches to be raided.

(E) After entering trench the scouts attached to each party will search the trench for telephone wires (which must be cut) identification marks, M.G.'s T.M.'s and prisoners.

The supporting squads will line the parapet on point of entry; the O.C. party will be at that point of entry with telephone communication with CO raid. The wire and Mat squad will improve the track across NO MANS LAND and will lay white tape to mark the way to our trench.

The reserve squad will receive prisoners and trophies and hand them to Trench Garrison for safe custody for transmission to Left Battalion Headquarters.

(f) The squads will remain in the enemy's trench until recalled by O.C. party. The signal for recall will be a Siren whistle. Squads will not remain in trench for more than 8 minutes; they will return via point of entry (where they will report to O.C. party) to our trench.

The supporting squads will cover their return. On the word "SKIP" the supporting squads will return to our trenches.

O.C.s parties will immediately report to O.C. raid who will inform Artillery F.O.O. who will arrange gradual cease fire.

In event of telephone wires being cut Two Red Rockets fired in rapid succession will be the signal for these Units to cease fire. These will be fired from trench 35.

All raiding parties prisoners, and trophies will move to Left Battalion Headquarters at GRAND FLEET STREET Dugouts on order from O.C. raid, and will not disperse until full information has been secured.

8. MACHINE GUNS. The O.C. 1st Australian M.G. Co. will arrange for 3 Vickers Guns to sweep enemy's parapets to flanks of portions of trenches to be raided, from zero time until ordered to cease fire by the O.C. raid.

9. COMMUNICATION. Signallers will take out portable phones with each party to connect O.C party on enemy's parapet with O.C.raid. Brigade Signalling Officer will arrange to lay lines from trench 35 as arranged verbally with this Officer.

The following signals will be used:-

N. Raiding party in NO MANS LAND.

I. Have entered enemy's trench.

R. Have given "SKIP" Signal.

Artillery F.O.O.'s Runners from M. & L.T.M Batteries Vickers M.Gs will accompany O.C.Raid.

10. AMMUNITION AND BOMBS. All Bombers will carry 10 bombs Carriers 12, Bayonet men 3 each, remainder of party (all ranks) 6 each. Officers will carry revolvers, bayonet men will carry rifles loaded with magazines charged and 20 spare rounds; electric torches will be attached to their rifles. Officers N.C.O's and scouts will carry electric torches.

11. TIMEKEEPING. An Officer from the Divisional Signalling Co. will communicate the time from D.H.Q. to an Officer at H.Q. DIV. Artillery, Artillery Groups, H.Q. of Infantry Brigades, and to Officers commanding raids, using the same watch all the time, at 1400= 1600 1800 when watches of all concerned will be synchronised.

12. MOVE AND STORES. Raiding parties must be in our trenches by noon on 13th Instant, and, in order to avoid observation, will dribble in. All stores and material in connection with raid will be worked into line on night of 11/13th Instant.

13. REPORTS. C.O.raid will be stationed in Trench 35 where all reports will be received. After raid is over he will transfer to Left Battalion Headquarters. Reports in writing giving full detail, will be handed in from raiding party as soon as possible after operations, to enable them reaching D.H.Q. the following morning.
14. C.O. RAID. The Officer Commanding 2nd Australian Battalion will command raid.

ACKNOWLEDG E.

Lieut Colonel.

C.O. R A I D.

DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES.

Copy No.	To Whom.	Method.
1	O.C. Assaulting party.	Orderly.
2.	1st Australian Infantry Brigadem	"
3.	1st. " Division.	"
4.& 5.	War Diary and File.	B.R.
6.	3rd Australian Battalion.	Orderly.
7.	4th Australian Battalion.	"
8.	1st " M.G. Co.	"
9.	1st. " L.T.M.B.	"
10.	Right Group Artillery.	"
11.	2nd Australian Infantry Brigade.	"
12.	Brigade Signalling Officer.	"
13.	14th Motor M.G. Battery.	"
14.	2nd. Field Co. Engineers.	""

1st Aust Inf Bde

The attached Order cancels Order No 1 of 11th inst
Zero time will be 1830

Sturges Major
Brigade Major 1st Aust Inf Bde

OPERATION ORDER No. 2

by

LIEUT.-COLONEL A.B. STEVENS, D.S.O., C.O. RAID.12th. October, 1916.REFERENCE MAP: ZILLEBEKE 1:10,000.

1. INTENTION. 2 parties of the 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade will raid enemy's trenches on night of 12th./13th. October at Zero time.

(a.) Right Raiding Party, from 3rd. Aust. Battalion, will enter enemy's trench at I.34.D.2.4.

(b.) Left Raiding Party, from 2nd. Aust. Battalion, will enter enemy's trench at I.34.B.6.3.

Each party will clear trench for 50 yards on each side of point of entry.

2. OBJECT.
- (a.) To take prisoners.
 - (b.) To kill enemy.
 - (c.) To obtain information.
 - (d.) To capture war material.
 - (e.) To destroy works and dug-outs.

3. STRENGTH. Each raiding party will be organised into Left and Right trench squads as laid down in Operation Orders issued by Commanding Officers of 2nd. and 3rd. Aust. Battalions.

4. IDENTIFICATION. All ranks will blacken their faces and hands and will wear a white arm band on upper right arm to be covered by hessian until enemy's trench is entered when the hessian cover will be removed.

No identity discs, paybooks or other means of identification will be taken or worn. No papers of any description will be taken.

5. GAS HELMETS. P. H. helmet will be worn in the alert position. Small box respirators will not be worn after leaving our trenches.

6. PROGRAMME.
- (a.) Both parties will leave our trenches via "Sally Ports" opposite points of entry at zero minus 10 minutes.
 - (b.) The wire or mat squad will lead the party and will be in line. Trench squads will follow close on this party in file. Supporting squads will follow in line. O.C., Party, will be in supporting squad. Reserves will remain in our fire trench.
 - (c.) At zero, wire or mat squad will throw mats over any obstacles and trench squads will rush the trench, the Right squad working to the Right and the Left squad working to the Left for not more than 50 yards in each case.
 - (d.) At zero, M. and L. T. Ms. will fire on enemy ^{M.C.} emplacements I.34.D.25.70., I.34.D.25.20., O.5.A.85.90., I.34.B.8.2. at same time artillery and M. T. M. Battery will open barrage fire on enemy front line to the flanks of the portion to be raided. On enemy support line from I.34.C.9.1. to I.34.B.8.2. and all communication trenches leading towards portion of trench to be raided.
 - (e.) After entering trench the scouts attached to each party will search the trench for telephone wires (which must be cut), identification marks, M. Gs., T. Ms. and prisoners.

The supporting squads will line the parapet on point of entry; the O.C. party will be at that point of entry with telephone communication with C. O. raid. The wire and mat squad will improve the track across NO MAN'S LAND and will lay white tape to mark the way to our trench.

The reserve squad will receive prisoners and trophies and hand them to trench garrison for safe custody for transmission to Left Battalion Headquarters.

(f.) The squads will remain in the enemy trench until recalled by O. C. party. The signal for recall will be a siren whistle. Squads will not remain in trench for more than 8 minutes; they will return via point of entry (where they will report to O. C. party) to our trench.

The supporting squads will cover their return. On the word "Skip" the supporting squads will return to our trenches.

6. PROGRAMME. (f.)(Contd..)

O.Cs. parties will immediately report to O. C. raid who will inform artillery F.O.O. who will arrange gradual Cease Fire. In event of telephone wires being cut two Red Rockets fired in rapid succession will be the signal for those units to Cease Fire.

All raiding parties, prisoners and trophies will move to Left Battalion Headquarters at GRAND FLEET STREET Dug-outs on order from C. O. Raid, and will not disperse until full information has been secured.

7. MACHINE GUNS. The O.C. 1st. Aust. M. G. Coy. will arrange for 5 Vickers guns to sweep enemy's parapets to flanks of portions of trenches to be raided from zero time until ordered to cease fire by C. O. Raid.

8. COMMUNICATION. Signallers will take out portable phones with each party to connect O. C. party on enemy parapet with C. O. Raid. Brigade Signalling Officer will arrange to lay lines from Trench 35 to Right assaulting party. The following signals will be used:-

N. Raiding party in NO MAN'S LAND.

I. Have entered enemy's trench.

R. Have given "Skip" signal.

Artillery F.O.Os., runners from M. and L. T. M. Batteries and Vickers M. Gs. will accompany C. O. Raid.

9. AMMUNITION and BOMBS. All bombers will carry 10 bombs, carriers 12, bayonet men 3 each, remainder of party (all ranks) 6 each. Officers will carry revolvers, bayonet men will carry rifles loaded with magazines charged and 20 spare rounds; electric torches will be attached to their rifles.

Officers, N. C. Os. and Scouts will carry electric torches.

10. TIME. An Officer from the Divisional Signalling Company will communicate the time from D. H. Q. to an Officer at H. Q. Div. Artillery, Artillery Groups, H. Q. of Infantry Brigades and to officers Commanding raids, using the same watch all the time, at 1400, 1600, 1800, when watches of all concerned will be synchronised.

11. MOVE AND STORES. Raiding parties must be in our trenches by noon on 12th. instant, and, in order to avoid observation, will dribble in. All stores and material in connection with raid will be worked into line on night of 11th./12th. instant.

12. REPORTS. C.O. Raid will be stationed in Trench 35 where all reports will be received; after raid is over he will transfer to Left Battalion Headquarters. Reports in writing, giving full detail, will be handed in from both raiding parties as soon as possible after operations to enable them reaching D. H. Q. the following morning.

A C K N O W L E D G E.

O. Borlase Stevens

Lieut.-Colonel,

Commanding 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade

Raiding Party.

(OVER.)

D I S T R I B U T I O N O F C O P I E S .

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>To whom.</u>	<u>Time.</u>	<u>Method.</u>
1.2	O. C. Raid.		-
3-4	O. C. Right Raiding Party		Orderly
5-6	O. C. Left Raiding Party		"
7-8	1st. Australian Infantry Brigade		"
9	1st. Aust. Battalion		"
10.	2nd. Aust. Battalion		"
11.	3rd. Aust. Battalion		"
12.	4th. Aust. Battalion		"
13.	1st. Aust. Machine Gun Coy.		"
14.	1st. Aust. Light Trench Mortar Battery		"
15.	Right Group Artillery		"
16.	13th. Australian Infantry Bdo.		D.R.
17.	2nd. Aust. Inf. Brigade		"
18.	1st. Australian Division		"
19.	Brigade Signal Officer		Orderly.
20.	14th. Motor L. G. Battery		"
21.	2nd. Field Coy. Engineers		"

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SECRET.



18

1st. ANZAC CORPS.
16th. October, 1916.

1st. AUST. DIVISION.

I am to state that the Corps Commander thinks great credit is due to all concerned for the very resolute raids effected on the 12th./13th. instant and reported in your S.1395 of the 14th. instant. The determined action taken when the enemy discovered our preparations, was most praiseworthy, and the Corps Commander congratulates the officers responsible. The loss of Lieut. De Winton, whose body has since been recovered, is greatly regretted.

(Signed.) S.B.B. WHITE,
 Brigadier-General.
 General Staff,
 1st. ANZAC CORPS.

II.

1st. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE..

For information and transmission to all concerned.

(Signed.) T.A. BLAMEY, Lieut.-Colonel
 General Staff.

17th. October, 1916.

III.

1st. Aust. Battalion,
 ✓ 2nd. Aust. Battalion,
 3rd. Aust. Battalion,
 4th. Aust. Battalion,
 1st. Aust. M. G. Coy.,
 1st. Aust. L. T. M. Bty.,

Brigade Headquarters,
 18th. October, 1916.

For information and transmission to all concerned.

A. J. Quinn Major.,

Brigade Major, 1st. Australian Infantry Brigade..