

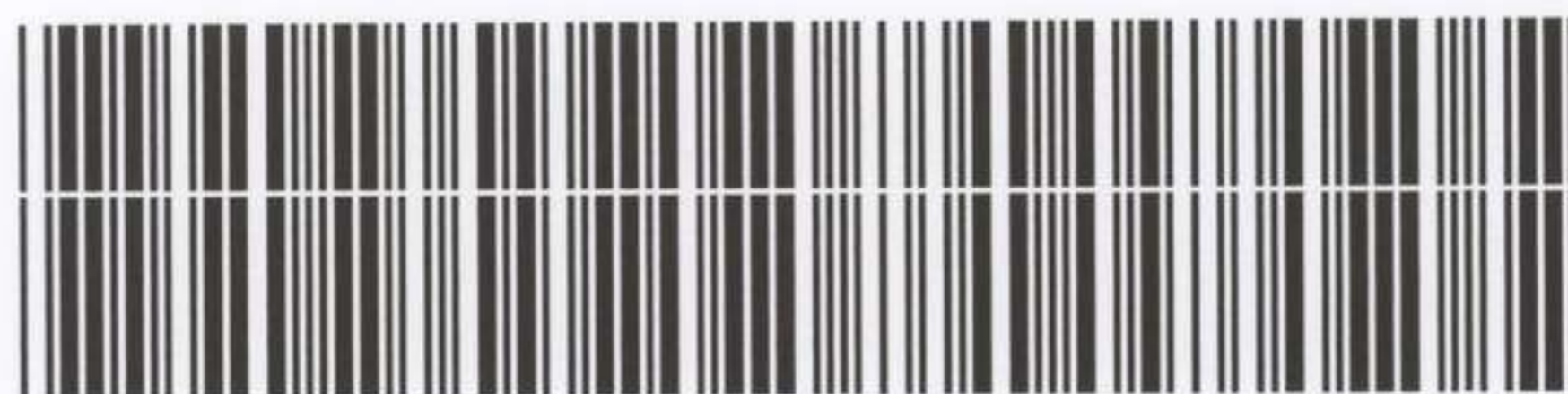
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/62/23

Title: 45th Infantry Battalion

January 1918



AWM4-23/62/23

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

45th BATTALION

FOR

JANUARY 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

X A Henderson Lt.

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. J. Allen Major

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAUT ALLAINES	1/1/18		New Year's Day was observed as a holiday, but owing to uncertainty of ^{en'ts} movements, no special preparations were made. The "Bill Jims" a Divisional Troop gave two good concerts, at 6 pm in Church Army Hut, & one at 7.30 pm in Y.M.C.A.	PSP
	2/1/18		Brigade Scheme - Outpost & Attacks. Order G2/72 re action of Division in case of attack received	PSP
	3/1/18		6 Officers reconnoitred routes & assembling points mentioned in order received yesterday (G2/72). Battalions carried out parades, Drills, etc. - 2 OR's leave to U.K.	PSP
	4/1/18		Battalion Work. 1 OR leave to U.K. 10 off. Sgt P.D. O'Reilly & 1 OR to 5th Corps Sig School Capt. A.L. Varley, M.C. attached to 12th Bde as Staff Captain. Lieut R.S. Pickup acting adjutant.	PSP
	5.1.18		Battalion Work. 1 OR leave to U.K. 2 OR's Corps School. L. G & Gambling Movement Order for 2/1/18 received. Capt. L.D. Ferguson, M.C. rejoined from Wnd	PSP
	6.1.18		Church Parade. Billeting party left for Ex-GODWAERSVELDE. Heavy rain during night. Brigade move order received.	PSP
	7.1.18		Battalion Work inspections etc. Extracts from "HONOURS GAZETTE" Supplement No 30450 to London Gazette of 1/1/18	PSP
			Awarded D.S.O. Major H.C. Ford Mentioned in Despatches: - " M.C. 572. Lt. G.M. & V. Tison Lt. Col. J.C.E. Herring, D.S.O. Major (now Lt Col) J.L. Perry, M.C. Major H.C. Ford, D.S.O. Major A.P. Allen, D.S.O.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(2)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
PERONNE	8.1.18		Blizzard blowing. Moved from HAUT ALLAINES 1.15 p.m. entrained PERONNE. Trained departed 4.7 p.m.	Appdx I
METEREN	9.1.18		Detrained BAILLEUL 9.45 a.m. cocoa at Y.M.C.A. & marched to METEREN billeted in GODWAERSVELDE area.	
	10.1.18		Received orders at 10. P.M. for move next morning. Moved off at 6.30 a.m. & entrained GODWAERSVELDE 9 a.m. Detrained at SPOIL ST. ELOI 10.30 a.m. & marched to SPOIL BANK. accomodation in Tunnel dug-outs	
SPOIL-BANK	11.1.18		100ft & 1 N.O.B. per Coy went forward to reconnoitre line. Major A. F. Allen D.S.O. detached to 48th Battalion C.O. J.O. Sig Off. & party from each Company, went forward to take over, prior to Battalion going into line. Relief Order. Received. Lt J. P. Pring, & 10 O.R. detached for duty with 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Corps. Relief:- Battalion relieved 13th ROYAL FUSILIERS. commenced 2.45 pm complete 7 pm. no casualties. DISPOSITION:- "D" Coy, front line of posts "A" Coy canal dugouts. "B" & "C" Coys Railway Trenches. Capt Whiting M.C. relieved Capt Parker M.C. as R.M.O.	
	12.1.18		Quiet day. Our Aeroplanes active. no signs of enemy aircraft. Lt Love. Sgt Noonan & Sgt E. L. Bailey to Angue School, Aveluy. Lt Farrell left for England, under Brigade Orders. 5 O's leave to U.K.	
	13.1.18		Very quiet day. Y.M.C.A. established hot soup kitchen Railway Trench for returning fatigue parties "B" Coy relieved "D" Coy in front line.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(3)

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14.1.18.		Innow. 4740 Pte L. C. Barrett died of wounds. 5 OR's leave to U.K. <i>BB</i>	
	15.1.18.		C. Coy relieved "B" Coy in front line. Rain & Snow <i>BB</i>	
	16.1.18		5 ORs leave to U.K. <i>BB</i>	
	17.1.18.		Officers from 49 th Bn A.I.F shown round posts <i>BB</i>	
	18.1.18		C. P. M. Mc Kane proceeded to England under Pde orders. <i>BB</i> 5 ORs leave to U.K., 6 ORs to Div Sig School. 1 OR to 3 Corps Sig School. <i>BB</i>	Appd II
	19.1.18.		Advance party Lt L. C. Smythe, 2 N.C.O's party proceeded to De Zon Camp, LA CLYTTE <i>BB</i>	
	20.1.18.		Lt Frost & 1 N.C.O to Gas School. Capt G. B. Clarke to England under Pde Orders. Relieved by 15 th Bn A.I.F. complete 6.50 pm. Good relief with no casualties <i>BB</i> Marched to SPOIL BANK & entrained to LA CLYTTE. accomodation at DE ZON Camp During the time in the line, the weacher for the most part, was fine. The sector was very muddy, consisting of a line of shell hole posts, running from approx. Sheet 28 O.b.c.8.5. to P1.a.2.1. with 48 th Bn A.I.F. on right, & 46 th Bn A.I.F. on left, but very quiet. Our casualties were very slight. 1 OR died of wounds, & 2 ORs wounded during the 9 days to be. The chief feature of the work was patrolling & evening. Two of the patrols have special interest. One coming into contact with enemy in posts & causing damage with Bombs, & the other bringing back two <i>BB</i> grattenwerfers.	
LA CLYTTE	21.1.18.		Lt W. R. Watson & 3 ORs to Corps School. Lt J. G. Lindsay & 5 ORs leave to U.K. Day spent cleaning up, etc. 150 ORs working party on Corps Line <i>BB</i>	

204

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APP. 6

WAR DIARY

OF

45th Battalion. A. I. F.

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
<u>I.</u>	Move Order - Perrone - Bailleul
<u>II.</u>	Relief Order
<u>III.</u>	Extracts from A. I. F. Lists.

204 Appendix I

BATTALION ROUTINE ORDER No. 328.
by LT. COL. S.L. PERRY, MC.
COMMANDING 45th BATTALION A.I.F.

C o p y. 7

8.1.18. app. I.

1. MOVE. The 45th Battalion will entrain for BAILLEUL to-day by train leaving PERONNE at 4.7 p.m.
2. Transport will arrive at PERONNE Railway Station by 1.7 p.m. Breast ropes for horse trucks will be provided regimentally. Lashing ropes for vehicles will be supplied by the R.T.O. Transport will not enter station yard until permission is obtained from R.T.O.
All grooms will report to Transport Officer by 10.45 a.m.
3. Battalion will pass starting point at Bn. H.Q. at 1.45 p.m. Order of march: H.Q., Band, A, B, C and D Coys.
4. DRESS. Full marching order plus one blanket.
5. Officers valises and mess gear will be stacked at Q.M. Store by 9 a.m.
6. Rations and forage as follows will be carried:
 - Iron rations on the man
 - One days ration on the man or in the cookers.
 - One days ration in the Supply Wagons.
 - One days forage with animal.
 - One days forage in supply wagons.
7. All tents and huts will be left clean. Tents will be left laced up.
No area stores will be moved without authority and no stores taken out of huts. All braziers, hut stores etc. will be stacked at northern end of huts by 12 noon and handed over to officer in charge of rear party.
8. Captain Holman will act as Brigade Detraining Officer. He will travel by No. 1 train leaving PERONNE at 1.7 p.m. reporting to D.A.Q.M.G. at BAILLEUL. Lieut. Sorrell will report to Bde. Entraining Officer, PERONNE, at 2 p.m. He will report at Bn. H.Q. at 11 a.m. for instructions. Lieut. J.R.S. Perry and 20 men from "C" Coy. will act as rear party. Lieut. Perry will report to Bn. H.Q. at 9.30 a.m. for instructions.

(Sgd) R.S. Pickup Lt.
A/Adjt. 45th Battalion.

204
SECRET.

Reference Sheet 28 1/40000.

- A. The 45th Battalion will be relieved on the night 20th-21st by the 15th Bn. A.I.F. The Bn. will entrain at SPOIL BANK for DE ZON Camp M.I.D. Guides will be posted from western end of OAF AVENUE to entraining point. Entraining Officer - Capt. Ferguson. Time for departure of train on completion of relief approximately 9 p.m.
- B (1) "A" Coy. less 1 platoon will be relieved by 2 platoons "B" Coy. 15th Bn. O.C. "A" Coy. will arrange for a guide from each post waiting at Coy. H.Q. to guide reliefs straight to respective posts, at 5 p.m. All posts will be relieved via Coy. H.Q.
- (2) "B" Coy. less 1 platoon will be relieved by 2 platoons 15th Bn. O.C. "B" Coy. will detail 1 guide to guide No. 7 platoon 15th Bn. and 1 guide to guide No. 8 platoon 15th Bn. to RAILWAY TRENCH.
- (3) "D" Coy. will be relieved by "B" Coy. 15th Bn. O.C. "D" Coy. will detail 1 guide to guide No. 5 platoon 15th Bn. and 1 guide to guide No. 6 platoon 15th Bn. to Coy. H.Q. in the line; also 2 guides to guide "C" Coy. 15th Bn. to RAILWAY TRENCH. All guides will report to the Adjutant at 1.30 p.m.
- (4) "C" Coy. plus 1 platoon "A" Coy., 1 platoon "B" Coy. and 1 platoon "D" Coy. will report to Entraining Officer at 8 p.m. latest.
- C. Relieving Bn. will not occupy Canal Dugouts.
- D. O.C. "C" Coy. will take charge of personnel in Canal Dugouts and will not move till incoming troops are clear of OAF AVENUE (a reliable N.C.O. will be posted at junction of OAF AVENUE and duckboard walk to Canal Dugouts to report "all clear").
- E. Relief complete will be notified to Bn. H.Q. by code word "RIP". O.S.C. Coys. will report relief complete last thing before leaving present locations.
- F. Lieut. Morton will hand over all stores in RAILWAY TRENCH. A receipt in triplicate will be obtained by O.S.C. for all other stores and handed into Bn. H.Q.
- G. Two G.S. limbers will be at MOLEN DUMP at 2.15 p.m. to-morrow to collect all cooks gear, coys. mess gear or any surplus coys. stores. Companies will make own arrangements for carrying to MOLEN DUMP.
- H. O.S.C. coys. will specially guard against any waders or gum boots being taken away from this area. All boots in possession of men in RAILWAY TRENCH and Canal Dugouts will be returned to Bn. Dump in RAILWAY TRENCH by 10 a.m. to-morrow.
- I. The morning will be spent in cleaning trenches, dug-outs, rifles, shaving and rolling blankets on equipment. Any surplus blankets, equipment, rifles etc. to be placed in Bn. Salvage Store as early as possible.
- J. There will not be any hot meals after midday until arrival in DE ZON Camp.
- K. Bn. H.Q. will be situated after 6 p.m. 20th at present 46th Bn. H.Q. till relief is complete.

(Sgd) R.S.Pickup Lt.
Adjt. 45th Battalion.

Issued by runner

Copy No. 1 - "A" Coy.
2 - "B" "
3 - "C" "
4 - "D" "
5 - Capt. Ferguson.
6 - File.

Extracts from A.I.F. Orders.

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204

A.I.F. List 277 No. 277. 28.12.17.

The undermentioned officers ceased to be seconded as shown and resumed regimental duty:

Capt. J.H.Holman and relinquished appointment of Staff Captain	
No. 4 Group	7.12.17
Lieut. F.P.Pring 12th Tng. Bn.	7.11.17

Lieut. R.S.Pickup resumed duty from regimental seconded list 7.12.17
2nd Lt. H.R.Marshall is placed on regimental seconded list 11.11.17

A.I.F. List 280. 4.1.18.

Lieut. H.N.Griffin is placed on regimental seconded list wounded 14.1.18

A.I.F. List No. 281. 8.1.18.

Lieut. J.R.S.Perry ceased to be seconded with 2nd Anzac Corps School and resumed regimental duty	24.12.17
2nd Lt. W.A.McKay is taken on strength from reinforcements	24.12.17
Capt. E.W.Cornish is seconded for training with A.F.C.	4.1.18

MC

Lieut. R.Lagden, now reported killed in action, is struck off strength 12.10.17

A.I.F. List 282. 11.1.18.

Lieut. J.B.Kirkwood (since returned to Australia) relinquished the appointment of Adjutant 4th Aust. D.B.Depot on being invalided 2.11.17

A.I.F. List 283. 15.1.18.

The undermentioned officers resumed regimental duty from seconded list

Major H.C.Ford, DSO	29.12.17
2nd Lieut. J.Watt	31.12.17

A.I.F. List 285. 18.1.18.

The undermentioned officers are seconded for duty as shown:

Capt. A.L.Varley, MC as Staff Captain 12th Inf. Bde.	10.1.18
2nd Lt. H.P.Gadsby with 12th Tng. Bn.	1.1.18

Lieut. H.E.Maiden returned to Australia is struck off strength.

A.I.F. List 288. 22.1.18.

Capt. L.D.Ferguson, MC, resumed duty from regimental seconded list 5.1.18

A.I.F. List 288. 25.1.18.

Major H.C.Ford, DSO. transferred to 46th Bn. 30.12.17

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