

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/67/5

Title: 50th Infantry Battalion

November 1916



AWM4-23/67/5

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

50th Bn A.I.F.

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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.

VOLUME VI

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | 19 | 16 | | |
| BUSSUS | hour | | Orders to move to BRUCAMPS tomorrow received. boy training carried on. | |
| -BUSSUEL | 1 | | Left BUSSUS-BUSSUEL at 9 am. Arrived BRUCAMPS 10.45 am one man fell out - | |
| BRUCAMPS | 2 | | exceptionally dirty billets left by previous unit. in village reported. | |
| | 3 | | Moved to VIGNACOURT Arrived 12.45 pm. no one fell out. | |
| VIGNACOURT | 4 | | coy + Specialist training. Troops paid. One Batho allotted to Bn. | |
| | 5 | | church parade. Capt M. Fowler rejoined from Hospital | |
| | 6 | | Brigade attack practice. Orders received to move to BUIRE tomorrow by Bus 20 miles | |
| BUIRE | 7 | | Moved by motor Bus to BUIRE. Left Vignacourt 9.45 am arrived Buire 3.30 pm. | |
| | | | Lt Goodman rejoined from Hospital. Division attached 15th Army Corps since 27th | |
| | | | October rejoins 1st Arzac Army Corps at midnight. 7/8th Nov | |
| | 8 | | Boy training | |
| | 9 | | Route march. Gas tests for reinforcements. 2/Lt. W.V. Ridstrup joined from reinforcements | |
| | | | Walter Jenkins drawn from Ordnance. | |
| | 10 | | Bn Route march. Lieut W.P. Hoggarth returned from Hospital. | |
| | 11 | | S.O. Coy Condros + R.M. moved to FRICOURT and from there on 12th to front. | |
| | | | line north of FLERS, preparatory to taking over part of line. | |
| | 12 | | Bn under second in command left BUIRE for FRICOURT. Co. Coy Condros + R.M. | |
| | | | rejoined Bn at Fricourt on night of 12th November | |
| FRICOURT | 13 | 9 am | Bn left for front line arriving at BERNAFAY WOOD at 2.30 pm. Hot tea issued from | |
| | | | boilers. 24 hours rations drawn. Bn moved on at 4 pm. Completed taking | |
| | | | over front line from 9th Bn at 8.45 pm attached 1st Aust Inf Bde | |
| | | | at 8.45 pm. Frontage about 300 yards - 150 of which actually held by | |
| | | | remainder covered by Lewis gun groups. Front line occupied by 6 Coy | |
| | | | plus one platoon "B" Coy + five Lewis guns. Remainder of Bn | |

MS

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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| 1916 400 Front line | Nov 13 | | in support. no casualties beyond one man breaking his leg on a duckboard. | |
| " " | 14 | | Lieut. J. A. Smith Bn. Intelligence Officer wounded by shell fire about 7 am. Communication trenches bad. Ground between front line & support mostly under observation by enemy. No cooking facilities for cooking in front line. Hot tea sent up at 6 pm & 4 am. Material & rations sent up at night. Solidified paraffin & "Tommy cookers" used satisfactorily in front line for warming up tea & cooked rations. Precautions taken against "trench feet". Feet well rubbed. whale oil used & socks changed. Our patrols gained touch with flank Bns on night 13/14 & standing patrols pushed forward along front. Weather cold but no rain. About 4.30 pm Bde on left sent up S.O.S. signal. Our Artillery at once responded on our front. Supports "stood to" until 5.30 pm. when situation again became normal. "b" Coy was relieved by "D" Coy & one platoon of "B" Coy. No casualties. 2 sick to hospital. | |
| " " | 15 | | Enemy shelled support line & Flers with gas shells 5.30 am to 7 am. 3 killed 3 wounded. 2 sick to hospital. Lieut. HA Thomson attached to 4th Aust. Inf Bde for training in Staff duties. Sgt. Edwards to hospital sick. Front line quiet. Enemy artillery active from 4.50 to 5.10 pm shelling support line & Bn HQ. Enemy shelled in rear of front line from 8.40 to 8.50 pm & again from 12.30 to 12.40 am. - no damage. Seven hostile planes | H.S. |

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| Front line | 1916 Nov | 15 | over our lines from 2.45 to 4pm. At 2.50pm one plane - not identified fell in flames in Belle sector to our right. Material received from Engineers & improvement of front line commenced. Two forward saps also commenced. Patrols in touch with flank Bns - one corporal of right patrol killed by enemy sniper. | |
| | | 16 | Work in front line continued. Enemy shelled remnants of Bn HQ. 1 killed & 7 wounded. Six to hospital sick. "A" Coy plus one platoon "B" Coy relieved "D" Coy plus one platoon "B" Coy in front line. An officers patrol worked along our front - nothing to report. Orders received to take over further frontage of 300 yards from 6th Aust Inf Bde on our left. Weather cold & dry - hard frost. | |
| | | 17 | Seven enemy planes over our lines 8.50 am about noon enemy plane forced down in our lines. Pilot wounded. Observer taken prisoner. Took over part of 6th Aust Inf Bde front on night 17/18 with 2 platoons of "B" Coy with 2 Lewis Guns & one Vickers. One enemy prisoner who had lost his way captured (100th Regt). Our front covered from left to right by an officers patrol. Weather dry - hard frost. | |
| | | 18 | Enemy planes active - 3 of them fell in enemy lines during day one going down in flames. Enemy shelled left of our front. | A.S. |

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| Front line | 19 | | <p>1 Killed 2 wounded. 1 wounded in support 4 to hospital sick Weather considerably colder - heavy frost - ground frozen hard Rain later in the day & ground again became soft with heavy mounds. Front covered by listening posts & officer's patrol. Front line shelled 4.20 pm. Bn relieved by 49th Bn 9.45 pm casualties during relief 1 officer (Lt Kay) wounded and two men wounded. Total casualties for day 2 Killed 9 wounded 2 to hospital sick. Bn moved into support. Bn HQ in Fiers BTD logs in switch & Yatter trenches. A & C in Belville Wood. Total casualties during 6 days in front line Killed 8 men Wounded 2 officers 22 other ranks. Sick 1 officer 19 other ranks.</p> | |
| In Support | 20 | | <p>Major R B Jacot 2nd band detached as instructional officer to School 4th Aust Div School. Work on switch trench commenced 10 men to hospital sick</p> | |
| | 21 | | <p>Work on dugouts in Fiers commenced. Good progress in Switch Trench 5 men to hospital sick</p> | |
| | 22 | | <p>Lt Cheney returned from leave. One of our monoplanes shot- down by enemy airman in our lines. Pilot wounded. Observer broken leg by fall.</p> | |
| | 23 | | <p>Further progress in Switch trench. 10 men to hospital. Lt Riggs & Edwards returned from hospital</p> | |

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|---------------|-------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| In Support | 1916 Nov | 24 | Orders received to move support corps to left & hand over work done in Switch trench to 12th Aust Inf Bde. Move to take place on 26th. Congratulations received from Div Comdr on few cases of sick & trench feet while Bn in front line. Lt Baynes to School. No men to hospital. 5 men granted leave to England. 5 men to Lewis Gun School. | |
| Bernafay Wood | | 25 | Fresh work commenced further West on Switch trench. Rain made digging much heavier. Lt & B. Smith to Musketry School. | |
| " | | 26 | Orders issued for relief of 50th Bn by 51st Bn. 50th relieved by 51st at 4.15 pm. moved to BERNAFAY WOOD in divisional reserve. 1 man wounded. | |
| " | | 27 | Lt London attached temporary to Bde HQ on Staff Duties. Lt Packard reported for duty from 13th Training Bn. 15 reinforcements arrived. | |
| " | | 28 | 150 men on hut building. 200 on railway construction. Hut building & railway construction also improving camps. No men to hospital. Capt Todd & Lieut Auld & 8 other ranks granted leave to England. | |
| " | | 29 | } Same work as 28th November. No men to hospital. | |
| " | | 30 | | |
| | | | Lt Salesbury Lt Col C.O. 50th Bn | |