

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/38/8

Title: 2nd British Division

February 1917



AWM4-1/38/8

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.)



Army Form G. 2118.

Place Date Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

OF

13th (S) BATTN THE ESSEX REGT

FEBRUARY 1st to 28th 1917

277c
SR

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUZINCOURT	1.2.17		Battalion in Reserve Brigade. Commanding Officers Ceremonial Parade 9.30 am to 12 noon in Battalion Parade Ground Lewis Gunners paraded at 9.30 am Bathn Hqs for instruction under Lewis Gun Officers 2 nd Lieut C.W. DUMSCOMBE took over command of A Coy from today (2 nd Lieut J.J.G. CLARKE relinquished same on 31.1.17)	
Do.	2.2.17		Battalion bathing at Bathn, SETTIS 2 nd Lieut ARWELLS appointed Battalion Intelligence and Sniping Officer from 2.2.17. Officer Shooting Competition at 2pm.	
Do.	3.2.17		Battalion paraded at 9.30 am for drill under the Commanding Officer. Ceremonial Parade Lewis Gunners, Bombers, Snipers, Signallers paraded under their respective instructors.	
			Capt. J.G.H. KENNEDY (of C Coy) admitted to Hospital sick 3.2.17 2 nd Lieut J.J.G. CLARKE took over command of C Coy. Working Party of 60 OR. supplied.	
Do.	4.2.17		Sunday. All Officers, 100 men & proportionate number of NCOs paraded for Women Service in Divisional Cinema at 11 am. Lewis Gunners paraded under Lewis Gun Officers. 85 OR. supplied for working Party.	

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BOUZINCOURT OVILLERS HUTS	5-2-17 6-2-17		<p>Battalion moved into new billets at OVILLERS HUTS, a distance of about three miles, arriving there about 11 am. Supplied parties of 150 OR for work.</p> <p>Rifle Kit & Feet inspections. Special attention paid to men's feet which were inspected by the Medical Officer. 275 OR were supplied as Working Parties.</p> <p>Battalion in Support Brigade.</p> <p>Lieut Col. W. H. CARTER DSO, MC. proceeded to Fifth Army Infantry School to attend a Commanding Officers Conference.</p> <p>Major A. G. HAYWARD, MC. assumed command of the Battalion during the absence of Lieut Col. W. H. CARTER DSO, MC.</p>	
Do.	7-2-17		<p>Rifle Inspection by Company Commanders. Feet Inspection by the Medical Officer.</p> <p>Capt P. G. FOUNTAIN straits off strength from 1-2-17, having been wanted to England sick. 425 OR supplied for Working Parties.</p>	
Do.	8-2-17		<p>Companies paraded under Company Commanders at 9.30 am for Physical Training Bayonet Fighting, Rifle Exercise Section Drill, Saluting. Lewis Gun Class paraded at 9.30 am. under Lewis Gun Officer. Snipers paraded at 9.30 am.</p> <p>Stores to the value of £55.3.6 were salvaged by the Battalion for the</p>	

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VILLERS' HUTS	8.2.17		month ending Jan'y 31 st 1917. 425 OR were supplied for Working Parties	
Do.	9.2.17		Companies paraded under Company Commanders for training as yesterday. All specialists paraded at 9.30 am under their respective instructors. Lieut Col W.H. CARTER DSO., MC. returned from Conference at Fifth Army Infantry School & resumed Command of the Battalion. Major A.G. HAYWARD, MC. resumed the duties of 2 nd in Command. 595 OR. supplied for Working Parties.	
Do.	10.2.17		Companies paraded under Company Commanders for training as yesterday. All specialists paraded at 9.30 am under their respective instructors. Draft of 2 officers and 20 other ranks joined. Lieut. A.H. CREASY Posted to A Coy Lieut. H.B. BABINEAU Do to A Coy	
Do.	11.2.17		465 OR were supplied as Working Parties. Lieut C.P. COLE returned from Hoop Sunday. Voluntary Church Services held. 375 OR supplied for Working Parties.	
Do.	12.2.17		Companies paraded at 9.30 am for Rifle Inspection, Equipment Inspection & Drill were carried out by Section Commanders. Snipers & Scouts paraded at 1.30 pm. 576 OR. were supplied as Working Parties.	

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MILLERS HUTS	13-2-17		<p>All men except those on necessary duties paraded at 9.30 am for practice in Guard mounting.</p> <p>2nd Lieut C.W. DUMSCOMBE granted permission to wear the badges of the rank of Captain whilst in command of a Company (A Coy).</p> <p>2 OR. wounded whilst on Working Party (1 at duty)</p> <p>390 OR supplied for Working Parties.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer brought to the notice of the Battalion the fact that A Coy subscribed £51.30 to the War Loan.</p>	
Do	14-2-17		<p>An inspection at 9.30 am. was made of the Fighting Orders of the Battalion by the Company Commanders. The Major General Commanding 2nd Division sent a letter to the Commanding Officer, complimenting 2nd Lieut RITSON C.W. & the working party under him on their work & keenness. Working parties up to 286 OR supplied.</p>	
Do	15-2-17		<p>2nd Lieut F.H. SHERMAN appointed Assistant Adjutant & also Battalion Musketry Officer. A Coy paraded at 9.30 am for Musketry under Musketry Officer. B Coy paraded at 10 am for Commanding Officer's Inspection. C Coy & D Coy at 9.30 am for Arms Drill under Section Commanders. 302 OR were supplied for Working Parties.</p>	<p>2118</p>




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OVIKERS HUTS No 2 17 WOLFE HUTS			<p>The Battalion moved into new billets at WOLFE HUTS arriving about 12 midnight. Battalion in support of remainder of 6th Brigade. 2nd Lieut W. LAVINGTON and 2nd Lieut H.L. BALL joined and were posted to "B" Coy. 157 ER as Working Parties.</p>											
Do	17/217		<p>Battalion "stood to" at 5.45 am in consequence of active operations by the 6th Brigade in the COURCELETTE sector. Hutments & camps were cleaned up by the Battalion. Stood to from 2 pm onwards in readiness to proceed into the line. Commanding Officer proceeded to Bois Hgr in the line & confer with B.G.C. with a view to making an attack on our front. Lieut J.D. STEELE admitted to Hospital. Recon party of 50 IR supplied.</p>											
Do	18/217		<p>Sunday Battalion carried out Foot Drill. Carried on with cleaning up camps & hutments. Battalion relieved the 99th Brigade in the left Sub-sector COURCELETTE sector.</p> <p><u>Disposition</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>RIGHT DEFENSIVE FLANK</td> <td>B Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RIGHT FRONT</td> <td>A Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEFT FRONT</td> <td>D Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUPPORT</td> <td>C Coy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W. MIRAUMONT DUGOUTS</td> <td>Bn Headquarters</td> </tr> </table> <p>Lieut. F.V. SOUTHERN joined for duty & posted to C Coy</p>	RIGHT DEFENSIVE FLANK	B Coy	RIGHT FRONT	A Coy	LEFT FRONT	D Coy	SUPPORT	C Coy	W. MIRAUMONT DUGOUTS	Bn Headquarters	
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LEFT SUB-SECTOR	19.2.17		Deepened & strengthened posts. Ground in a terrible state & many biscuits stuck in the mud. The Commanding Officer conferred with the B.C.C with the object of carrying out an attack on (CRET TRENCH - R.11.9.94 - R.12.9.94)	
Do	20.2.17		Strengthening posts, construction of splinter proof shelters.	
Do	21.2.17		A, B & C Coys relieved by 17 th Middlesex about midnight. "B" Coy to COURCELETTE	
Do	22.2.17		DUG-OUTS. C Coy to WOLFE HUTS. "A" Coy unable to move from the front line owing to daylight breaking. Lieut W.B. HARVEY & P.L. W. FREEMAN joined for duty & posted to D & A Coys.	
Do	22.2.17		"A" Coy returned from line to COURCELETTE DUG-OUTS. "D" Coy relieved by 17 th Middlesex & returned to W. MIRAMONT DUG-OUTS.	
Do ALBERT	23.2.17		Battalion relieved by 2nd H.L.I. & took over billets in ALBERT about 2 am. Casualties during tour from 18.2.17 to 23.2.17 on 24.2.17	
			<u>Killed in Action</u>	Lieut. C. STORES 18.2.17 =
				Lieut. EG MUNDAY 20.2.17
				12 OR.
			<u>Died of Wounds.</u>	1 OR.
			<u>Wounded.</u>	30 OR (including 5 OR Wounded at duty)
				7 OR (S.I.W)

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ALBERT	23.2.17		Casualties (contd) <u>Missing</u> 6 OR <u>Sent to Hospital (with T.F.)</u> 80 OR	
			Working Party of 100 OR supplied.	
Do.	24.2.17		Battalion cleaning up & generally resting. Fort Drill carried out. Party of 100 OR as yesterday continued work & forms a permanent working party.	
Do.	25.2.17	Sunday	Battalion inspected by Commanding Officer by companies. Voluntary Church Service held. Lieut R. NORTH proceeded for transfer to M.G. Corps (Heavy Branch). Permanent Working Parties of 275 OR supplied.	
Do.	26.2.17		Battalion (less W.P. Parties) engaged in cleaning kit & equipment, & carrying out Fort Drill under the C.O.'s or Senior NCOs. Working Parties (permanent) now total 335 OR. Lieut ARSACRE admitted to Hospital.	
Do.	27.2.17		Battalion (less Working Parties 335 OR) generally smartening up. Commanding Officer inspection. All Officers under Commanding Officer on map reading & marching by Companies. Lieut F.H. AUSTIN and Lieut R.B. TONKIN joined for duty. Lieut H.L. BISHOP - leave.	
Do.	28.2.17		All available NCOs & men paraded at 9.30 am under Lieut H.P. TURNER for Arms Drill, Platoon Drill & extended Order Drill. All Officers & signaller present.	

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LBERT	28.2.17		<p>attended demonstration of High Power Budget on ground behind HQs. Gift received (£40) from Queen Alexandra Field Force Fund and distributed among the men of the Battalion. Working Parties of 335 OR. Lieut. A. C. LEACH rejoined for duty & posted to "C" Coy.</p> <p>W. Kaiser Lieut Col Comdg. 13th Essex Regt.</p>	<p>W.A.G.</p> <p>W.A.G.</p> <p>285c</p>

